

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXX No. 37 | FALGUN 6, 1426 BS | **Your Right to Know** | JAMADIU SANI 24, 1441 HIRI | 20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 12.00

"As per the constitution, she deserves bail but the government is not giving her bail for political reasons."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR

"I felt really hurt to see the propaganda against me... I am a victim of a conspiracy."
CCC MAYOR AJM NASIR UDDIN ABOUT NOT GETTING AL TICKET (PAGE 5)

"Today, voting is not only a revolutionary and national responsibility, but it is also a religious duty."
IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI (PAGE 8)

We're looking for alternatives

PM tells JS regarding import of raw materials from China following coronavirus outbreak; 'country's economy better than that of Singapore'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there was nothing to panic about coronavirus fallout as the country was taking steps to import raw materials from markets other than China.



House, Opposition Leader Raushan Ershad asked how did Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal say Bangladesh would cross Singapore in terms of economic progress.

Hasina said, "But I will say that Singapore is a small country with a smaller population. The [Singapore] country is a disciplined one.

We are a small country but we have more population."

She said that ensuring development in Bangladesh was very tough. "Besides, Singapore has no opposition [party]. There is a state-run newspaper in Singapore and that newspaper is controlled by the government.

"Ensuring development in Singapore is easy due to the political and economic environment that prevails in the country. On the contrary, we have to face arson attacks, killing and torture."

She also said Bangladesh was receiving a huge amount in investments.

"Bangladesh is the most attractive destination for investment in the South East and South Asia... Not only among the South Asian countries, we are also ahead among the South Eastern countries."

In her speech, Raushan also said, "Many take out loan but don't invest the money."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Broken and old TVs are piled up outside a shop at Chan Mia Housing in the capital's Mohammadpur area. Zahid, a 25-year-old TV technician, inset, has bought those from nearby homes for Tk 500-600 each. After repairing many of those, he would sell them for Tk 2,000-5,000 each. The rest of the TV sets would be sold for scrap. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Khaleda seeks bail again

Cites poor health; wants to go abroad for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday again sought bail from the High Court on health grounds. She wants to have treatment abroad.



She has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case by a lower court.

Khaleda submitted the bail petition to the HC through her lawyer Sagir Hossain Leon.

The BNP chief said she has been suffering from several diseases like diabetes and dental problem, and her physical condition has been deteriorating since December 12 last year.

She is now seriously ill. She cannot move freely, take food, and medicine without the help of others. She needs immediate treatment/therapy abroad, like in the UK, says the petition.

The HC is yet to set any date for hearing the petition.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Rape incidents rose by 19pc last year

Shows police data; on average, 17 women, children were raped a day

SHARIFUL ISLAM

On an average, 17 women and children were allegedly raped each day last year, shows data based on cases filed with police stations across the country.

The number of such cases rose by 19 percent compared to the previous year, shows the data of the Police Headquarters.

The actual number could be higher as many victims refrain from lodging complaints due to social stigma associated with rape as well as insecurity and fear of harassment, say experts and rights activists.

According to the PHQ statistics, 6,321 rape cases were filed with police stations from January to December last year. For the period in 2018, the number was 5,123.

The statistics rings an alarm bell as the number of alleged rape victims exceeds those given by different rights bodies.

For example, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), in its annual report released recently, said 1,413 victims were either gang-raped or subjected to rape last year. The number almost doubled compared to the previous year, it said.

The ASK report, prepared on the basis of media reports, said 118 of the victims were aged six or below, 210 victims between seven and 12, and 234 victims were aged 13-18.

Another recent report, published by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said 1,370 rape incidents were reported last year.

Talking to The Daily Star about the PHQ data, Rokeya Kabir, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS), said the situation was very grave. "The picture is also grim when it's about women repression."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

COVID-19 UPDATE



1,873 DEATHS

73,323 confirmed cases

72,436 confirmed cases in mainland China

Worst hit Chinese region Hubei 59,989 cases

The virus spread to at least 25 countries

At least 887 confirmed cases outside China

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

WHO urges calm as death toll climbs

Hospital director at Wuhan dies; global economic impact spreads

AGENCIES

The death toll from the new coronavirus outbreak rose again yesterday but Chinese and international health officials sought to calm global nerves, citing a study showing most cases are mild and warning against excessive measures to contain the epidemic.

Nearly 1,900 people have now died and more than 72,000 people have been infected by the virus in China, with hundreds more cases in some 25 countries.

The epidemic has triggered panic-buying in Singapore and Hong Kong, concerns about cruise-ship travel and the postponement of trade fairs, sports competitions and cultural events in China and abroad.

The outbreak is threatening to put a dent in the global economy, with China paralysed by vast quarantine measures and major firms such as iPhone maker Apple and mining giant BHP warning it could damage bottom lines.

Several countries have banned travellers from China and major airlines have suspended flights.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

IEDCR boss cautions against rumours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government officials should act based on facts and avoid using force in handling suspected coronavirus patients so that people don't panic, IEDCR Director Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora said yesterday.

Referring to the death of a woman following rumours about her son in Satkhira recently, she said rumours on social media and use of force by law enforcers and administration would create obstacles to detecting coronavirus cases.

The director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Diseases Control and Research (IEDCR) was briefing reporters on the latest coronavirus situation.

On February 10 night, Renuka Bala, 56, of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Saidpur airport to turn regional

Nepal to start using it soon

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to expand the airport in Saidpur for Nepali flights to improve connectivity, trade and tourism with the South Asian Himalayan nation.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen revealed the plan after meeting with his Nepali counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at the Meghna State Guest House in the city yesterday.

"Now a technical committee will be formed to assess what kind of flights can land and take off from there," Momen told reporters.

A Nepali delegation, led by Gyawali, arrived in Dhaka Monday on a three-day visit. During the meeting yesterday, the two sides discussed ways of improving trade and commerce, connectivity, tourism, energy cooperation etc.

"We are expanding the Saidpur Airport. Currently, 12-14 flights are operated there daily. So, people can come to Dhaka easily," Momen said.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal Mashfee Binte Shams told The Daily Star that presently there are flights between Dhaka and Kathmandu, but Bangladesh wants to turn Saidpur Airport into a regional one. The government is working to upgrade it into an international airport.

The Saidpur Airport is only around 15 minutes from Nepal's Bhadrapur and Biratnagar airports. The people in Bangladesh's northern districts can travel to and from

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Set up nursing areas in all factories

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed authorities concerned of the government to set up breastfeeding and baby care corners at all mills and factories, including the garments factories, across the country.

The labour and employment secretary and the director general of the Department of Labour were asked to submit separate reports in two months.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order while hearing a writ petition that said mothers feel uneasy to feed their children at workplaces and other public places.

Yesterday, writ petitioner Advocate Ishrat Hasan

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

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Weinstein jury to begin deliberations

AFP, New York

Jurors will begin deliberating the fate of ex-Hollywood titan Harvey Weinstein on Tuesday in his high-profile sex crimes trial that marked a watershed moment in the #MeToo movement.

The disgraced movie mogul, 67, faces life in prison if the jury of seven men and five women convict him of predatory sexual assault charges in New York.

More than 80 women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct since allegations against him ignited the #MeToo global reckoning against men abusing positions of power in October 2017.

But the jury is considering charges related to just two: ex-actress Jessica Mann and former production assistant Mimi Haley, with many claims too old to prosecute.

Mann, 34, says Weinstein raped her in March 2013, while Haley alleges he forcibly performed oral sex on her in July 2006.

The proceedings, which began

hearing testimony on January 22, threw up complicated issues surrounding consent and abuse of power for the jury.

Under cross-examination, both Mann and Haley acknowledged at least one consensual sexual encounter with Weinstein after the alleged attacks.

Defense lawyers presented dozens of emails and text messages in court that appeared to show both Mann and Haley on friendly terms with Weinstein years after the alleged attacks.

His team said the relationships were consensual and transactional, arguing that the accusers used sex with the defendant to advance their own careers.

Prosecutors said he was a career sexual predator who took advantage of his powerful position in the American film industry to prey on aspiring young actresses.

Weinstein, the producer of "Pulp Fiction" and "Sin City," is the first man accused of abuse in the #MeToo movement to face a criminal trial.



A bulldozer destroying bricks at an illegal brick kiln in Gazipur city's Dhitpur area on Monday. Department of Environment conducted a mobile court drive there. Toxic fumes emitted from brick kilns are largely blamed for the poor air quality in and around the capital.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

We're looking for alternatives

FROM PAGE 1

The money is being siphoned off abroad ... there is no money at banks, there has been a debacle in share market ... how the country will cross Malaysia and Singapore?"

In reply, Hasina said there was enough money at banks.

"She [Raushan] said there is no money in banks but our reserve now stands at \$32b. There is no problem. If there was no money at banks, how are we carrying out all these development works?"

"I will urge her [Raushan] to read the president's address in parliament. It will help her forget her frustrations."

Raushan said many Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia were passing their days in agony. "I met many of them in Saudi Arabia. They broke down in tears. They said they were not getting work or proper wages."

On this issue, Hasina urged Bangladeshis wishing to go abroad to work to properly follow the procedures.

"Expatriate Bangladeshis who go abroad through the wrong path, through middlemen, they face problem. We have to bring them back spending our money."

"I don't understand why they go abroad through middleman. There is Probashi Kallyan Bank, they can take loan from there, they do not need to go abroad by selling their home and land."

Referring to rape incidents, Hasina termed rapists beasts and said her government announced a zero tolerance policy against rapists. She urged people to help law enforcers arrest those involved in the crime.

"How can a person have such a heinous character? We're taking proper action against them as we did against [those involved in] militancy and illegal drug trade. The government will surely take legal action against such criminals."

Raushan also claimed there were hardly any anti-mosquito drives in the city and that the authorities hardly care for its waste management. "We will not give any tax. Why will we pay

tax as there is no service?" she asked.

She also criticised Education Minister Dipu Moni, saying she stays abroad most of the time. "She [Dipu Moni] remains absent in parliament. She stays abroad. How will there be improvement in the education sector?"

The sixth session, which is the first session of the calendar year, was prorogued yesterday after 28 sittings. Seven bills were passed during the session, which began on January 9.

The session also unanimously adopted a thanksgiving motion on the president's speech delivered in the first sitting. Altogether, 224 MPs spent 54 hours and 24 minutes participating in the general discussion on the thanksgiving motion.

Hasina's comments came at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has left large swathes of China's factories as desolate as a ghost town. The country's latest official figures released yesterday put the overall death toll at 1,868 and 72,436 infections.

In such a situation, many of Bangladesh's manufacturers are left playing a nervous waiting game: will normal service resume anytime soon in China?

Bangladesh imports the most from China, starting from the simplest needle to high-tech capital machinery, industrial raw materials to finished consumer goods and foodstuff.

Last fiscal year, about 26 percent of Bangladesh's imports worth \$52.19 billion came from China, according to the central bank's country and commodity share import data. A year earlier, the share of imports from China was 23.8 percent.

At a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club on Monday, the Chinese envoy in Dhaka, Li Jiming said, "In view of these concerns of the business community, I would like to say, please have faith in China and rest assured. Right now China is making huge economic sacrifices to contain the virus. Chinese companies are also losing money both at home and abroad, and many Chinese projects are being halted."

Moreover, there is a risk to social

Khaleda seeks bail again

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier, the Supreme Court's HC Division denied her bail twice in the case and the Appellate Division once.

Anti-Corruption Commission chief counsel Khurshid Alam Khan, who received a copy of the petition, told The Daily Star that Khaleda sought bail in the graft case on merit and medical grounds.

"We will oppose the petition before the High Court when it will be heard," he said.

The lawyer said the BNP chief needs to secure bail in at least two cases -- Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft -- to be released from jail.

On August 8, 2011, the ACC filed the Zia Charitable Trust graft case with Tejgaon Police Station against four people, including Khaleda. They were accused of abusing power in raising funds for the trust from unknown sources.

A special court in Dhaka jailed Khaleda and three others for seven years in the case on October 29, 2018. She later moved a bail petition

before the HC.

On July 31 last year, the HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman denied her bail.

"We have gone through the impugned judgment and order of conviction and sentence but did not notice any apparent or glaring infirmity in the same," the bench said rejecting the petition.

In the order, the bench also said Attorney General Mahbubey Alam has assured this court of his readiness for an expeditious hearing of the appeal against the trial court verdict and therefore, there is no possibility of delay in hearing the appeal on merit.

"In the above view of the matter, we do not find any cogent reason for granting the appellant bail at this point of time. Accordingly, the application for bail is rejected," the HC judges said in the order.

On September 3 that year, the BNP chief filed another petition with the HC seeking bail.

On September 11, another HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and

Justice ASM Abdul Mobin refused to hold hearing on the bail petition. This bench told Khaleda's lawyers that a senior HC bench (led by Justice Obaidul Hassan) had earlier rejected a similar bail petition on merit.

Later, the BNP chief sought bail from the Appellate Division on health grounds.

The apex court on December 12 last year dismissed her bail petition in the case. The court, however, asked the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) authorities to provide Khaleda with treatment immediately.

The BNP chief landed in jail after being sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case by the same special court on February 8, 2018.

On October 30, 2018, the HC enhanced her punishment to 10 years in the case after dismissing her appeal.

Khaleda then filed an appeal with the SC challenging the HC verdict. The appeal is now pending with the SC.

IEDCR boss cautions against rumours

FROM PAGE 1

Satkhira's Shyamnagar upazila died of cardiac arrest after hearing rumours that police were looking for her son Ratan Roptan, 35, and "they would shoot him dead as he was infected with coronavirus", according to a UNB report.

Ratan, who had fever and cough upon his return from India, escaped Sadar hospital in Satkhira in panic after doctors advised him to get admitted to the hospital. Health officials and police later started looking for him, it added.

Yesterday, Flora said, "It's worrying that rumours are spreading especially on social media. The mother of a suspected coronavirus patient died because of such rumor."

Moreover, there is a risk to social

and personal security of the returnees from China and Singapore.

"Being influenced by rumours, law enforcement agencies and administration are showing coercive attitude towards the returnees. This will prompt suspected patients to hide themselves and eventually hinder detection of real cases."

The IEDCR urged government officials and people to contact it through hotline and act on its advice if there is any suspected coronavirus case.

It has provided hotline numbers for any information or help regarding coronavirus. The numbers are 01927711784, 01927711785, 01937000011, and 01937110011.

Meanwhile, the IEDCR has tested two more suspected coronavirus

cases at its virology laboratory. Both were tested negative, according to its press release.

So far, it has tested 72 suspected samples and found no case of coronavirus infection.

According to the IEDCR, 13,256 incoming passengers were screened at all airports, seaports and land ports across the country in 24 hours till 3:00pm yesterday. None of them had any coronavirus symptoms.

It also mentioned that the five Bangladeshis, infected with the virus, are still under treatment in Singapore. One of them is in the intensive care unit and his condition remains unchanged.

A total of 77 coronavirus patients are receiving treatment in the Southeast Asian country.

Rohingya woman beaten to death inside camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya woman was beaten to death by two others in their camp in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The deceased, Nur Nahar, 40, was wife of Nur Alam, a resident of Leda Rohingya camp (Block B) in Hnila union.

According to witnesses who talked to our correspondent, Nahar was quarrelling with two other Rohingya women and was critically injured when the duo physically assaulted her.

She was taken to the camp hospital run by International Organisation for Migration, where doctors declared her dead.

Contacted, ABMS Doha, inspector (investigation) of Teknaf Police Station, said the body was sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police are looking into the matter.

Set up nursing areas

FROM PAGE 1

prayed to the HC to direct authorities to set up breastfeeding and baby care corners at all mills and factories across the country in line with section 94 of the Labour Act 2006.

Section 94 (1) of the Act says "In every establishment, where 40 (forty) or more female workers are ordinarily employed, one or more suitable rooms shall be provided and maintained for the use of their children who are under the age of 6 (six) years".

"The said rooms shall be adequately furnished and in particular, 1 (one) cot or cradle with bed shall be kept therefore each child, and there shall be at least one chair or any similar seat for the use of each mother while she is feeding or attending to her child, and adequate and suitable toys shall be supplied for the comparatively older children", according to section 98(7) of the Act.

Following the same writ petition, another HC bench on October 27 last year issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to take necessary steps to set up breastfeeding and baby care corners at all public places.

The court asked the authorities concerned of the government to show cause why the women and children affairs ministry should not be ordered to formulate a guideline to establish breastfeeding and baby care corners at all workplaces, shopping malls, airports, bus stops and railway stations, and public, private and autonomous institutions across the country.

The writ petition said that mothers feel uneasy to feed their children at workplaces and other public places as there is no specific breastfeeding and baby care corner.

It further stated that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2009 had directed the authorities concerned to establish breastfeeding corners and daycare centres at all public and private workplaces to ensure that children are being raised in a healthy environment.

But the PM's directives are yet to be fully implemented, the petition said.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder represented the state.

Sixth Death Anniversary



Today, 19th February, is the Sixth death anniversary of Mohammad Abul Khayer, former member of the National Assembly. He was elected from Muksudpur-Kashiani constituency of Gopalganj in 1970 general election that spurred the Independence movement.

Mr. Khayer was a freedom fighter, industrialist and a trusted close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He received the Swadhinata Padak posthumously in 2014 for his contribution to the 1971 War of Independence. Mr. Khayer was the founder-chairman of Jamuna Bank.

We pray for the eternal peace of his soul in heaven.

JAMUNA BANK

WHO urges calm as death toll climbs

FROM PAGE 1

The World Health Organization, which has previously said travel restrictions were unnecessary, rejected the suggestion that all cruises should be halted after hundreds of passengers were infected on one vessel off Japan.

"Measures should be taken proportional to the situation. Blanket measures may not help," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva.

The WHO has praised China for taking drastic measures to contain the virus.

Authorities have placed about 56 million people in hard-hit central Hubei under an unprecedented lockdown.

Other cities far from the epicentre have restricted the movements of residents, while Beijing ordered people arriving in the capital to undergo a 14-day self-quarantine.

The official death toll in China hit 1,868 Tuesday after another 98 people died, most in Hubei and its capital Wuhan, where the virus emerged in December. More people died outside China so far.

There were nearly 1,900 new cases -- a drop from the previous day. Reported new infections have been falling in the rest of the country for the past two weeks.

Tedros warned that it was too early to tell if the decline would continue.

The situation remains dire at the epicentre, with the director of a Wuhan hospital dying yesterday-- the seventh medical worker to succumb to the COVID-19 illness.

But a study among 72,000 confirmed, suspected and clinically diagnosed cases showed that 81 percent of patients had only mild infections.

Those most at risk were the elderly, and people with underlying medical conditions.

The study released by China's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention also showed that the death rate stood at 2.3 percent, falling below one percent for people in their 30s and 40s.

Zhong Nanshan, a prominent expert with China's National Health Commission, told reporters that 85 percent of patients can improve "if they have good life support,

treatment conditions, and nutrients".

The research was cited by WHO officials, who said the COVID-19 illness was "less deadly" than its cousins, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

"This is a very serious outbreak and it has the potential to grow, but we need to balance that in terms of the number of people infected," said Michael Ryan, head of WHO's health emergencies programme.

"Outside Hubei this epidemic is affecting a very, very tiny, tiny proportion of people." There have been some 900 cases around the world, with only five deaths outside the mainland -- in France, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Another 88 people tested positive for the virus on the quarantined Diamond Prince cruise ship off Yokohama in Japan, raising the number of infections to 542.

Since the US repatriated more than 300 American passengers on Monday, Britain became the latest country to offer its citizens a way off the boat, after similar plans by Canada, Australia, Hong Kong and South Korea.

Attention was also turning to the Westerdam, a cruise ship in Cambodia, where many of the 2,200 people aboard passengers were allowed to disembark after all initially received a clean bill of health.

They were met by Cambodia's premier, taken on a bus tour of the country's capital, and allowed to fly around the world.

But an 83-year-old American woman was later diagnosed with the virus after arriving in Malaysia.

Despite the WHO's reassurances, global concerns persist, with an international inventions show in Geneva postponed, a mixed martial arts event in Singapore closing to the public, and Chinese wrestlers barred from the Asian Championships in India.

China's lockdown of cities and tough curbs on travel and movement have limited the spread of the virus outside the epicentre, but at great cost to the economy and global business.

Advertorial

Bangladesh Honda Private Limited handed over Honda's flagship motorcycles to SSF produced at ABDUL MONEM ECONOMIC ZONE



Mr. Himihiko Katsuki, Managing Director and CEO of Bangladesh Honda Private Limited, handed over two units of "GL1800 Goldwing (1800 CC)" to Special Security Force (SSF) in presence of the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina on Monday, 17 February 2020, at the office of the Prime Minister in Dhaka.

We consider it as a historical moment for all of us. World class products of the world class company are now being manufactured in Bangladesh. Abdul Monem Economic Zone is extremely proud to be an integral part of this desired industrial revolution process towards fulfilling the dream of the Honorable Prime Minister. The Managing Director and CEO of Abdul Monem Economic Zone and President of the Private Economic Zones Association of Bangladesh (PEZA) Mr. ASM Mainuddin Monem, son of the renowned industrialist of the country Mr. Abdul Monem told the reporters following the event.

ADS COVERING BUS WINDOWS

BRTA fines two companies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing safety concerns -- especially for female passengers, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has started a drive against transport owners who are covering windows of their buses with advertisement, blocking inside and outside views.

A mobile court led by BRTA Executive Magistrate Mazharul Islam yesterday fined two bus companies Tk 10,000 each for violating Road Transport Act-2018 by covering windows with advertisements.

The two companies -- Dhaka Chaka and Green Dhaka -- averted further punishment by giving written bond that they would remove advertisements from all of their buses within next seven days. Another bus company -- Shatabdi Paribahan -- also gave similar promise.

BRTA decided to launch an investigation recently after receiving several allegations of uses of advertisement on bus windows, compromising passengers' security, especially of female passengers, the state transport regulator

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Constructed illegally, the BGMEA building in Hatirjheel still stands, as the demolition work continued at a snail's pace due to lack of power supply. Utility connection was finally restored yesterday and it will be dismantled within six months, said authorities concerned.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Utility bill fiasco wastes 22 days

Power restored at BGMEA building, demolition finally on in full swing

HELEMUL ALAM

Demolition of the much-talked-about BGMEA Bhaban -- constructed illegally over a decade ago -- began in full swing yesterday, after power connection was restored to the building.

After nearly a year-long delay, Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) began demolition of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association building on January 22.

Rajuk said the 16-storey building would be demolished in six months. The capital's development authority hired Messrs Four Star Enterprise, a local company, which began the work on January 27 due to some legal bindings.

However, demolition work had been continuing at a snail's pace until yesterday, as the company did not get any power connection at the building to use heavy machinery -- due to a pending electricity bill of BGMEA with Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC).

Four Star had to depend on two generators, which slowed down the entire process. "Finally, the issue has been resolved with intervention of the authorities concerned," said Nasrullah Khan Rashed, its director.

He said they have got a 440-volt power line and will continue working to complete the demolition within six months.

Contacted, Md Sayeed Noor Alam, chairman of Rajuk, told The Daily Star yesterday that the chief engineer discussed the issue with DPDC

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

KHALEDA'S RELEASE ON PAROLE

Fakhrul denies discussing it, Quader says there's evidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday said party chairperson Khaleda Zia's family will decide about her release on parole.

"It's completely the issue of her family; they will take the decision," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, told journalists in reply to a query on whether the party will seek release of Khaleda on parole if she does not get bail.

Fakhrul came up with the remark after placing floral wreaths at the party founder Ziaur Rahman's grave at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar to mark the 40th founding anniversary of Tanti Dal, an associate organisation of the party.

Asked whether he talked to Awami League (AL) General Secretary Obaidul Quader about the parole, Fakhrul said,

"You can ask him [Quader]. We, from the party, did not talk to him about the parole."

On Friday, speaking at a programme in the capital, Quader claimed that Fakhrul called him to convey a request to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the release of Khaleda from jail.

Speaking at another programme in the city yesterday, the AL general secretary claimed to have proof of the conversation between them and the request Fakhrul made.

"Why would I tell a lie? Mr Fakhrul requested me to talk to the PM about Khaleda Zia's release. I have already informed the PM about it," said Quader.

"Does he now want to prove that he didn't call? If so, I will prove it. Because conversations over phone

cannot be kept secret. There is record. But I don't want to let him down," he added.

The AL leader also said physical condition of Khaleda is "not deteriorating" as she is going through a situation any elderly woman is supposed to go through.

"She is in a physical condition she is supposed to be in. It is not deteriorating. Doctors are providing her with good treatment," Quader said.

Khaleda has been receiving treatment at the BSMMU since April 1 last year. She was convicted in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case and landed in jail on February 8, 2018.

She was convicted in another corruption case later in 2018. The BNP maintains that both cases are politically motivated.

DHAKA WASA

Proposal to hike water tariff not acceptable: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming Dhaka Wasa's recent proposal of raising tariff for water "unjust and unacceptable", Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday demanded to set the tariff through public hearing with experts of the concerned sector.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman in a statement also said the move is contradictory to the 1996 Wasa Act. "Despite not improving the quality of tapwater, Wasa is imposing their decision on people with the excuse of development costs, which will be an extra burden for low-income people," said the statement.

With this proposal, Wasa is acting arbitrarily and in an oppressive manner, TIB said.

Amid allegations of poor quality tapwater in the megacity, Dhaka Water

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Books for the underprivileged

SAYED MOHMUD ULLAH

While thousands of people visit the Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela every year and buy books of their choice, there are still many who have just the same hunger for reading, but cannot afford to do so.

Obhizatrik Foundation, a nonprofit working for underprivileged children, has joined hands with mobile financial service bKash, to collect new or old books from visitors of the book fair, and reach them to those who are deprived of the joy of buying books.

"We have installed a booth on Bangla Academy premises and four others on Suhrawardy Uddyan premises to collect books," said Tipu Hossen, supervisor of a bKash stall near the entrance of the Suhrawardy Uddyan part of the fair.

Talking to The Daily Star, Tipu said after collecting books, bKash has planned to donate some five thousand books through Obhizatrik Foundation to various institutions including underprivileged children's schools, primary schools, libraries and old homes.

This correspondent found Farhana Nahreen, an eighth-grader at Viharunniha Noon School and College, donating a total of 30 books to the booth yesterday evening.

"After reading these books, I have donated them for deprived children. The

books may be old but valuable to read," said a smiling Farhana.

Her mother, Dr Rebeka Sultana, said she had been inspiring her daughter to read books since childhood. "After hearing about the initiative, my daughter came today and donated books here," she said.

Stall attendants of bKash said they had distributed some books to a number of children from the Mirpur branch of an underprivileged children's school run by Obhizatrik this week.

"We would continue it in the coming days," he added.

The donated books at the bookshelf of the booth include novels, rhymes, poetry, and biographies.

"There's no alternative to reading books for enlightenment. It's more important for children to build a future. We'll be able to provide more books to readers, including underprivileged children, if we can collect a good number of books from people visiting the fair," said Chief Marketing Officer of bKash Mir Nawab Ali, according to a bKash press release.

Ahmed Imtiaz Jami, founder of Obhizatrik Foundation, said their school for underprivileged children lacks a well-equipped library, noting that it would be really helpful if people came forward and took part in their initiative.



Elderly man 'kills' wife in Arambagh

He told cops he murdered his paralysed spouse as no one will take care of her after his death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly woman was murdered allegedly by her husband at their own flat in Arambagh area of the capital's Motijheel yesterday.

Gopal Chandra Kuri (73) allegedly killed his wife Chhabi Kuri (60) by stabbing her on the head, said Jahidul Islam Shohag, assistant commissioner of Motijheel Division Police.

Based on information from relatives, police recovered the body around 9am, he told The Daily Star.

Chhabi was found on the bed with stab wounds. A knife was also recovered from near her body, said the assistant commissioner. Gopal was found unconscious on the floor, he said.

Police later sent Gopal to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

PRICE HIKE OF COMMODITIES

Lax market forecasting to blame: economists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economists have held the lax market forecasting system of the government responsible for the hike of daily commodity price. Farzeen Ferdous Alam, chairman of OGGRO Ventures, said though prices of commodities are rising, farmers are not getting its benefit, and as a result, are losing motivation for cultivation.

Had the government been able to predict the onion crisis ahead of time, and begun importing onion from alternative destinations immediately after the rain that damaged onion production in India, it could have averted the supply shortage of the bulb in the local market, they opined.

They said this at a debate on "Soaring Prices: Causes and Cures of the Price Hike Conundrum" jointly organised by Economics Study Center and the EMK Center, held on the latter's premises in Dhanmondi.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said the government had well-managed the salt price hike rumour, but failed to disseminate right information about onion to consumers, which created destabilisation in the market.

"A wrong message was given to the people that hoarding was responsible for the price hike, but it was actually not the reason," he said.

The noted economist gave a note of caution over the rise of production cost.

He said, "The price of daily commodities is rising because of increasing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS



Law enforcers setting up CCTV cameras on the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday. Security has been beefed up in the area ahead of International Mother Language Day, to be observed on February 21.

NARAYANGANJ FIRE

Another victim dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

One more victim of Monday's fire in Narayanganj succumbed to his injuries yesterday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Kiron Miya (45), who was admitted to the hospital with 70 percent burns, died at 10am, said DMCH police outpost in-charge Bacchu Mia, quoting the doctors.

Six other victims of the deadly blaze from the gas explosion were undergoing treatment at the burn unit of the hospital, three of whom are in critical condition, the official added.

Abul Hossain (25) sustained 45 percent burns, Hiron Miya (25) 22 percent, Kawser Miya (16) 25 percent, Mukta Aktar (20) 15 percent, three-year-old Elma Aktar 14 percent burns, while 10-year-old Apon sustained 20 percent burn injuries.

Abdullah al Arefin, deputy director of Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence, told The Daily Star that family members fell asleep without turning off the gas stove on the day.

As a result, gas accumulated overnight, causing the explosion after fire was lit in the kitchen, the deputy director added.

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অমর একুশে গ্রন্থমেলা-২০২০

বাংলাপ্রকাশ থেকে প্রকাশিত কবি ও সাহিত্যিক পিতা-পুত্রের ২টি করে ৪টি উপন্যাস

হায়দার বসুনিয়া, শাহাজাদা বসুনিয়া

পাওয়া যাচ্ছে প্যাভিলিয়ন-২৩

EWU holds 19th convocation



PHOTO: COLLECTED

CITY DESK

East West University (EWU) organised its 19th convocation on its campus in the capital on Monday, said a press release.

The convocation was dedicated to the memory of Bangabandhu, ahead of his birth centenary. On behalf of President Abdul Hamid, Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni conferred degrees on students.

A total of 2,111 graduates received their certificates. Three students were awarded gold medals for excellent academic performance.

Prof Kazi Shahidullah, chairperson of University Grants Commission, was the special guest, and Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, senior lawyer at the Supreme Court, was the convocation speaker.

Syed Manzur Elahi, EWU trustee board chairperson; Prof Mohammed Farashuddin, chief advisor of EWU; and Prof Shahidul Hassan, the university's vice chancellor, also spoke on the occasion.

The university's department heads, teachers and staff along with guardians of the graduates participated in the convocation.

Unveiling of 'Ekti Jatir Pataka' today

CITY DESK

Akash Media will today unveil the cover of an audio disc titled "Ekti Jatir Pataka", featuring patriotic songs, marking Bangabandhu's birth centenary, says a press release.

The event will be held at the capital's Thirty-3 restaurant.

Asaduzzaman Noor will be the chief guest while noted singer Syed Abdul Hadi will be special guest.

Noted journalist and film director Khandoker Hasnat Karim will preside over the event.

I am a victim

FROM PAGE 5
I am still doing politics for my leader Sheikh Hasina. This sort of bad politics was not necessary for just a mayoral post," he said.

"I am a tested worker of the rainy days of the party," he said, adding that he would do his best to support Rezaul to win the CCC polls.

Elderly man 'kills' wife

FROM PAGE 3

Once Gopal regained sense, he informed police that his wife had been partially paralysed for about 12 to 13 years.

Their three daughters live abroad. Gopal told police in primary interrogation.

Gopal is the owner of "Kuri and Company Chemical" in Motijheel. For the last two years, he was incurring losses, which made him depressed, said police quoting relatives. Gopal was also under medication, they added.

The elderly couple lived at the flat in a four-storey building by themselves. Chhabi's nephew lived nearby and he used

to take care of them, said police.

Gopal told police that they watched television till 1:30am and went to bed. He apparently had a dream where he "realised" that no one would take care of his wife after his death, said police quoting Gopal.

After waking up, he stabbed his sleeping wife, law enforcers said, adding that in the morning, Chhabi's nephew came to the flat and informed police.

AC Jahidul Islam said after primary interrogation, they have got some clues that point towards the fact that Gopal may have killed his wife. "We're still investigating the incident to get more details," he added.

Lax market forecasting

FROM PAGE 3

cost of labour. It is alarming for Bangladesh's agriculture, as production cost is involved with it."

"If we fail to check production cost, we won't be able to remain competitive in both local and international markets," he said. The government must take steps to reduce production cost.

Dr Mohammed Helal Uddin, director of Cirdap and a professor of economics of Dhaka University, suggested the government to adopt strategy to thwart the speculation created by any syndicate

reap benefits of market volatility.

Munir Chowdhury, former director general of the WTO cell under the commerce ministry, said the ministry has a cell that is responsible for monitoring and forecasting price, but they fail to do it.

He said syndicates, transport cost, black market, corruption, ineffective price monitoring system, food production and disaster are related to market volatility.

If it continues, the country will face huge food crisis in coming days, he cautioned.

Anirban Bhowmik, country director of Swisscontact, moderated the debate.

Utility bill fiasco wastes

FROM PAGE 3

Officials to reach an understanding. The power was restored around 5pm.

BGMEA had a pending bill of Tk 2.57 lakh with DPDC, for which DPDC snapped the connection earlier. Rajuk took the money from BGMEA's deposit amount to clear the bill.

From now on, Four Star will pay the bill, said Rashed.

He further said, "More than 22 days have been wasted as we failed to continue our work in full swing. We could not run many equipment as generators could not handle the load."

"Still, we continued our work... Every day, we had to pay around Tk 5,000 for the generators' fuel cost. We lost a substantial amount of money already," he said. "We still hope the work will be finished by six months."

He said they are removing debris

on a daily basis so that there is no chance of an accident like the Rangs Bhaban, which caved in on the city's Bijoy Sarani during demolition in 2007. "We are removing debris by trucks at night."

About starting the work on January 27, Rashed said, "We were yet to get permission from DPDC and Wasa, as a change in ownership was required. Without power and water, we weren't able to function properly."

'A TUMOUR'
According to Rajuk, the BGMEA building was partially blocking Hatirjheel's water flow.

This building is like a "tumour on the beauty of Hatirjheel", immediate past Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim had said while inaugurating the demolition work on the ground floor. "Gradually, all illegal structures will be removed from

Hatirjheel," he had said.

Rajuk took the initiative to pull down the building in October last year but failed as Four Star expressed reluctance to do the work.

The company showed the reluctance after the city development authority allowed BGMEA to take ACs, generators, furniture and other items from the building, said Rajuk sources.

AT A GLANCE

On November 28, 1998, the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of the building, which was inaugurated on October 8, 2006 by the then prime minister Khaleda Zia.

Later, it was found that the building was constructed illegally.

Following a news report published on October 3 in 2010, a High Court bench issued a suo-moto rule on the authorities concerned asking why the building

should not be demolished.

On April 3, 2011, a HC bench ordered its demolition. Two days later, the Appellate Division, however, stayed the order for six weeks and asked the BGMEA to file a leave to appeal petition against the verdict.

On March 19, 2013, the HC in its verdict ordered the relevant authorities to demolish the building in three months. The court also directed the BGMEA to refund money to the buyers of floor space within a year.

In April last year, an Appellate Division bench ordered the BGMEA building be demolished after April 12. The court termed the building "a cancer in the Hatirjheel project".

On April 16, Rajuk went there along with law enforcers and bulldozers. People were, however, still inside and the authorities had to pull out for the day. The building was then sealed off.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Thakurgaon Sadar, District: Thakurgaon
www.lged.gov.bd

Reference No: 46.02.9494.000.14.001.19-2650 Date: 17-02-2020

e-Tender Notice-09/2019-20

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of below:

Sl No.	Name of work	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
01	Construction of Additional Class Room of Syedpur GPS under PEDP4 at Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila Thakurgaon, 3 H1V/F4	e-Tender/PEDP4/T KG/SAD/2019-20/W2.00764	427476	10-Mar-2020 17:00	11-Mar-2020 15:00	11-Mar-2020 15:00
02	Construction of Additional Class Room of Boguladangi GPS under PEDP4 at Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila Thakurgaon, 3 H2V/F4	e-Tender/PEDP4/T KG/SAD/2019-20/W2.00763	427475	10-Mar-2020 17:00	11-Mar-2020 15:00	11-Mar-2020 15:00
03	Construction of Additional Class Room of Jaigir Danga GPS under PEDP4 at Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila Thakurgaon	e-Tender/PEDP4/T KG/SAD/2019-20/W1.00238	427474	10-Mar-2020 17:00	11-Mar-2020 15:00	11-Mar-2020 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 11-Mar-2020 14:00.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Ismail Hossain
Upazila Engineer, LGED
Thakurgaon Sadar, Thakurgaon
E-mail: ue.thakurgaon-s@lged.gov.bd

GD-310

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CONDOLANCE

A K M Jahangir Khan
21 April 1939 - 15 Feb 2020

We express our heartfelt condolence on the sad demise of Mr. A K M Jahangir Khan, the adviser of HeidelbergCement Bangladesh Limited. He was also our board member until 2012. His involvement with us and valuable contributions to the company will be remembered all the time. We pray that his soul rests in eternal peace. May God shower his abundant blessings to the bereaved family to bear such irreparable loss.

On behalf of
HEIDELBERGCEMENT
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), a grant making organization for human rights and governance initiatives, invites applications from Bangladeshi nationals for the following positions:

Position : Deputy Executive Director (DED) Post: 01
Reportable to : Executive Director (ED)
Job summary : To work along with the ED in supervision, management and coordination of the work of MJF

Job highlights :
Work with the ED and in collaboration with the Senior Management Team, DED will :

- Undertake some of the responsibilities of the ED in managing the day to day work of running MJF
- Supervise at least two Directors and provide strategic guidance to the core programs of MJF
- Take the lead in the preparation, review and update of MJF Strategy and oversee implementation of various policies and commitments consistent with the mandate, jurisdiction and commitments of MJF to various donors.
- Assist ED in accessing resources/funding and work towards financial and institutional sustainability of MJF
- Work closely with the ED to guide MJF become a stronger, dynamic, innovative, relevant center of excellence

Qualification & Experience:
Excellent written, verbal presentation and networking skills along with:

- Advanced degree, in any subject of social science, liberal arts, development studies, gender studies or related discipline.
- Credibility and strong sustained relationship with different stake holders such as GOB, Civil society, donors, private sector etc.
- Excellent knowledge of issues, context and challenges facing Bangladesh and insights on overcoming these challenges
- Deep understanding of the NGO sector with a vision of how the sector can make a difference in the future of Bangladesh. Experience of research, management, academic and/or policy leadership is desirable
- Proven skills of supervision, motivation, teamwork and inspirational leadership in a multidisciplinary, diverse, challenging institutional context is essential

Remuneration: Salary Range between Tk 255,975 to 318, 558 monthly gross, plus provident fund, gratuity, annual cost of living adjustment and performance-based increments will be provided.

Position : Director - Governance, Post: 01
Reportable to : Executive Director (ED)

Major Responsibilities:
As a member of MJF senior management team, the Director (Governance) has to maintain knowledge of the Governance sector in Bangladesh and be fully informed of all significant developments and best practices in the sector.

Qualification & Experience:
Excellent written, verbal presentation and networking skills along with:

- Advanced degree, in any subject of social science, liberal arts, development studies, gender studies or related discipline.
- Credibility and strong sustained relationship with different stake holders such as GOB, Civil society, donors, private sector etc.
- Excellent knowledge of issues, context and challenges facing Bangladesh and insights on overcoming these challenges
- Deep understanding of the NGO sector with a vision of how the sector can make a difference in the future of Bangladesh.
- Experience of research, management, academic and/or policy leadership is desirable

Remuneration- Salary Range between Tk. 176,442 to 218,982 monthly gross, plus provident fund, gratuity, annual cost of living adjustment and performance-based increments will be provided.

Application procedure: Interested candidates with above requirements are requested to submit application through online <http://manusherjonno.org/ecircular/>. Application Deadline for both positions: **29th February, 2020**. Recent applicants for Director Governance position need not apply again

Note: Women, Persons with Disabilities and Minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.
Only short-listed candidates will be invited for the interview.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH
Social movement against corruption

Request for Proposal Development of PACTApp

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is going to develop and operationalize a tailor-made information technology tool called PACTApp which will be central to TIB's new strategic approach 2020-30 titled, "Participatory Action against Corruption: Towards Transparency and Accountability (PACTA)", to be implemented subject to approval of relevant authorities in due course. TIB is soliciting proposals from qualified and interested IT and software development companies for developing the PACTApp. This includes design and graphic interface, data creation and storage, user and data management, analysis, machine learning and training.

RFP documents can be collected from TIB office at MIDAS Centre (Level - 4), House # 05, Road # 16 (New) 27 (old), Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1209 or downloaded from www.ti-bangladesh.org/rfp/pactapp

Pre-bid conference open to all for Q&A: 25 February 2020 at 03.00 pm BST at TIB office.

Last date and time of submission of proposal: 2 April 2020 on or before 1:00 pm BST.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Noakhali
Phone: 0321-61606, Fax: 0321-61606
E-mail: ee_noakh@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 410 Dated: 18/02/2020

e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-GP Portal and that will be visible from 18.02.2020 at 9:00 only the person/organization registered by e-GP Portal can visit (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for clear observation.

Tender/ID No.	Package No.	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time
428589	Noakhali/PWD/Dev/OTM-3	Establishing 560 Model Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centers in Zila and Upazila of Bangladesh. Sub-Head Construction of 4-Storeyed Masjid Building and Islamic Cultural Center with 4-Storeyed Foundation Including All Types of Civil Sanitary Electrical and Ornamental Works at Hatia Upazila in the District of Noakhali. Type-C-Coastal Zone 2 nd Re-Tender	05.03.2020 11:00	05.03.2020 12:00

This is an online tender only where e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Kamrul Hassan
Executive Engineer
Noakhali PWD Division

GD-318

Two sustain burns in gas cylinder blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths suffered burn injuries in a fire yesterday evening, supposedly caused by the explosion of a kitchen gas cylinder in the Shyampur area of the capital.

The injured were identified as Md Sajib (24) and Hafizul (23). They were rushed to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The duo live at a tinshed house near Dhaka Match Factory in the old part of Dhaka.

Zakir Hossain, a roommate of the injured, told reporters that both of them work at a workshop. They came home from workplace in the afternoon and were preparing to cook.

The cylinder exploded when the stove was lit around 6:30pm, he said.

Quoting physicians of the burn unit, DMCH police outpost in-charge Bacchu Mia told reporters that Hafizul suffered 30 percent burns, while Sajib eight percent burns.



GROWING PAINS... Pedestrians and vehicles alike have to zigzag through this road in Sylhet city's Zindabazar area due to "unannounced and unfinished" development work. According to locals, the city corporation shut down the busy road from East Zindabazar to Barutkhana to repair a box culvert. The work is not only affecting commuters but also businesses in the area, as the authorities did not arrange any alternative option for them. The photos were taken on Monday.

PHOTO: SHEKH NASIR

I am a victim of conspiracy: Nasir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

After losing the Awami League party ticket for the mayoral post in the upcoming city polls, incumbent mayor of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) AJM Nasir Uddin yesterday told journalists that he was a victim of "conspiracy, propaganda and lies".

"The post of mayor is not the biggest thing for me... politics is my main priority. Had anyone come to me and asked me to leave the post, I would have left it gladly," said Nasir, adding, "There was no need to spread false propaganda against me."

Nasir, also general secretary of Chattogram city unit AL, was looked over for the party's nomination on Saturday, which instead went to Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, joint general secretary of the same unit.

Speaking at a views-exchange meeting at Chattogram Press Club, Nasir said he did not have any grief, anger, or frustration over missing out on the nomination.

"I was just hurt to see false propaganda in social media against me," he said. "My photo with a relative of a killer of Bangabandhu went viral on social media in a bid to establish that I have a relation with the killers, which is hundred percent false... I do not know the person."

"I was inaugurating a business in the port city and its owner was a former vice president of Chittagong University unit Bangladesh Chhatra League," he said.

"When I go to a programme, many people come to me and take photos; I do not necessarily know them all. I had never met the person in the photo [before then]. Now that person may be a relative of a killer of Bangabandhu, but I do not know him," he said, adding that "conspirators" had propagated the photo to spread propaganda.

"I did politics against the killers of Bangabandhu putting my life at risk. I have been doing politics holding the ideology of Bangabandhu throughout my life, and I

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Road crashes claim 4 lives

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and three injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days, report our correspondents and news agencies.

In Bhola, Jihad (16) was killed and three were injured after an auto-rickshaw collided with his motorbike in Boiderpura area of Borhanuddin upazila yesterday noon.

Officer-in-Charge (investigation) of Borhanuddin Police Station Abdul Quader said the accident left Jihad dead on the spot. The injured were admitted to Bhola Sadar Hospital.

In Panchagarh, Md Masud (20) was killed after two tractors collided in Banglabandha Land Port area of Tetulia upazila around noon yesterday, said police.

Due to the collision, Masud was run over by one of the tractors, leaving him dead on the spot, they added.

In Chapainawabganj, Wasim Ali (49) was killed after a truck ran him over while he was crossing the road in Kansat Abbas Bazar area of Shibganj upazila around 7am yesterday, said police.

The truck driver and his helper fled the spot after the accident.

In Satkhira, Shamsur Rahman Sana (40) died after a speeding truck hit his motorbike in Patkelghata area of Tala upazila around 2pm on Monday.

The deceased was a manager working for Dutch-Bangla Bank.

Witnesses said Shamsur lost control of his motorbike and fell off. At that moment, a speeding truck hit Shamsur, killing him on the spot.

Police were trying to catch the truck and its driver.

BUS DRIVER HELD OVER DEATH OF TWO STUDENTS

Police yesterday arrested a bus driver over the death of two students in a road accident in Bangabandhu Bridge area in Tangail.

The arrestee is Shahinul Islam (25), driver of a Govindaganj Special bus, reports our Tangail correspondent.

A police team of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station, led by Sub-inspector Jayed Bin Abdullah, arrested him from Govindaganj Bus Stand area in Gaibandha, said Kazi Aiyubur Rahman, OC of the police station.

On Sunday, two students of Medical Assistant Training School (MATS) in Tangail -- Mayen Uddin Hamim Turjya and Sadia Islam Nodi -- were killed after a bus ran them over while they were crossing the highway.

After the accident, driver and helper of the bus fled the scene, leaving the vehicle behind. Turjya's brother filed a case with the police station on the same day.

CHOLERA, DIARRHOEA

Vaccination campaign starts today

BSS, Dhaka

A six-day vaccination campaign kicks off today in the capital to immunise people from cholera and diarrhoea.

The information was unveiled during a press conference at Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in Mohakhali.

The campaign will be conducted in Mohammadpur, Adabor, Darus Salam, Kamrangirchar, Hazaribagh and Lalbagh's wards 9, 10, 14, 22-25, 29-34 and 55-57 under Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC).

The vaccination will be given to persons -- aged one year and above -- from 8am to 4pm everyday at 360 centres. Some vaccination centres will remain open till 7pm.

GOPALGANJ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

10-day standstill prevails as students continue protests

MD ABBAS

Administrative and academic activities at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU) in Gopalganj have been halted since February 9, as students of history department are demonstrating, demanding University Grants Commission (UGC) approve their department.

The protests escalated several days ago after UGC asked BSMRSTU authorities to shut the department down and complete academic activities of the existing batches.

Protesting the move, history students went on a sit-in programme in front of the administrative building, padlocking its gate on February 6. On February 9, they also padlocked gates of the academic building, leading to a complete halt of academic activities.

Mentionable, then BSMRSTU vice-chancellor Prof Khondoker Nasiruddin introduced the history department in 2017 under the Institute

of Bangabandhu, Liberation War and Bangladesh Studies, with "verbal approval" of UGC. Some 300 students enrolled at the department each year.

After students learned that their department is not approved, they started demonstrating.

Meanwhile, general students expressed concerns that halting of academic activities will result in huge session jams. They urged authorities to take measures to resume classes and examinations.

University students also formed a human chain on February 9, demanding resumption of classes and exams, saying the movement was disrupting their academic life.

Niaz Mahmud, a final-year student of computer science and engineering department, said, "We know their demand is logical, but they have to think about the academic lives of rest of the students. We are greatly suffering for their movement."

Fahim Sikder, a former student of the university, said he got scholarship

to go aboard and needs to collect his transcript urgently. But he could not collect it as administrative activities are halted.

Many students echoed Niaz and Fahim, criticising university authorities for not taking proper steps to resolve the crisis.

UGC FORMS PROBE BODY

Taking the issue to cognisance, UGC yesterday formed a seven-member probe body, led by its member Prof Dil Afroz Begum, to resolve the matter.

BSMRSTU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Shahjahan said they have already held a meeting with the probe body yesterday in this regard.

University authorities will take measures as per recommendations of the probe body, he said, hoping that the issue will be resolved soon.

Both Prof Dil Afroz and UGC Chairperson Prof Kazi Shahidullah could not be contacted over phone despite repeated attempts.



Visitors leaf through books at a stall at Govt BM College in Barishal yesterday. Uttarayan, a cultural organisation, arranged the event as part of a three-day "Jibananda Das Fair" to observe the 121st birth anniversary of the one of the most popular poets of modern Bengali literature.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

BANGLADESH RAILWAY EVICTION DRIVE

Concrete block fall kills one, injures four in Kishoreganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A youth was killed and four persons were injured when a chunk of concrete fell on them during an eviction drive conducted by Bangladesh Railway (BR) in Sarachar station area of Kishoreganj yesterday.

Authorities said the five gathered in the area just to see the drive.

The deceased -- Nimai Chandra Banik (25) -- was from Uttar Sarachar in the district's Bajitpur upazila. He was declared dead at Jahurul Islam Medical College Hospital, according to police.

The injured -- Antor Saha (18), Rubel Mia (24), Kamal Mia (37) and Siam Al Sadi -- who are from

adjacent villages -- were taken to Bajitpur Upazila Health Complex, said Bajitpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Khalilur Rahman Patwary.

Of them, Rubel was referred to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated, said the OC.

BR started the eviction drive against illegal structures on its land around 9am.

"As soon as the accident occurred around noon, we postponed the operation," said Md Nazrul Islam, estate officer of BR, who led the drive.

When asked whether they ensured that there was no people inside or around the illegal structures before the action, the BR official said, "We

repeatedly asked people or onlookers through a loudspeaker to move to safety."

The drive started when there was no one on the spot. "The victims came to the spot all of a sudden while the buildings were being demolished," said Nazrul Islam.

The official said they gave Tk 20,000 to the deceased's family and Tk 5,000 each to other victims' families, he said.

"We are planning to allocate shops to the victims, which will be set up on the BR land on completion of the drive," he added.

The official said they were able to demolish around 120 structures till the postponement.

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PROJECT SYNDICATE Pariah India



SHASHI THAROOR

AFTER India launched far-reaching economic reforms in 1991, its stature in the world rose steadily. The country was already recognised as a

thriving democracy and an example to the world of how to manage diversity in a free and open society. Its enhanced economic clout and the size of its increasingly prosperous market added to its appeal. Its self-branding as the world's fastest-growing free-market democracy worked; world leaders queuing up to visit New Delhi became a burden for a generation of diplomatic protocol officers.

But in recent months, it has all begun to fall apart.

The reason is not hard to find. India's domestic political environment has turned toxic under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government, owing to a train of divisive, socially discriminatory policies, accompanied by incendiary political rhetoric bordering on Islamophobia. Moreover, a series of disastrous economic decisions— notably demonetisation and the botched implementation of a nationwide Goods and Services Tax— put many small entrepreneurs out of business and threw millions of people out of work, further convulsing Indian society. And economic failure has only driven Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to double down on its political agenda, animated by the prejudices of its Hindutva ideology.

In particular, a series of decisions suggests the depth of the alienation, stoked by BJP policies and attitudes, of India's 180-million strong Muslim population. In recent years, the BJP has criminalised an Islamic form of divorce,



Members of various student groups took part in a torch rally in Kolkata to protest against India's new citizenship law. PHOTO: DIBYANGSHU SARKAR/AFP

talaq-e-biddat; abolished the autonomy enjoyed by India's only Muslim-majority state, Jammu and Kashmir; campaigned for and celebrated a Supreme Court judgment awarding the site of a destroyed mosque to Hindus; and amended India's citizenship laws to give fast-track citizenship only to non-Muslim refugees and migrants from three neighbouring countries.

These actions sparked weeks of protest across the country and have subverted India's pluralist secularism. And if that wasn't bad enough, the heavy-handed and brutal response to protests in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, where 27 Muslim protesters were shot dead, campuses invaded, and students assaulted, has shaken India's reputation as a democracy to be admired.

The "Rising India" narrative rested on the economy's performance and potential, and on India's success at managing its internal differences democratically and largely peacefully. Rapid economic growth opened up

new opportunities for cooperation with foreign countries: neighbours wanted to take advantage of their proximity, while major powers saw a useful partner worth courting. The contrast with China's rise as an authoritarian state was implicit. The Indian system, many felt, was not only more attractive, but also worked just as well.

No longer. Thanks to BJP's divisive sectarianism, driven by narrow party-political goals, India's stature in the world has never been lower. The recent developments have embarrassed India's friends in the neighbouring Muslim countries of Bangladesh and Afghanistan, shaken the confidence of foreign investors, antagonised influential members of the US Congress, and earned the government a chorus of disapproval. Major foreign newspapers, whether on the right (like *The Wall Street Journal* or the *Financial Times*) or the left (like *The Guardian* and *The Washington Post*) have published critical editorials about India in recent months. The drumbeat

of daily reporting and commentaries is relentlessly negative.

At home, even neutral figures known for their habitual reticence on political matters have expressed alarm. Former Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon recently described the government's amendment to the Citizenship Act as a "self-inflicted goal" that has isolated India and resulted in the country being routinely mentioned alongside Pakistan as an intolerant state. The divisive policies of the government, he added, has given our adversaries "platforms to attack us" and left India with "no international support apart from a section of the Indian diaspora and some extreme right Members of the European Parliament."

Several world leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the visiting Norwegian king, Harald V, and chiefs of United Nations agencies on human rights and refugees, have

25 years, irrespective of the government in Delhi or Washington, has been broken.

What the world thinks matters more than ever before, not least because India is far more dependent on external trade and investment. Foreign investment requires trust and faith in the future, which is fast eroding. The world increasingly sees India as an intolerant, narrow-minded country. Its credit ratings have been downgraded. Seven countries have issued travel warnings.

The Indian economy's stumbling performance and its domestic political divides have created new foreign-policy challenges in an increasingly difficult external environment, with a transactional President Donald Trump taking a cost-benefit view of the US-India relationship and Chinese President Xi Jinping strengthening his support for India's hostile neighbour, Pakistan. Amid a period of domestic and global unpredictability, India's place in the twenty-first-century world, which once seemed so promising, is again being called into question.

The Indian government shows little sign of waking up to the consequences of its domestic policies. It seems to assume that a country of 1.3 billion people with the world's fifth-largest economy, a member of the G20 and the Brics, cannot be ignored. It consoles itself that its actions still garner popular support in India. But an India that is perceived as bigoted, with a government that, intoxicated by intolerant majoritarianism, is wilfully driving sectarian wedges between its people, can forget about the global embrace on which its future depends.

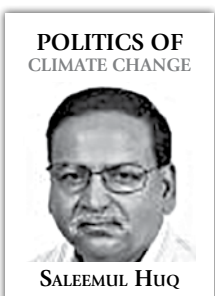
Foreign investment requires trust and faith in the future, which is fast eroding. The world increasingly sees India as an intolerant, narrow-minded country.

criticised the government's recent moves. For the first time in over 40 years, Kashmir was discussed in the UN Security Council. The bipartisan consensus on strong bilateral relations that has existed in the United States for

Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under-secretary-general and former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Human Resource Development, is an MP for the Indian National Congress.

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Can Bangladesh become a knowledgeable economy?



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SALEEMUL HUQ

OVER the next decade, there are going to be four mega global trends that all countries in the world will have to deal with. The first is the global impacts

of human induced climate change which will be felt in all countries both rich and poor. While efforts to keep global mean temperature below 1.5 degrees (which may already be out of reach) or at most 2 degrees centigrade must continue, these efforts will not affect the climate change impacts for the coming decade which are already locked in due to the greenhouse gas emissions from previous decades. Hence, every country, whether rich or poor, must prepare to adapt, as well as deal with the inevitable loss and damage that will happen due to human induced climate change over the next 10 years.

The second major trend, which is related to the first, is the loss of biodiversity with perhaps a million species of plants and animals being lost including important ecosystems and habitats over the next decade. The recent unprecedented wildfires in Australia which killed over a billion animals is a harbinger of this trend, which will only get worse over time.

The third mega trend is the rapid urbanisation of the global population

which is already deemed to be more urban than rural. And this trend will continue for the coming decade. This mega trend is also linked to the climate change issue, as many millions of people currently living in vulnerable rural areas such as low-lying coastal areas and drought prone areas of the world will be forced to migrate due to climate change impacts and will almost certainly end up moving to cities.

The fourth and final mega trend is related to technological development, sometimes linked to artificial intelligence (AI), or more generally, to knowledge generation and use which is likely to change manufacturing to be less and less dependent on human labour over time.

All four of these global megatrends are very relevant for Bangladesh and can either hold back our development, or if we play our cards right, may prove to be good opportunities for us to enhance our resilience and ensure a better development pathway that enables us to not only overcome the negative aspects but indeed take advantage of them.

Here are some ideas on how this might be achieved.

The first issue of climate change is already high on our national agenda and with the soon to be published revised Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) that will take us to 2030, we will have a blueprint for what needs to be done in order to transform Bangladesh from being one of the world's most climate



A fish vendor approaches the Brahmaputra river to rinse his containers as rain clouds loom over Guwahati on June 17, 2016. PHOTO: AFP

vulnerable country to becoming one of the world's most resilient one. This will require us to mainstream or integrate climate change actions into everything we do, both within government ministries and agencies, as well as in civil society and private sector. The good news is that this is already beginning to happen, so it needs to only be accelerated going forward.

On the issue of protecting biodiversity, the Bangladesh parliament has taken a pioneering role of declaring a "planetary emergency" which addresses both climate change as well as biodiversity and this

now needs to be put into planning and practice. There are two major potential problems we need to keep in mind, and avoid if we can. First, once the Khulna region is opened up to economic development due to the inaugural of the Padma Bridge, we must ensure that this development is nature-based and does not destroy our Sundarbans. Second, the development of the eastern side of Dhaka, over what are some of our last remaining wetlands in this region. If we merely repeat the mistakes we made with the current area of Dhaka, then we will get ourselves into trouble for the new

areas in future. We must prove that we are able to learn from our mistakes and not repeat them when it comes to protecting the wetlands east of Dhaka, and not build over them.

Finally, on the issue of the knowledge economy, we are extremely well placed with the raw material for exploiting this opportunity, namely young girls and boys, but only if we can rapidly change and improve the education that we are providing to them. The young people of Bangladesh are amongst the brightest anywhere in the world, and have the potential to become problem-solvers not just for Bangladesh, but for all the global megatrends mentioned above and hence a resource for all countries.

However, this will require a very rapid transition from our traditional education system, from its emphasis on exam-oriented job-seeking outcomes, to a problem-solving modality where we produce job creators and not just job seekers. The good news is that this transition will not cost any more money than we are spending already, but will require a new kind of thinking and practice from both the government as well as the universities and academic sector of the country. If we are able to make this transition in thinking and implement it, then Bangladesh can emerge as a global champion in tackling all the global megatrends mentioned above.

Saleemul Huq is Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

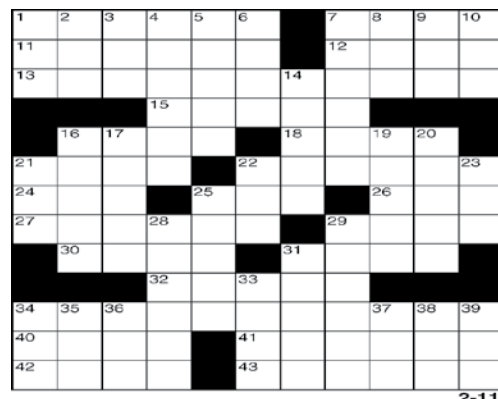


February 19, 1945
Iwo Jima invaded by US Marines

In 1945, during the final phases of World War II, US Marines invaded Iwo Jima so as to wrest control of the strategically important island from the Japanese, who put up fierce resistance in the ensuing battle.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 In the vicinity
 - 7 M's top agent
 - 11 Sight from Yemen
 - 12 Sailor's call
 - 13 Basketball Hall of Famer
 - 15 T-bone, e.g.
 - 16 Added to
 - 18 "Shucks!"
 - 21 Harvest
 - 22 Flip out
 - 24 Drama division
 - 25 Friend of Harry and Hermione
 - 26 Buck's mate
 - 27 "Impressive!"
 - 29 Old codger
 - 30 Walrus's cousin
 - 31 Croquet setting
- DOWN**
- 1 Sleeve filler
 - 2 Old auto
 - 3 "-- bodkins!"
 - 4 Depletes
 - 5 High homes
 - 6 Titled woman
 - 7 Croatian, for example
 - 8 Cry of surprise
 - 9 Opposite of oui
 - 10 Fabric color
 - 14 Singer Neville
 - 16 River to the Rio Grande
 - 17 Barista's creation
 - 19 Henry VIII's house
 - 20 Got to one's feet
 - 21 Sprinted
 - 22 Zeus or Apollo
 - 23 Ready to go
 - 25 Fashion's Lauren
 - 28 Volcanic rock
 - 29 Moves in bounces
 - 31 Rowdy fellow
 - 33 Engrave
 - 34 Belief, in brief
 - 35 Spot
 - 36 Suffering
 - 37 Got together
 - 38 Devoured
 - 39 Lawn material



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

M E C C A A Z T E C
E R R O L T O O T H
T R Y M E H O W T O
 E P E E S U P
T R A S H B A G
R E N O B R O O D S
A B O V E T E R R Y
P A N E L S S E E N
 R A P M U S I C
G A G P A I N
E X I T S A D A M S
A L G A E M E D A L
R E I N S I R O N Y

BETLE BAILEY



BABY BLUES



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NEWS IN brief

Turkey ramps up Gulen crackdown

REUTERS, Istanbul

Turkish prosecutors yesterday ordered the arrest of nearly 700 people, including military and justice ministry personnel, state media said, intensifying moves against a network accused of orchestrating a 2016 coup attempt, in which about 250 people were killed. The latest operations marked an escalation by police against alleged supporters of Gulen, a one-time ally of President Tayyip Erdogan who subsequently became his arch foe.

Bushfire crisis hit 75pc of Australians: survey

AFP, Sydney

Three in four Australians -- almost 18 million people -- were affected by the country's deadly bushfire crisis, according to a survey released yesterday that also pointed to plummeting support for the government and for coal projects. The Australian National University study showed the vast human scale of the five-month crisis, which killed more than 30 people. Scientists say the fires were fuelled by drought and unfavourable weather conditions that were exacerbated by climate change.

Pak cop killed as blast hits polio vaccine team

AFP, Peshawar

A policeman was killed and two others wounded yesterday by a roadside bomb aimed at polio vaccination workers in Pakistan's restive northwestern city of Dera Ismail Khan. The attack came a day after Islamabad launched a nationwide anti-polio drive. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the Taliban and other militants have targeted polio vaccinators in the past.



A man who has displayed mild symptoms of the COVID-19 coronavirus uses a laptop at an exhibition centre converted into a hospital in Wuhan in China's central Hubei province. Photo was taken on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

Why China detains Uighurs?

Leaked data show growing a beard or applying for a passport is enough to put someone behind bars

AGENCIES

Chinese authorities are monitoring the Uighur population's everyday movements and behaviour and sending people to internment camps over facial hair and having too many babies, leaked documents have revealed.

In one case, authorities sent a Uighur man to a "re-education camp" and monitored 15 of his relatives after he grew a long beard.

Officials concluded that the man's facial hair and his wife's use of a veil indicated they had been "infected with religious and extremist ideas", it is claimed.

The 137-page document handed to German news channel DW and the BBC is said to list 311 people who were sent off for "re-education" in the county of Karakax in 2017 and 2018.

Reasons given for detention include fasting, growing a beard, applying for a passport and breaching

CHINA'S 'WAR ON TERROR'



official birth policy by having too many children.

It lists personal details of more than 3,000 individuals from the far western region of Xinjiang, including the full names and identification numbers of more than 1,800 family members, neighbours and friends connected to the 311 sent to the Karakax camp.

Children are also said to feature on

the list.

It provides details of downloaded videos and internet chat messages, high-tech surveillance with facial recognition cameras and the widespread use of spies, house visits and interrogations.

"The level of detail is overwhelming," Rian Thum, an expert at the University of Nottingham, told DW. "I think it is interesting to imagine that these things

exist across Xinjiang. The data that is out there must be staggering."

While most of the detainees were later approved for release - albeit under constant surveillance - dozens were forced to work in factories, according to the documents.

Up to two million Uighur Muslims and other ethnic minorities have been detained in camps as part of a supposed counterterrorism campaign since 2014.

China has insisted it is running what it calls "vocational training" centres to combat extremism in the region. However, former detainees have alleged inmates are subjected to torture, medical experiments and gang rape.

Last month it emerged that more than 100 Uighur graveyards had been demolished by the authorities in what human rights groups described as an escalation of the communist regime's campaign to destroy the Muslim minority's culture.



Bezos launches \$10b fund to combat climate change

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has pledged \$10 billion to a new fund to tackle climate change but activists have urged the world's richest man to first clean up the e-commerce giant's own lacklustre environmental record. The e-commerce tycoon said the Bezos Earth Fund would "fund scientists, activists, NGOs -- any effort that offers a real possibility to help preserve and protect the natural world." Hundreds of Amazon employees last month signed a blog criticizing the online retail giant's climate policies and demanding it do more to tackle climate change. Amazon has been accused of creating vast amounts of waste from the packaging it uses for doorstep deliveries, as well as for the greenhouse gas emissions from huge vehicle fleets.

Gunman kills ex-wife at Bangkok shopping mall

A man killed his ex-wife and wounded another person at a shopping centre in Bangkok yesterday, police said, just 10 days after a mass shooting at another mall in Thailand's northeast. The gunman fled the Century The Movie Plaza mall, near the Victory Monument in the capital and is still on the run, police said. He had gone into a beauty clinic at the mall where his ex-wife worked and opened fire, killing her and wounding a bystander, Colonel Kissan Pattanachareon said. On Feb. 8 and 9, a soldier killed at least a dozen people at the Terminal 21 shopping centre in the city of Nakhon Ratchasima. He had earlier killed his commanding officer, other soldiers at his base and several people at a Buddhist temple.

Ghani wins Afghan polls



Ashraf Ghani has secured a second term as president of Afghanistan, according to final results of the September 28, 2019 poll released yesterday by the country's election commission. Ashraf Ghani won 50.64 percent of the votes, election commission chief Hava Alam Nuristani told a press conference in Kabul. The results had been delayed for nearly five months after allegations of vote-rigging from Ghani's main rival, Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, forced a recount. Earlier this week, Abdullah's team said they would not accept fraudulent results.

SOURCE: AFP

Voting in Iran's election 'a religious duty': Khamenei

REUTERS, Dubai

Voting in a parliamentary election this week is "a religious duty" for Iranians, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday, days before the vote seen as a referendum on the clerical establishment's popularity.

Iran's hardline Guardian Council vetting body has rejected some 6,850 moderate or conservative hopefuls in favour of hardliners from among the 14,000 applicants seeking to contest the Feb. 21 vote. About a third of lawmakers have also been barred from standing again.

"Today, voting is not only a revolutionary and national responsibility, but it is also a religious duty," Khamenei was quoted as saying by state television.

Due to the large number of disqualified candidates, hardliners loyal to Khamenei are likely to dominate the 290-seat parliament.

Friday's vote will have no major influence on foreign affairs or Iran's nuclear policy, which is determined by Khamenei.

"Elections are a means to strengthen the country ... A weak parliament will have long-term effects ... a weak parliament will negatively affect our fight against enemies," he said. "The election will neutralise American's ill intentions ... the vote is the Islamic Republic's prestige."

Tensions have been high between Iran and the United States since 2018, when US President Donald Trump exited a 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, reimposing sanctions that have battered the country's economy.

In retaliation, Iran has gradually rolled back its commitments under the deal.

Confrontation with America, economic hardship and an airline tragedy have battered Iranians' confidence in their leaders, posing a potential problem for the authorities in a parliamentary election this week.

Campaigning will end tomorrow, on the eve of the vote, for which 58 million Iranians are eligible to vote out of a population of 83 million.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres poses for a photograph while visiting the holy Sikh temple Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

India's Trump fans gear up for his arrival

REUTERS, Konney/New Delhi

Bussa Krishna first began worshipping Donald Trump four years ago when the US president appeared to him a dream.

Since then, after a run of good fortune, the Indian real estate broker has transformed his modest home into a shrine to the US leader, who is due in India on Monday for a two-day visit.

"My love for him has transformed into reverence. That has given me immense happiness. Hence instead of praying to other gods, I started praying to him," Krishna told Reuters.

Krishna, who lives alone in a village in Telangana, has erected a life-size statue to Trump in his yard, while his walls are scrawled with the leader's name - to the annoyance of his extended family.

"I am facing difficulties because of my relatives," Krishna said. "They tell me that I am disgracing them in society. I told them that just like you believe and worship Shiva, I believe and worship Trump. Neither of us can stop the other from doing so."

Krishna is not the only Indian who reveres Trump. In New Delhi, members of the Hindu Sena, a right-wing fringe group, have begun rehearsing a welcome song in his honour.

"We like Donald Trump because he openly spoke about India's feelings," Hindu Sena leader Vishnu Gupta told Reuters. "...He openly said that he would eliminate Islamic terrorism from its roots, that is why I am his fan."

Trump is making his first visit to India. Trump's itinerary starts on Feb 24 in the western city of Ahmedabad, where he will visit the former home of independence hero Mahatma and address an estimated 125,000 people at a rally. He is due in the capital the following day.

'Babies freezing to death'

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Out in the open in freezing weather, Mustafa Hamadi and his family settled into their makeshift tent in the village of Killi, in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib - their second displacement in less than a year. The sub-zero temperatures on the night of February 11 kept them awake so, just before midnight, Mustafa moved the gas heater inside the tent.

By morning, Mustafa, his wife Amoun, their 12-year-old daughter Huda and their granddaughter Hoor, who was just three years old, were all found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning.

According to Nizar Hamadi, the tent - constructed of metal pipes and nylon sheets - had no proper ventilation and did little to insulate Mustafa's family from the cold.

This is one of the many stories that are becoming common in the refugee camps in Syria.

Since intensifying a major Russia-backed offensive in December, regime air strikes have hit targets indiscriminately. Hospitals and displaced persons camps were

not spared. UN officials said relief agencies were overwhelmed by the humanitarian crisis as nearly one million civilians, most of them women and children, had fled towards the Turkish border in bitter winter conditions to escape the onslaught.

In addition to the indiscriminate bombing of civilians, the lack of adequate shelter has resulted in

RUSSIA-BACKED SYRIA OFFENSIVE IN IDLIB



82,000 people living in the freezing open air, settling under trees or in snowy fields, the UN said.

According to figures from the UN humanitarian body OCHA, 36 percent of newly displaced families are housed by relatives or find rental accommodation, while 17 percent found refuge in already overcrowded camps. At least 15 percent sought shelter in unfinished buildings and 12 percent are still "looking for shelter".

Women and children - who comprise more than 80 percent of the newly displaced people - are again among those who suffer most.

Describing the situation in Syria as having reached a "horrifying new level", Mark Lowcock, the UN head of humanitarian affairs and emergency relief, said in a statement on Monday that the displaced are "traumatised" and "babies and small children are dying because of the cold."

In Kalbeet camp a few days ago, a five-month-old baby, Areej Majid al-Hmeidi, froze to death, according to Abu Anwar, an official and resident of the facility near the Syrian-Turkish border

CORONAVIRUS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Nearly 1,900 dead. More than 500 infected on a cruise ship. An activist arrested for criticising the handling of the epidemic. Here are the latest developments in China's coronavirus crisis:

NEARLY 1,900 DEAD

Mainland China's official death toll hits 1,868. More than 72,300 people have now been infected there and 900 cases recorded around the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) however, says that epidemic outside China is only affecting a "tiny" proportion of the population and the virus has a mortality rate of around two percent. With drugmakers racing to develop a vaccine, Chinese health officials urge patients who have recovered from the coronavirus to donate blood so that plasma can be extracted to treat others who are critically ill.

CRUISE SHIP OFF JAPAN

The number of people infected aboard a cruise ship quarantined off Japan since February 3 leaps to 542 - by far the biggest cluster outside the epicentre in China. Australia, Britain, Canada, Hong Kong and South Korea have said they will follow the United States in evacuating their citizens from the ship.

APPLE PESSIMISTIC

The iPhone maker Apple announces it will miss its March quarter revenue forecast and global iPhone supplies will

fall, triggering a fall in Asian stock markets. Dependent on Chinese components and with a big Chinese market, Apple has been hit by travel bans and mass quarantines inside China forcing factories to suspend operations and shops to close.

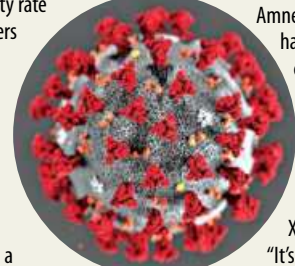
ACTIVIST ARRESTED

Amnesty International says Chinese police have arrested a prominent activist who criticised President Xi Jinping's handling of the coronavirus epidemic while in hiding. "Medical supplies are tight, hospitals are filled with patients, and a large number of infected people have no way to be diagnosed," activist Xu Zhiyong wrote in a February 4 article. "It's a mess."

INDIA BARS CHINESE WRESTLERS

India bans Chinese wrestlers from this week's Asian Championships in New Delhi because of the coronavirus outbreak. The International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva is also postponed until September due to travel restrictions, as a third of the inventions were to come from mainland China and another third from Hong Kong.

SOURCE: AFP



WHAT'S ON



Art Camp
Title: 4th Annual Art for Autism 2020
Venue: Charukola, University of Dhaka
Date: February 22
Time: 8:30 am – 3pm



Solo Exhibition
Title: Parables of the Womb
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhammondi
Date: February 4 – March 28
Time: 2 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)



Book Fair
Title: Amar Ekushey Bô Mela
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy Premises
Date: Feb 2-29
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm; 11 am – 9 pm on weekends



Art Exhibition
Title: In/Out of the stones of our mind
Venue: Dwp Gallery
Date: February 19-29
Time: 3pm to 9 pm (February 19 from 6pm to 9pm)



Art Workshop
Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop
by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo
Venue: Studio 6/6 (Mohammadpur)
Date: February 22
Time: 11 am to 6 pm

Celebrated actor Tapas Pal passes away

PALLAB BHATACHARYA, from New Delhi

Tapas Pal, celebrated film actor and former lawmaker of West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress, passed away in Mumbai, due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 61, according to reports.

Pal, who was visiting his daughter in Mumbai, complained of chest pain at the Mumbai airport during his return to Kolkata. He was rushed to a hospital in Juhu, but breathed his last at around 4 am (local time) yesterday. The actor was suffering



PHOTO: COLLECTED

from heart complications and was in and out of hospitals for treatment since the past two years.

Pal joined politics from 2001. He was a two-term member of Lok Sabha, Krishnanagar, from 2009 to 2019, and a member of the West

Bengal legislative assembly from the Alipore constituency in Kolkata from 2001 to 2009. He is survived by his daughter and wife.

He remained away from cinema since his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Rose

Valley chit-fund scam in December 2016 and was bailed out after 13 months. He was also imprisoned after his arrest.

Known for his romantic roles, Pal rose to popularity in Kolkata with his debut in Tarun Majumdar's *Dadar Kirti* in 1980. He went on to become a household name for his lead roles in *Saheb* (1981), *Parabat Priya* (1984), *Bhalobasha Bhalobasha* (1985), *Anurager Choyan* (1986) and *Amar Bandhan* (1986), among other films.

Pal won a Filmfare Award for his role in *Saheb*. He made his Bollywood debut in Hiren Nag's *Abodh* (1984), opposite Madhuri Dixit.

Actors Ranjit Mallick and Chiranjeev and director Buddhadeb Dasgupta offered their sincere condolences to Pal's family and described him as a brilliant artiste.

"I am yet to come to terms with the news, even though I knew that he was not keeping well for some time. He was like my younger brother," Mallick said.

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Syed Iqbal's homecoming with 'Meye Tumi Zanjibar Toronto'

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Renowned painter Syed Iqbal is a self-taught artist who has been living and working in Canada since 2002. Being an avid writer as well, the artist began his writing career with *Kushol Ar Mrityu Buro* (1978), a book for children published under the banner of Shishu Academy. Over the past four decades, he has published a number of novels and short story collections. He has also illustrated many children's books. His 36th book, *Meye Tumi Zanjibar Toronto*, was released at the Ekushey Bô Mela 2020, recently.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

The novel, published by The Royal Publishers, is based on the love story of Shubodh Kumar Das, a Bangladeshi currently seeking political asylum in Canada, and Farah (Sarah), a Lebanese illegal immigrant who works as a dancer in Zanjibar, located in downtown Toronto. "The character of Shubodh is presented in a parallel dimension to the meaning of his name, 'shubodh'—the sense of goodness," mentions Syed Iqbal. "With their families' responsibilities burdening their lives, both the characters are also undergoing existential crisis in a foreign land."

Grounded on his experience of migration and displacement, Syed Iqbal draws inspirations for his stories from real life characters. "I mostly prefer to show two different cultures merging together in my work as I want to show Bangladeshi characters interacting with foreign cultures," adds the writer who has also designed the book cover for this publication. "Many of my other novels, including *I Love New York*, also shows how two different characters, hailing from different parts of the world, come together and develop an emotional and intimate bond of love."

The writer pays frequent visit to the Ekushey Bô Mela to meet and greet his readers. *Meye Tumi Zanjibar Toronto* is available at stalls 411 to 414, for BDT 105 (under a special Ekushey Bô Mela discount of 25 percent and a 10 percent Bikash cashback offer), at the Ekushey Bô Mela 2020.

In conversation with Deepali Dewan

ZIAUL KARIM

A large congregation of artists, curators and scholars came together at the recently concluded Dhaka Art Summit (DAS) 2020. The biennial event was an investigation and reflection on how forms of artistic productions and practices impact our lives. Her research interests include colonial, modern and contemporary visual culture, knowledge production, art education, decorative arts and historiography. She teaches at the University of Toronto and is affiliated with the Centre for South Asian Studies. She is the author of *Raja Deen Dayal: Artist-Photographer in 19th-Century India* (2013, co-authored with Deborah Hutton), *Embellished Reality: Indian Painted Photographs* (2012), and the editor of *Bollywood Cinema Showcards: Indian Film Art from the 1950s to the 1980s* (2011). We caught up with her for a brief conversation during her visit to Dhaka.

Could you elaborate on some exhibitions that are instrumental in educating people about contemporary South Asian art?

A few art exhibitions have done a good job of laying out major themes in contemporary South Asian art. These include: the Asia Society's *Contemporary Art in Asia: Traditions / Tensions* (1996), curated by Apinan Poshyanada, which took a broad view of Asia, and the Peabody Essex Museum's *Midnight to Boom: Painting in India after Independence* (2013), curated by Susan Bean, which covered three generations of artists and major trends. In terms of photography, I find myself going back to *When Three Dreams Cross: 150 years of Photography from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh* (2010), curated by Sunil Gupta for the Whitechapel Gallery, which catalogues essays that take a deep dive into certain themes. It is interesting that these exhibitions mostly proceeded the emergence of the art biennials in Kochi, Dhaka, Karachi, Lahore, and now Goa, which have come to be major stages for



PHOTO: KAZI MUKUL

the presentation of contemporary art of the region. I think that contemporary art practice has become diverse and wide ranging, with an increasing number of artists. In fact, we can get a sense of the overall trends in contemporary art through multiple platforms today. Having said that, I think that exhibitions that present an overview of South Asian art are in many ways, an invention of the West. They have the effect of looking in from outside or above and are more relevant from outside of South Asia. In that sense, there is an element of 'othering' built into such exhibitions.

Which exhibitions were the most challenging for you to curate? So far, all the exhibitions I have curated were stimulating in different ways. But I would say that one of the most challenging was *Between Princely India and The British Raj: The Photography of Raja Deen Dayal* (2013), because the

research that went into that exhibition and the execution took nearly ten years. Dayal had a prolific career, with over 40,000 photographs to his name. His studio also remained active after his death in 1905. For this project, my colleague Deborah Hutton and I looked through many archives and clues from different places and years. Sometimes, we found an important document just before we were scheduled to leave and so, we had to work quickly. Another project, *The Family Camera* (2017) was equally challenging, but for different reasons. For this one, I managed five co-curators, multiple interns, and a tight deadline to arrange the exhibition in time for Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations.

What are some of the main hurdles you face in representing South Asia art to Canadian audiences? One of the main challenges in

representing South Asian art to Canadian audiences is to figure out ways to make the material relevant to people from different backgrounds. As a curator of South Asian art at a North American museum, I think a lot about the people and how to address their varying degrees of familiarity with the region of South Asia. Locally, there is a significant South Asian diaspora population in Canada, and there are non-South Asians who have extensive connections to South Asia. There are also audiences who know very little about South Asian culture. My curatorial approach is to provide people with basic information but also to challenge them with depth and complexity. I also try to present information that challenges stereotypes. Moreover, I think we need to shift from the mode of explaining things to a predominantly white audience to consciously choosing to address the South Asian viewers.



Imphal Talkies and the Howlers, a folk-rock band from Manipur, India, perform in Habinanj and Sylhet during their three-day tour in Bangladesh, which concluded recently.

PHOTOS: DWOHA CHOWDHURY



The Tauquir Ahmed directorial 'Fagun Haway' will be aired on Channel i today at 3 pm. The film features Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Siam Ahmed in the lead roles.

PHOTO: COURTESY

TV WATCH

UK government adviser quits over race comments

AFP, London

An adviser in British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office resigned on Monday after online comments resurfaced where he linked intellect to race and seemed to advocate a eugenics policy.

Andrew Sabisky once suggested that black Americans had a lower average intelligence than white Americans.

He also said in a 2014 web post that one way to stop unplanned pregnancies "creating a permanent underclass" was to force people to use contraception.

Sabisky said he was in the middle of a "giant character assassination" and was stepping down because he did not want to be a distraction.

"The media hysteria about my old stuff online is mad but I wanted to help HMG, not be a distraction," he said on Twitter using the initials for Her Majesty's Government.

Leadership

FROM PAGE 16

ensure that those who had collaborated with the occupation army are effectively dealt with in due process of law. They also note with grave concern the harassment of Bangalees in Pakistan and urges the government to take all possible measures to ensure their safe return. The committee also urges for initiatives to rehabilitate the families of martyrs, particularly the widows, orphans, and women who were victims of brutal torture by the Pakistani occupation forces.

The working committee suggests certain steps to commemorate the historic events which formed part of the national liberation struggle: 1) compilation of a comprehensive history of the national liberation struggle, 2) establish of a museum of the national liberation struggle, 3) erection of a monument at Mujibnagar, the first seat of Bangladesh government and 4) renaming the country's capital as Mujibnagar, erstwhile 'second capital' as Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Race Course Maidan as Suhrawardy Udyaan.

BHUTTO AGAIN PROPOSES TO MEET BANGABANDHU

Pakistan President ZA Bhutto has once again proposed talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, sidestepping the issue of Bangladesh's recognition -- a precondition set by Bangabandhu for talks with Bhutto.

FREE BOOKS UP TO CLASS V

The government has taken a decision to provide free textbooks on all subjects to students of up to class V. It will benefit students in over 28,000 primary schools in the country. The government will also provide books to students of classes above V at a commissioned price with 40 percent reduction. **LESS EXPENDITURE ON DEFENCE** Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad declares that Bangladesh will not spend much money for her defence as the government wants to depend on the people for the country's defence. The foreign minister shares, "our foreign policy will be such that we can develop friendship with all countries, including those who behaved like enemies. For this we want to avoid power blocs and military alliances."

POPOV CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

The Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Valentin Popov calls on Bangabandhu today. He is understood to have finalised details of the tour programme of the prime minister's visit to Moscow.

SOURCES: February 20, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Daily Ittefaq, Azad, Morning News, The Bangladesh Observer and Purbodesh.

Lamia

FROM PAGE 16

of Primary and Mass Education looked into the matter and found that the school building is in a dilapidated state. It appeared that the building might collapse any time and iron rods poked out at places.

Classes were being held at temporary tin-roofed rooms made with money allocated for repairs.

On January 27, the ministry approved the construction of a new building with five rooms for Lamia's school, which was established in 1975.

"Our field-level officers should have informed us about the matter before the child had to write to the prime minister. Soon after the news report was published, we decided to build a new building for the school," Md Akram-Al-Hossain, secretary of the ministry, told The Daily Star.

He also said the ministry was planning to build 60,000 new classrooms across the country.

"There will be no rundown school building at any primary school in the country by 2023. And by 2024, there will be no crisis of class rooms and teachers," the secretary added.

Contacted, Md Nurunnabi, senior assistant secretary at the ministry, said a cyclone shelter was needed to be built on the premises of Lamia's school, which has rivers on its southern and eastern sides.

Saidpur airport to turn regional

FROM PAGE 1

Nepal with significantly lower cost and time if Nepalese flights can operate from Saidpur Airport, she said.

Similarly, Nepalese or international tourists too can use the air route from Nilphamari's Saidpur to Nepal and vice versa, Mashfee said.

However, technical details need to be worked out, especially the types and commercial viability of flights to be used on the route, she said, adding that the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh will be conducting those assessments.

The Nepali foreign minister said that though Bangladesh and Nepal are good friends and have immense potential for enhancement of trade and connectivity, they could not be used fully.

The present trade volume hovers around \$50 million, with Bangladesh exporting some \$40 million to Nepal

and importing around \$10 million.

Gyawali said Bangladesh and Nepal will form a taskforce to review the present status of connectivity and trade between the two countries and recommend ways to improve it.

A draft preferential trade agreement and a bilateral agreement on investment are under discussion.

About an agreement between Bangladesh and Indian company GMR Upper Karnali Hydropower Limited, the Nepali minister said the company is going to start construction of a hydropower plant in Nepal, and Bangladesh can import 500MW power in five to six years.

Momen said there are some hindrances in trade and commerce, including high tariffs that need to be reduced. Both the sides agreed to work on it.

Bangladesh wants to improve tourism between the two countries, as

well work together to bring in more international tourists, he added.

At a discussion on Nepal-Bangladesh relations organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) later in the day, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said there can be packages prepared by both Bangladesh and Nepal that can provide reduced prices for visiting both countries.

In that case, the international tourists coming to Nepal for mountain hiking can also visit the sea beaches of Bangladesh, he added.

Mashfee Binte Shams told The Daily Star that once the Motor Vehicle Agreement among Bangladesh, India and Nepal is implemented, connectivity via road and use of the Mongla and Chattogram ports by the three countries will be significantly increased.

Air strikes hit hospitals, camps

FROM PAGE 16

The offensive has also disrupted a fragile cooperation between Ankara and Moscow, who back opposing factions in the war. They began a new round of talks in Moscow on Monday after demands by Ankara that the Syrian army should back down and a ceasefire be put in place.

UN human rights spokesman Rupert Colville, asked if Syria and its ally Russia were deliberately targeting civilians and protected buildings, said: "The sheer quantity of attacks on hospitals, medical facilities, and schools would suggest they cannot all be accidental."

The attacks could constitute war crimes, Colville told a briefing in Geneva.

The UN human rights office said it had recorded 299 civilian deaths since Jan. 1, about 93% caused by the Syrian government and its allies.

The swift advance of government troops, backed by Russian air strikes, through northwest Syria has also

caused the biggest displacement of the war as people flee towards a shrinking pocket near the Turkish frontier where insurgents hold their last strongholds.

A UN spokesman, David Swanson, said close to 900,000 people have fled conflict zones in Idlib province and western Aleppo since December, more than 80% women and children.

Many have been unable to find shelter and are forced to sleep outside in freezing temperatures and burn plastic to stay warm, risking disease and death.

"Only half of all the health facilities in northwest are still functioning now," Swanson said.

Hurras Network, a Save the Children partner in Idlib, said seven children including a seven-month-old baby had died from freezing temperatures and bleak conditions in displaced persons camps.

The Syrian army said on Monday it had taken full control of dozens of

towns in the Aleppo countryside.

The M5 highway linking Damascus to Aleppo, the focus of recent fighting, was re-opened to civilian traffic yesterday after government forces recaptured it last week, the Syrian Observatory war monitor reported.

The opposition also said air strikes in southern areas of Idlib province had left dozens of towns and villages in ruins in what it called a "scorched earth policy".

Alarmed by the new refugee crisis on its border, Turkey has sent thousands of troops and hundreds of convoys of military equipment to reinforce its observation posts in Idlib, established under a 2018 de-escalation agreement with Russia.

Trucks carrying aid supplies still cross from Turkey into northern Syria in a U.N. relief operation, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said yesterday.

About 525,000 displaced children are among those trapped, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said.

When Lundy met Herman

FROM PAGE 16

Herman was found over a year ago in a car dealership parking lot, where he sat on the pavement, unmoving, for three whole days. Eventually his rescuers realized the poor pigeon couldn't fly.

Neighboring wildlife rescues said he couldn't be rehabilitated and would need to be euthanized, so Rogers took care of him herself.

He now rests in a baby crib for some of the day, but she takes him outside daily to stimulate him.

Little Lundy, an infant chihuahua, is a new arrival. His breeders in South Carolina sent him to Rogers because he had trouble using his hind legs, a condition known as swimmers syndrome.

At just 6 ounces, he was small

enough to fit in a shirt pocket. Rogers said she suspects Lundy's difficulty walking is due to damage to his teeny spinal cord.

The two were bound to meet eventually. Rogers set them together while attending to Lundy and saw the way the two snuggled up almost immediately -- Herman didn't peck, and Lundy didn't nibble.

No excess in celebrations

FROM PAGE 16

She said the seats of those lawmakers in the House would be rearranged by sending them far away from her seat if they didn't join parliament sessions regularly, an MP from Dhaka division quoted Hasina as saying.

"During the live telecast of the prime minister's speech [on TV], it seems most of the seats near me remain empty as many lawmakers whose seats are beside mine remain absent in parliament," an AL MP quoted the PM as saying.

Addressing the meeting, Awami

League lawmaker Mrinal Kanti Das cautioned all not to create any distance between the party and its lawmakers during the celebration of "Mujib Borsho".

Several MPs demanded inclusion of lawmakers in different coordination committees in their respective areas to ensure their role in those.

They also pressed for inclusion of MPs in the government's ongoing initiative to provide home to the homeless people within the "Mujib Borsho".

Tea estate feasting on reserve forest

FROM PAGE 16

Ferdous Anwar, then deputy director of DoE Chattogram, told The Daily Star that they found preliminary evidence of hill cutting in order to build a road.

Ferdous was transferred that month and does not know the current status of the matter.

Harunur Rashid Patan, inspector of DoE Chattogram, said they have not yet submitted a report on the matter. A forest court sent tea estate manager Jahangir Alam to jail on January 14 this year in connection with a case filed in 2017 for encroaching on the forest and assault. The case is currently under trial and Jahangir obtained bail this month.

Contacted, Md Jana Alam, senior assistant secretary of AC Land and acting UNO of Fatikchhari upazila, told The Daily Star that the land claimed by the forest department was not under the reserve forest.

In a digital survey at Badurkhal point, the reserve forest was found to be 100 metres away from the disputed leased land, the acting UNO claimed. "As the forest department filed a case seeking amendment to the BS ledger, the court imposed a status quo at Badurkhal. So, both parties have to follow the status quo until the court delivers its verdict," he said.

Baktiar said that the forest department has been complying with the status quo since the court imposed it. But, he says, Halda Tea Valley continued grabbing forest land as forest staff could not prevent them adhering to the court order.

He added that the digital survey was incorrect, as it did not include the Badurkhal point as part of the reserve forest.

Elias Hossain, deputy commissioner of Chattogram district, told The Daily Star that the land is recorded in the

name of deputy commissioner in the BS and the court verdict on the land record amendment case will show if the forest department has a valid claim or not.

Asked about forest encroachment by Halda Tea Valley, the DC said the forest department can guard their forest with their own forces. "If they seek any help, we will consider it," he added.

Nader Khan, managing director of Pedrollo Group, which owns Halda Tea Valley, denied the allegations of grabbing forest land, assault on forest staffers, and destroying saplings.

He said the digital survey was conducted in presence of everyone, including forest department officials, and the land they claim to be reserve forest was found to be 100 metres away from the leased land.

"We did not attack anyone or raze any hills within the reserve forest. All we did was within our leased area," he added.

SPATE OF ATTACKS

Tea estate staff first attacked in March 2006 by removing the demarcation pillar and cutting down around 100 trees at Balukhali beat of Ramgor-Sitakunda reserve forest.

Just two weeks later, led by tea estate manager Jahangir Alam, another attack was launched on forest staff at Edilpur beat to expand the estate's territory.

Halda Tea Valley also built a bridge within the reserve forest, destroying trees under social afforestation projects and hill cutting using an excavator at Edilpur block in 2017. Forest staff tried to stop them, but in vain.

In August 2019, forest officials were prevented from planting saplings at Anandapur of the Ramgor-Sitakunda reserve forest by Halda Tea Valley staffers.

7-yr-old raped

FROM PAGE 16

Several hours, they started looking for her and rented a loudspeaker to make announcements in the area. Failing to find Rima, he lodged a general diary with the sadar police station on Monday night.

On Tuesday morning, Ruhul received a call from a relative that locals had found his daughter's body.

Ziaur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the sadar police station, confirmed that the victim's father, Ruhul Amin, filed a case with the station on charge of murder and rape. Police are trying to nab the culprit, said the OC.

Ruhul demanded exemplary punishment of the killer.

In Brahmanbaria, a single mother of two children was raped by her neighbour at Mohisher village in Nasirnagar upazila on Sunday night. The 25-year-old was admitted to Brahmanbaria General Hospital on Monday evening, reports our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

Shipon Mia, the survivor's brother, who was attending his sister at the hospital, told The Daily Star that their neighbour Akbar forcibly took her to the adjacent field when she went outside to the tubewell. Akbar then raped her, with her hands and feet bound, he said. Her family members heard the struggle and found her there, the rapist having fled the scene.

The alleged rapist Akbar Mia, 30, a carpenter by profession, is in hiding since the incident, Shipon said.

Dr Sharmin Hoque Sumi, medical officer of the gynecology department of Brahmanbaria General Hospital, said they conducted a medical check-up of the survivor and sent it to the forensic department of Chattogram Medical College and Hospital. They are awaiting the report, she said.

When contacted, Nasirnagar police station OC Shazedur Rahman said no one came to file a case yet, but if anyone comes, necessary action will be taken forthwith.

In Habiganj, a woman was allegedly raped by a neighbour in Nabiganj upazila on Monday evening, family members said. She was taken to Habiganj Sadar Hospital by her father later that evening.

The hospital's emergency department doctor Koli Akhter said they did a medical test of the victim but are yet to get the medical examination report, reports our correspondent.

The survivor said she came to her parents' home from her in-laws' last week. Salamat Miah, 25, a grocer from the same village, raped her inside his empty store when she went to buy groceries on Monday evening, she said.

Nabiganj police station OC Azikur Rahman confirmed the incident and said the family were yet to file a case, till the report was filed yesterday afternoon.

Family members of both rape survivors were preparing to file cases.

In Gazipur, two men were sued yesterday in a rape incident at Shaheed Rowshan Sarak area of town.

The main accused, Imran Hossain, 45, hailing from Barishal, used to live in a rented house in the area. The identity of the other accused is not yet known.

Police said Imran and the victim were acquainted with each other. On Saturday morning, Imran made a phone call to the victim, aged around 30, and asked her to come to his residence saying that he would arrange a job for her.

When the victim went, Imran proposed that the women have physical relations with him. As the woman declined, Imran raped her while one of his associates acted as guard, said KM Kawsar Ahmed Chowdhury, OC of Basan police station under Gazipur Metropolitan Police.

Later yesterday, the victim filed a rape case against the duo, who has been on the run since the incident, the OC added.

Police also arrested a youth, Shahin, 30, yesterday from a village under Digholia upazila of Khulna on charge of gangraping a minor girl.

The other two accused -- Shariful Islam, 32, and Kajol, 19 -- are on the run, said Monzur Morshed, OC of Digholia Police Station.

The trio gangraped the eight-grader in a residence at Fulbari Gate area in the city on February 14. On Monday, the victim's family members filed a case against the three men.

Rape incidents

FROM PAGE 1

Going by the PHQ statistics, the alleged rape victims included children below six; girls in schools, colleges and universities; middle-aged female domestic and garment workers; and elderly women. Some of the victims were raped allegedly by police members or while in the custody of law enforcers.

The conviction rate in such cases is extremely low.

Between 2012 and 2016, less than 2 percent of all reported rape incidents ended in conviction, shows the PHQ data. During that period, 18,668 rape cases were lodged with police stations across the country.

The latest PHQ statistics shows that out of the 6,321 rape cases filed last year, charge sheets were filed in 4,231 cases, while police found no evidence of rape in 745 cases.

The rest of the 6,321 cases are now under investigation.

Incidents of rape are continuing unabated at a time when public outcry against the crime is getting louder.

Recently, even some lawmakers, both from the treasury and opposition benches, demanded in parliament that rapists are killed in "crossfire".

On January 19, the High Court directed the government to form a commission within 30 days under the law ministry to stop rape and violence against women.

Hearing a writ petition filed in the form of public interest litigation, the court also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why rapists should not be awarded capital punishment if the victims are under 16.

Experts and rights activists blame the culture of impunity, low conviction rates, degradation of moral and social values, easy availability of pornography, culprits getting political backing and the use of rape to show dominance over women as primary reasons behind the rise of sexual violence, including rape, in the country.

"Androcentric thinking by police, lawyers and others associated with the judicial system and the absence of strong protests against rape are also to blame," said noted rights activist Rokeya Kabir. "Those committing the crime are hardly being punished," she said.

Prof Mahjabeen Haque, chairperson of Dhaka University's educational and counselling psychology department, sees another reason for the rise in rape cases.

"Sometimes, wide media coverage of rape incidents, especially the detailed description of the crime, instigates rapists to look for targets," she said, suggesting that the media should be more careful and act more sensibly while reporting on rape.

Saying that the existing law was stringent, Salma Ali, another rights activist, stressed the need for ensuring modern forensic labs in hospitals with adequate experts and logistic support for victims.

Enactment of a witness protection law and proper use of the evidence act are also crucial to prove a case in the court, she said.

Salma suggested rape cases be tried

under the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act so rapists can be handed punishment quickly. "The government should research why rape incidents are increasing and take measures accordingly."

Asked about the increasing number of rape incidents, Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general (media and PR) of the Police Headquarters, said there was a time when rape victims tend not to speak up as they feared being socially disgraced.

But women's awareness on their rights is increasing every day. Also thanks to technology and social media, no information or (rape) incidents remain secret, he said.

"The number of formal complaints is on the rise. Police are recording cases soon after receiving complaints and arresting the accused in quick time," said the AIG.

He, however, said not all the allegations were true and that there were allegations of harassing people by filing false cases.

Sohel Rana also said police were proving shelter, treatment and legal services to the victims through the victim support centres. "Police attach the highest importance to every incident of women and children repression. They submit probe reports completing investigation in due time."

He, however, said enforcement of law would not be able to stop rape unless preventive measures were taken to address various social, cultural, and psychological issues which turn someone into a rapist.

Drug dealer

FROM PAGE 16

his home in Rail Colony Para on Wednesday night.

Ferdous Ali, inspector (investigation) of Bochaganj Police Station, said a team of the Detective Branch of police went to Haatrampur village in the upazila on information that a "gunfight broke out between two groups of drug peddlers" around 2:00am yesterday.

He said police fired seven blank shots after reaching there. Hearing the shots, members of both the groups fled the area.

Police later found Ayub lying there badly injured. He died of his wounds on way to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital, the inspector said.

Loveley Yasmin, elder daughter of Ayub, alleged that two cops in plainclothes picked up her father from their home around 11:30pm on Wednesday when he was watching TV.

He was taken to Bochaganj Police Station. Later that night, he was boarded on to a microbus and was shifted to somewhere else, Loveley told The Daily Star.

However, Inspector Ferdous refuted the allegations made by Ayub's family. Ayub's body was sent to the medical college morgue for an autopsy.

Police claimed to have recovered a pistol, two bullets, crude bombs, and two yaba pills from the spot. They suspected that a feud over sharing money from the sale of drugs triggered the "gunfight".

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
 পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী

তারিখ: ১৭/০২/২০২০খ্রিঃ

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৪/২০১৯-২০২০

নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ এবং তদানীন্তন প্রণীত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এবং প্রচলিত অন্যান্য বিধি বিধানের আলোকে নোয়াখালী জেলা পুলিশের ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থবছরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টারের (এপ্রিল/মে/জুন ২০২০) সময়ের জন্য রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত যোগানদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হইতে নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইতেছে।

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।			
০২।	বিভাগ	পুলিশ বিভাগ।			
০৩।	ক্রয়কারী/সংগ্রহকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	পুলিশ সুপার, নোয়াখালী।			
০৪।	ক্রয়কারী/সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার জেলা	নোয়াখালী জেলা।			
০৫।	যে কাজ/ক্রয় এবং যে সময়ের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান	জেলা পুলিশের জন্য রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়।			
০৬।	দরপত্রাদাতা/যোগানদার/সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতা	চলতি অর্থ বছরের নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজ/পুলিশ রেশন স্টোরে রেশন সামগ্রী সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, যোগানদার সরবরাহকারী হিসাবে ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেটসহ মোট কার্যমূল্যের সমপরিমাণ অর্থ স্থিতির সনদ (সত্যায়িত কপি) দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।			
০৭।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং, স্মারক নং ও তারিখ	০৪/২০১৯-২০২০, স্মারক নং-৪৪৩ (৩০)/১ম খণ্ড, তারিখ- ২৬/০৮/১৯খ্রিঃ			
০৮।	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	১৭/০২/২০২০খ্রিঃ			
০৯।	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১৫/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ (সরকারি বন্ধের দিন ব্যতীত)।			
১০।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	০১। ডিআইজি, চট্টগ্রাম রেঞ্জ, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয়। ০২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী। ০৩। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, লক্ষ্মীপুর।			
১১।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী।			
১২।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	১৬/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ, ১২.০০ ঘট।			
১৩।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান ও সময়	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী। তারিখ- ১৬/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ, ১৩.০০ ঘট, দরপত্রাদাতা/প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিত হইলে (যদি উপস্থিত থাকেন)।			
১৪।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ- ১৮/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ, ১২.৩০ ঘট।			
১৫।	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	মোঃ আলমশীর হোসেন, পুলিশ সুপার, নোয়াখালী।			
১৬।	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী। ফোন- ৬১০৩০, ফ্যাক্স- ৬১১২৩			
১৭।	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	০১। পিপিআর/২০০৮ এর সকল বিধি বিধান দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী হিসাবে গণ্য করা হইবে। ০২। ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহেন। ০৩। দরপত্র সিডিউলে অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী বর্ণিত রহিয়াছে।			
১৮।	রেশন সামগ্রীর বিবরণঃ				
ক্রমিক নং	রেশন সামগ্রীর নাম	মালামালের পরিমাণ (আনুমানিক)	সিডিউল মূল্য (অফারতথ্যে)	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি (ফেরতযোগ্য)	সময়সীমা
১	মস্তর ডাল সরবরাহ (উন্নতমানের দেশীয় ছোট দানা বিশিষ্ট অর্থাৎ প্রতি ১০ গ্রামে ৬০০টি দানা বিশিষ্ট)	৩০,০০০ কেজি (পরিমাণ চাহিদা অনুযায়ী কম বেশি হতে পারে)	১০০০/-	১,০০,০০০/-	এপ্রিল/২০২০ হইতে জুন/২০২০ পর্যন্ত যে কোন তারিখে ০৭ (সাত) দিনের নোটিশে মালামাল সরবরাহ করিতে হইবে।
২	সোয়াবিন তৈল (ভীরা/রুপচাঁচা/ফ্রেস/পুষ্টি) ০.৫/১/২/৫/৮লিটার কন্টেইনার	৩,০০০ লিটার (পরিমাণ চাহিদা অনুযায়ী কম বেশি হতে পারে)	১০০০/-	১,০০,০০০/-	

বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ

ক) মস্তর ডালের বৈশিষ্ট্যের ক্ষেত্রে ছোট দানা ও প্রতি ১০ গ্রাম ডালে কমপক্ষে ৬০০টি দানা থাকতে হইবে, হলুদ হইতে লাল কমলা রং, স্বাভাবিক জ্বালে ১০ মিঃ-২০মিঃ এর ভিতরে সিক্ত হইতে হইবে, রান্নার সময় স্ফূটন বের হইতে হইবে, খোসা ছাড়ানো হইতে হইবে, দানা আঁচ হইতে হইবে এবং যথাযথ শুকনা হইতে হইবে। পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার, স্মারক নং-৪৪-২০১৯/৩৩৪(১৩০), তারিখ-২৯/০১/২০১৮খ্রিঃ মোতাবেক নতুন পদ্ধতিতে মস্তর ডাল সরবরাহের সময় ২ কেজি ও ১.৫ কেজি উন্নতমানের স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাকেট প্যাকেটজাত করে সরবরাহ করিতে হইবে। প্যাকেটের গায়ে স্পষ্ট ভাবে পণ্যের ওজন, উৎপাদনের তারিখ ও মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণের তারিখ উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে।

খ) দরপত্রের সহিত পুলিশ সুপার, নোয়াখালী এর অনুলিপি যেকোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংকের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে বর্ণিত দরপত্র জামানত অবশ্যই দাখিল করিতে হইবে এবং দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহকালে জানা যাইবে।

গ) ক্রমিক নং-৬ তে উল্লেখিত সকল কাগজপত্র/সনদপত্র ১ম শ্রেণীর সরকারি কর্মকর্তা দ্বারা সত্যায়িত করিয়া দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।

ঘ) অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি (লজিস্টিকস), বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার, ঢাকা হইতে বরাদ্দের আলোকে বিল পরিশোধ করা হইবে। বিধি মোতাবেক আয়কর ও ভ্যাট কড়ক করা হইবে।

ঙ) সোয়াবিন তৈল, মস্তর ডাল এর প্রতিটির নমুনা দাখিল করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক নমুনা ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

চ) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে না।

ছ) কার্যবাহিনী পূর্বে পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক যেকোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হইতে ১০% কার্যসম্পাদন জামানতের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার প্রদান ও ৩০০ টাকার নন-জুডিশিয়াল স্ট্যাম্প চুক্তি সম্পাদন করিতে হইবে। কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত কার্যবাহিনী দেওয়ার তিন মাস পরে মালামাল সম্পূর্ণ বুঝাইয়া দেওয়া সাপেক্ষে ফেরত প্রদান করা হইবে।

জ) কর্তৃপক্ষ দরপত্র উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ/বৃদ্ধি করিতে পারিবেন।

ঝ) দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত যেকোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ঞ) গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের সংবিধানের অনুচ্ছেদ-১৮ মোতাবেক পুষ্টিগুণ ও জনস্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতি সাধনে ভোজ্য তৈল ভিত্তিমা "এ" সমৃদ্ধকরণ আইন-২০১৩ এর তফসিল-১ এ বর্ণিত ভোজ্য তৈল ভিত্তিমা দ্বারা সমৃদ্ধকরণ এর মাত্র হবে ১৫ হতে ৩০ পিপিএম (Parts per million) অর্থাৎ প্রতিগ্রাম ভোজ্যতৈলে অন্তত ০.০১৫ হতে অনধিক ০.৩০ মিলিগ্রাম ভিত্তিমা (০.০১৫-০.৩০০ mg/g) এবং তফসিল-২ এর (১) মোতাবেক বাজারজাতকৃত ভোজ্যতৈলের বোলস, টিন কিংবা প্যাকেটে প্রদর্শিতব্য প্রতীক "সঠিক পুষ্টি সূচ্যু জীবন" থাকতে হবে।

মোঃ আলমশীর হোসেন
 বিপি নং-৭৫০৫১০৪৭০৬
 পুলিশ সুপার, নোয়াখালী
 ফোন- ৬১০৩০, ফ্যাক্স- ৬১১২৩

ই-মেইলঃ spnoakhali@police.gov.bd

GD-315

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)
 IEB Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tender

Ref No.: 14.32.0000.400.07.001.20.432 Date: 18.02.2020

1.	Ministry/Division	Posts and Telecommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology.
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).
3.	Purchaser Name	BTRC
4.	Purchaser Code	NA
5.	Purchaser District	Dhaka
6.	Invitation for	Supply, Installation and Operation of National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) System.
7.	Invitation Ref. No.	14.32.0000.400.07.001.20.432
8.	Date	18-02-2020

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement Method: One Stage Two Envelope Tendering (OSTET).

FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and Source of Funds: GoB
 11. Development Partners (if applicable): NA

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project/Programme Code (if applicable): NA
 13. Project/Programme Name (if applicable): NA
 14. Tender Package No.: NA
 15. Tender Package Name: NA
 16. Tender Publication Date: 18-02-2020
 17. Tender Last Selling Date: 30-03-2020; Time: 4:00pm
 18. Tender Closing Date and Time: 31-03-2020; Time: 2:30pm
 19. Tender opening Date and Time: 31-03-2020; Time: 3:00pm
 20. Name & Address of the office(s): BTRC, IEB Bhaban (7th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

21. Brief Description: Implementation of National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) for BTRC is a central system for BTRC that will enable the authority to maintain proper access control of mobile devices and check the device data & cross match with NAID, CBVMP, GSMA DB and allow/disallow the device to connect to the telecom network to facilitate users to get the facilities of the system like, registration, device blocking, complaint generation or any other requirement as mentioned in the tender documents.

22. Eligibility of Bidder:

- The Bidder shall have a minimum of 07 (seven) years of overall experience in the role of contractor or sub-contractor or management contractor. In case of Joint Venture, it is 05 (five) years for Lead Partner and 05 (five) years for other Partners.
- Prime Contractor shall have experience in supply and installation of Central Equipment Identity Register System or Software Solution Integrating Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) in a single platform.
- Shall have Experience working with large-scale OLTP database with minimum 500 (five hundred) transactions per second.
- Bidder shall have experience working with any regulatory authority or government organization.
- Bidder shall have at least 1 (one) contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology within last 5 (five) years with a value of at least 5 (five) million USD.
- Bidder shall have CMMI Level 3 certification and ISO certification.
- The required average annual turnover of the bidder shall be at least of the amount of 1 (one) million USD (or equivalent BDT) for best 3 (three) years in the last 5 (five) years.
- The maximum number of arbitrations against the Bidder shall be 2 (two) over a period of the last five (5) years.
- Multiple firms having technical and legal competency for developing such a product can apply jointly but they shall have legal agreement among them where one firm names to be the lead firm.
- Bidder shall provide necessary evidence including previous completion certificates to comply with the eligibility of bidder.

23. Price of Tender Document (Tk.)

Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Selling Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Days
1	Supply, Installation and Operation of National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) System.	Dhaka	10000.00 or Equivalent USD	120 Days

Purchaser Details

24. Name of Official Inviting Tender: Md. Yakub Ali.
 25. Designation of Official Inviting Tender: Director (Administration).
 26. Address of Official Inviting Tender: BTRC, IEB Bhaban (6th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
 27. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender: Phone (PABX): +880 2 9611111 (EX: 210) Fax: +880 2 9566677, Email: yakub.ali@btrc.gov.bd
 28. The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders without showing any reason.

Md. Yakub Ali
 Director, Administration

GD-313

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
 পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল
 (www.barisal.police.gov.bd)

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

The Public Procurement Regulation-2006 & The Public Procurement Regulation-2008 এবং তৎপরবর্তীতে সংশোধিত আইন/বিধিমালা মোতাবেক চলতি ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টারের বরিশাল জেলা পুলিশের রেশন স্টোরে নিম্নোক্ত ০৭ গুণ্ড কাগজের রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজের যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত টিকাদার/প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে কাগজের নাম উল্লেখপূর্ণকৃত প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইতেছে।

১।	বিভাগ/মন্ত্রণালয়	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ বিভাগ/স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।				
২।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপার, বরিশাল।				
৩।	সংগ্রহকারী জেলার নাম	বরিশাল জেলা।				
৪।	বিজ্ঞপ্তিকৃত কাজের নাম	মস্তর ডাল/সোয়াবিন তৈল/জ্বালানি কাঠ/গম পেয়াই/পোলাউ চাল/বন্ধা নিলাম এবং মালামাল পরিবহনের কুলি।				
৫।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার।				
৬।	কাজের পদ্ধতি	কার্যবাহিনী পর নিজ খরচে মালামাল সরবরাহ।				
৭।	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন/২০০৮" অনুযায়ী।				
৮।	বাজেট এবং সোর্স অব ফান্ড	পিএল খাত।				
৯।	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	১৮/০২/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ হইতে ২৫/০২/২০২০খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সময়ের যে কোন ০১ (এক) দিনের জন্য।				
১০।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১০/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।				
১১।	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১১/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।				
১২।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১১/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায়।				
১৩।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকা।				
১৪।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।				
১৫।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পুলিশ অফিস, বরিশাল এবং ডিআইজি, বরিশাল রেঞ্জ, বরিশাল এর কার্যালয়।				
১৬।	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	(১) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (২) হাল সন পর্যন্ত আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (৩) ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র (৪) আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার ব্যাংক সনদপত্র ও ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট (৫) নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র (৬) সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি (৭) প্রতিষ্ঠানের একক মালিকানা সংক্রান্ত হলফনামা (৮) নমুনা স্বাক্ষর।				
১৭।	লট নং	মালামালের বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	সিডিউল মূল্য	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	সরবরাহের সময়
১৮।	০১	উন্নতমানের মস্তর ডাল (উন্নতমানের স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাকেট ২ কেজি এবং ১.৫ কেজি প্যাকেট চাহিদানুযায়ী) সরবরাহ করিতে হইবে। প্যাকেটের গায়ে ওজন, উৎপাদন এবং মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণের তারিখ উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে।	৩৫,০০০ কেজি	৭৫০/-		
	০২	সোয়াবিন তৈল	৩৫,০০০ লিটার	৭৫০/-		
	০৩	গম পেয়াই (কুলি ও পরিবহনসহ) উন্নতমানের স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাকেট ৫ কেজি ও ২ কেজি চাহিদা অনুযায়ী সরবরাহ করিতে হইবে এবং প্যাকেটের গায়ে ওজন, উৎপাদন এবং মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণের তারিখ উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে।	১,৮০,০০০ কেজি (কম/বেশি)	৪০০/-		
	০৪	পোলাউ চাল	১৫০০ কেজি (১ কেজির প্যাকেট)	৪০০/-	পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে	(সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে)
	০৫	জ্বালানি কাঠ	৫০,০০০ কেজি	৪০০/-		
	০৬	পরিবহনের কুলির মজুরী (চাল সদর এলএসডি/সিএসডি পোতাউল হইতে উঠানো ও রেশন স্টোরে নামানো এবং চিনি মধুখালী, ফরিদপুর হতে উঠানো এবং রেশন স্টোরে নামানো)।	চাল= ১,৯৫,০০০ কেজি (কম/বেশি) চিনি= ২৭,০০০ কেজি (কম/বেশি)	৪০০/-		
	০৭	বন্ধা নিলাম	৮৫০০ বন্ধা= ৪৫০০টি (৫০ কেজি ওজনের) ছোট চটের বন্ধা= ২০০০টি (৩০ কেজি ওজনের) গ্রাটিক বন্ধা= ৫০০টি (৫০ কেজি ওজনের)	৪০০/-		
১৯।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	জনাব মোঃ সাইফুল ইসলাম, বিপিএম (বার)।				
২০।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার, বরিশাল।				
২১।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপার, বরিশাল, ফোনঃ ০৪৩১-৬২১২৩, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৬৪১৫২।				
২২।	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	(ক) নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে দরপত্র বিক্রি করা হবে না; (খ) কোনো তালিকাভুক্ত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে অযোগ্য ঘোষণা করা হবে; (গ) গম পেয়াই কাগজ বরিশাল রেঞ্জে সকল জেলা, ফুলনা রেঞ্জের বাণেশ্বরট এবং ঢাকা রেঞ্জের মাদারিপুর জেলার মিল মালিকদের অধিকার দেয়া হবে। মিল মালিকদের মালিকানা সংক্রান্ত সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করিতে হবে। জেলা পুলিশ কর্তৃক মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে গম পেয়াই করে দিতে বাধ্য থাকবে; (ঘ) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। লট নং ১-৭ বর্ণিত মালামাল সরবরাহের পাওয়া গেলে টিকাদারের সাথে চুক্তিগত বাতিল হবে। এছাড়া বিজ্ঞপ্তি শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।				

মোঃ সাইফুল ইসলাম, বিপিএম (বার)
 বিপি নং-৬৮০১১০৬৩০৫
 পুলিশ সুপার, বরিশাল
 ফোনঃ ০৪৩১-৬২১২৩/ফ্যাক্সঃ ৬৪১৫২

জিডি-৩১১

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
 প্রিন্সিপ্যালের কার্যালয়
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী

তারিখঃ ১৬/২/২০২০

স্মারক নং-বিপিএ/প্রশাসন/১২৫৫

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১০/২০১৯-২০২০

২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী ০২টি প্রকল্পের ব্যয় বাস্তবায়নের নিমিত্ত যোগ্য টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে-

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় (পুলিশ বিভাগ)।	
০২।	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।	
০৩।	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	প্রিন্সিপ্যাল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী।	
০৪।	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার ঠিকানা	প্রিন্সিপ্যালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী।	
০৫।	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	নং-১০/২০১৯-২০২০	
০৬।	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	ক) স্ব-স্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যবসায়িক টিকাদারী ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত) থাকতে হবে, নাগরিকত্ব সনদ থাকতে হবে। খ) দরদাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের একক নামে ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছতার সনদপত্র (যা ব্যাংক কর্তৃক মার্চ/২০২০ মাসে ইস্যুকৃত)। গ) নিজ নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের অণুবৃদ্ধি টিআইএন নম্বরসহ আয়করদাতা এই মর্মে সনদপত্র ও ভ্যাটদাতা হিসেবে ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র (হালনাগাদ ও নবায়নকৃত) থাকতে হবে। ঘ) পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সিডিউলে বর্ণিত যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী পালন ও কাগজ/দলিলপত্রাদি দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করার সক্ষমতা থাকতে হবে। ঙ) অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল (PG-2/PG-3) এ উল্লেখ আছে।	
০৭।	সংগ্রাহকের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।	
০৮।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। প্রিন্সিপ্যালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী। ২। ডিআইজি, রাজশাহী রেঞ্জ এর কার্যালয়। ৩। পুলিশ সুপার, রাজশাহী এর কার্যালয়।	
০৯।	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। প্রিন্সিপ্যালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী। ২। ডিআইজি, রাজশাহী রেঞ্জ এর কার্যালয়।	
১১।	দরপত্র সরবরাহের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৮-০৩-২০২০খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	
১২।	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৯-০৩-২০২০খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
১৩।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৯-০৩-২০২০খ্রিঃ ৩.০০ ঘটিকা দরদাতা বা তার প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।	
১৪।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	২৩-০৩-২০২০খ্রিঃ ১১.০০ ঘটিকা।	
১৫।	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	কাজের নামের বিপরীতে ১৭ নং অনুচ্ছেদের উল্লিখিত জামানতের টাকা বিডি/পে-অর্ডার আকারে প্রিন্সিপ্যাল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীর অনুলিপি দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করতে হবে।	
১৬।	দরপত্রের মেয়াদ	২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছর।	
১৭।	কাজের বিবরণঃ		
ক্রমিক নম্বর	দরপত্রের ধরণ/প্রকল্পের নাম	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি মানি
০১।	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীর বিভিন্ন ব্যারাক ভবনের সিডিউল ও স্যানিটারীসহ অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক কাজ।	৭৫০/-	৮৮,০০০/-
০২।	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীর পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন) ও পুলিশ সুপার (ট্রেনিং) এর বাস ভবনের বাউন্ডারী ওয়াল রং করণ, এএসপি (প্রবি) ডরমেটরীর রান্নাঘর ও সুয়ারেজ পাইপ লাইনের স্বচ্ছতার এবং আন্ডারলিং সিডিউল ও স্যানিটারী স্বচ্ছতার কাজ।	৭৫০/-	৫৩,০০০/-

বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ

- উল্লিখিত দরপত্র লট ভিত্তিক মূল্যায়ন করা হবে।
- অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত দিনে বা সময়ে দরপত্র দাখিল/গ্রহণ বা খোলা সম্ভব না হলে দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক দরপত্র দাখিলের ও খোলার/গ্রহণের পুনঃনির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময় স্থানীয় বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অবহিত করা হবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে যদি কোন কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকে তা হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে যথাসময়ে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় প্রিন্সিপ্যাল, বিপিএ সারদা, রাজশাহী বরাবরে নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে।
- দরপত্র পিপিএ/২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।

মোহাম্মদ মিজানুর রহমান
 বিপি নং-৭৪০৫১০৫০৭৮
 পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন)
 পক্ষে-প্রিন্সিপ্যাল
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী
 সারদা, রাজশাহী

জিডি-৩১২



Left, a four to five-foot-tall marker is left for measurement after the topsoil of the same depth was removed from a large piece of agricultural land near a brick kiln, seen in the background, in Saptana village of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. Right, workers removing topsoil from agricultural land near another kiln in Dalgram village in Kaliganj upazila.

PHOTO: S DILLIROY

UNCONTROLLABLE BRICK KILNS IN LALMONIRHAT

Use of topsoil threatens agriculture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Vast tracts of agricultural land in Lalmonirhat are losing fertility as owners of brick kilns, no less than 47 in total, are allegedly compelling landowners to sell topsoil from their farmlands.

In many places, the powerful and influential kiln owners are removing up to five feet of soil from a particular piece of land even though the landowner had agreed to sell only one foot of topsoil.

After losing the topsoil that

contains essential nutrients for plants, the farmers are spending more money on chemical fertilisers and pesticides than the money they had received in exchange for the topsoil.

Moreover, the excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides is causing long-term damage to the land, the surrounding waterbodies and ultimately the ecology in the district.

Bidhu Bhushan Roy, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat, said the upper layer of soil up to six

to seven inches deep is called "life" of the soil as it helps plants grow.

Cautioning farmers about the negative impact of selling topsoil, he said if four to five feet of topsoil is removed from a piece of land, it becomes barren and it might take around 12 to 15 years to regain fertility.

After visiting areas near several of such brick kilns, this correspondent also found truth in the allegation.

Atiar Rahman, a farmer in Saptana village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila,

said he agreed to sell one foot of topsoil from his land, but the kiln owner removed around four to five feet of topsoil from there.

His objections bear no result as the landowners are hostage to the powerful kiln owners, he also said.

Farmer Nibaran Chandra Burman, from Bamonerbasa village in Aditmari upazila, said he was forced by a kiln owner to sell topsoil from one bigha of his land for around Tk 12 thousand.

The kiln owner first bought a piece

of land adjacent to Nibaran's land and removed topsoil from there. As irrigation water from Nibaran's land was seeping out into the kiln owner's land, Nibaran had to agree to sell topsoil from his land.

Badiar Rahman, a farmer in Dalgram village of Kaliganj upazila, said two bighas of his land became barren after he sold topsoil to a kiln ten years ago and the land still remains infertile.

He made some money from the sale of the topsoil, but he lost more in

the long run as he could not get good harvest from growing crops on the land since then, he also said.

"I have been using lots of chemical fertilisers, but the land did not regain fertility."

Refuting the allegation of forcing landowners to sell topsoil to kiln owners, Jalal Uddin, a kiln owner in Paschim Bejgram village of Hatibandha upazila, said they prefer topsoil for making bricks, but the farmers sell the topsoil to them without being pressurised.

Finally a wooden bridge for 100 villages in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

As a makeshift arrangement, a wooden bridge with bamboo poles on the Sumeshwari river in Netrakona's Durgapur upazila has been made for the first time to ease people's longstanding sufferings.

People of some 100 villages in Kullagara and Gaukandia unions have been suffering for years for want of a bridge on the river at Birisiri point in the upazila.

Especially schoolchildren and critical patients are the worst sufferers due to the communication problem.

The villages include Ranikhong, Khujiura, Kullagara, Shasharpar, Gaukandia, Dhanipara, Boheratoli, Charpara, Boroikandi, Jagotkura,

Chhondhara and Maizpara.

Shubra Sangma, chairman of Kullagara Union Parishad (UP), said as there is no bridge in the area, the lease holders of Birisiri Ferry Ghat made the 500-metre-long wooden bridge in November last year for the first time. It took around 15 days to complete construction of the bridge.

Earlier, the villagers had to face various trouble to reach the upazila and district headquarters but the bridge will now ease their sufferings during the dry season, said Shubra Sangma, adding that motorcycles and CNG-run auto-rickshaws can also ply the bridge.

Some 20 years ago, a fund was sanctioned for construction of a concrete bridge at the point but the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps

to build a bridge there, said the UP chairman.

At least the makeshift wooden bridge has brought a sort of relief to thousands of commuters, he said.

Each person has to pay around Tk 10 to cross the bridge, said local people.

Md Bakul Mia, a toll collector of the ferry ghat, said they made the makeshift bridge at a cost of Tk 7 lakh to ease longstanding sufferings of people in the villages.

Mohammad Al Amin, a resident of Dakhhin Bhawanipur village, said "The wooden bridge will be used for four months from December to March and during monsoon, we have to use engine-run boats to cross the river."

Villagers aid during the rainy season, it becomes difficult for them to cross the area due to strong current in the river. The situation worsens when hilly waters from across the border flood the area.

"Due to lack of easy communications, the villages are separated from the Durgapur upazila headquarters. The areas are still underdeveloped due to poor communication system", said Rasel Mia, a student of Susang Durgapur Government College.

During the rainy season, the problem turned so serious and they have to cross the river on boat amid risk of accident, said Sanjida Akter, an HSC examinee from the same college.

Nazrul Islam, a farmer of Bhawanipur village, said the people of the area are mainly dependent on agriculture, but they are facing serious problems to bring their produce to the markets of the town for years for want of a permanent bridge at the point.

Talking to this correspondent, Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Netrakona Didarul Alam Tarafder said they are doing feasibility studies for construction of 870-metre-long concrete bridge on the river at Birisiri point.



The newly built wooden bridge on the Sumeshwari river finally brings relief to people of 100 villages in Netrakona's Durgapur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



Officials of Bangladesh Wildlife Service Foundation rescued this Slow Loris, locally known as lajjaboti banor, from Hosnabad Tea Garden area in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila on Monday. The rare primate is now undergoing treatment at Bangladesh Wildlife Service Foundation in Sreemangal.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Jail Super
Sunamganj District Jail
www.prison.sunamganj.gov.bd

Memo No. 58.04.9000.159.04.034.2020-421 Date: 16-02-2020

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Name of goods	Publishing date & time	Closing date & time
01	427764	Supply of Unnotamaner Mashur Dal Mota to Sunamganj District Jail for the period of April/2020 to September/2020.	16-Feb-2020 16:30:00	04-Mar-2020 12:00:00
02	427782	Supply of Unnotamaner Cholar Dal to Sunamganj District Jail for the period of April/2020 to September/2020.	16-Feb-2020 16:30:00	04-Mar-2020 12:00:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to **12:00 on 04th March 2020**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md Abul Kalam Azad
Jail Super
BJ-02669300190
Sunamganj District Jail
☎ 0871-61173 (Office)
jailsunamganj@yahoo.com

GD-309

BOAT CAPSIZE

Missing woman, son's body found in Chattogram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of a woman and her minor son, who went missing after a tourist boat capsized in the Karnaphuli river under Kaptai upazila on Friday, from Rangunia upazila of Chattogram, after four days of the incident.

The deceased are Tumpa Majumder, 30, wife of Rajib Majumder of Jorarganj area in Mirsora upazila of Chattogram, and her five-year-old son Bijoy Majumder.

Officer in Charge of Rangunia Police Station Saiful Islam said villagers spotted the bodies beside a small river in the locality and informed them around 10:30am yesterday.

Being informed, they went to the spot and recovered the bodies, he said.

They already handover the bodies to deceased's family members, he added.

Earlier on Friday evening, divers recovered the body of Tumpa's 10-year-old daughter Debleena Majumder from Karnaphuli river.

The trio went missing after a tourist boat, with 50 passengers on board, capsized in the river on Friday noon.

Chittagong Dry Dock Limited
Bangladesh Navy
East Patenga, Chattogram, Bangladesh
Phone: +88(031)2501113, Mobile: +8801769744487
Fax: +880-31-2501123, E-mail: drydock.bd@gmail.com, Website: www.cddl.gov.bd

Tender Notice

23.02.1565.341.53.004.20.973 Date: 19.02.2020

1.	Procuring entity name	Chittagong Dry Dock Limited, Bangladesh Navy.
2.	Invitation for	Tender
3.	Invitation Ref. No.	23.02.1565.341.53.004.20.972
4.	Project name	Replacing Roof Sheet, Flashing, Trims & Downspouts of Machine Shop and Fabrication Shop at CDDL Project Area.
5.	Budget and source of funds	Own Fund of Chittagong Dry Dock Limited.
6.	Tendering method	Open Tender Method.
7.	Eligibility of tenderers	Required eligibility criteria have been mentioned in the tender schedule.
8.	Price of tender document	Tk. 2,000 (two thousand taka only) (non-refundable).
9.	Amount of tender security	5,00,000/- (five lac only) in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee in favour of "The Managing Director, Chittagong Dry Dock Limited" issued by a scheduled bank of Bangladesh.
10.	Name & address of the office(s) for selling, receiving and opening of tender documents	
	a. Selling tender documents	Cash Section, Accounts Department, Chittagong Dry Dock Limited, Bangladesh Navy, East Patenga, Chattogram.
	b. Receiving tenders	Office for the Officer in Charge (Civil), Chittagong Dry Dock Limited, Bangladesh Navy, East Patenga, Chattogram.
	c. Opening tenders	Office of the General Manager (Ship Repair and Maintenance), Chittagong Dry Dock Limited, Bangladesh Navy, East Patenga, Chattogram.
11.	Tender selling last date and time	08-03-2020, 3:00pm
12.	Tender closing date and time	09-03-2020, 11:00am
13.	Tender opening date and time	09-03-2020, 11:15am
14.	Brief description of works	Replacing roof sheet, flashing, trims & downspouts of machine shop and fabrication shop at CDDL project area.
15.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +8801769-744487, Fax: 880-31-2501123 E-mail: drydock.bd@gmail.com
16.	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any tender prior to acceptance without showing any reason. If it is not possible to open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.

Managing Director
Chittagong Dry Dock Limited
Bangladesh Navy

GD-316



Bangladesh skipper Mominul Haque (R) and Liton Das share some pointers during the national team's practice session at the outer nets in Mirpur yesterday, ahead of the one-off Test against Zimbabwe starting from February 22. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Not good enough', but still key

SPORTS REPORTER



It is not news that Bangladesh have been abysmal in Tests, at least that is what the margin of their recent failures suggest. Since 2019, Bangladesh have played a total of six Tests and their best result in the longest format was when the rookie Afghans thumped the by 224 runs at home in September last year.

All the other five Tests saw the Tigers at the wrong end of an innings defeat, with the innings and 44-run humiliation in Rawalpindi against Pakistan earlier this month being the latest addition to the horrendous list.

That list might grow further if the Mominul Haque-led side cannot get back to winning ways in the lone Test against Zimbabwe -- considered one of the easier opponents they have faced in the past year -- starting from February 22 in Mirpur.

Bangladesh's strength at home has been spin. And although reliance on spin has at times backfired -- the thumping by Afghan spinners last year being a prime example -- it also bore fruit on many occasions. It was the spin ploy that did the business when the Tigers registered their best-ever Test result -- beating the West Indies by an innings and 184 runs in November-December, 2018.

Bangladesh's spin attack, be it at home or overseas, has mostly revolved around premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan. However, Shakib has missed a majority of Bangladesh's assignments since 2018 mostly due to injury. Since 2018, Bangladesh played a total of 14 Tests, nine of them without Shakib.

In eight of those games when Bangladesh were without their best player, Taijul Islam played the lead spinners' role. Aside from four of



Maybe those of us who are spinners are not good enough. We're not like Shakib bhai and since things were going well when he was there, maybe that is the only answer.

TAIJUL ISLAM
BANGLADESH SPINNER

those matches in seam-friendly pitches overseas, where Taijul managed just five wickets, he remained the Tigers' best bowler at home and his return of 30 wickets in four games speaks volume of how good he has been at home.

Although Taijul's prowess with the ball did not see the team yield a positive result most of the time, it was mostly due to a failure as a team. The left-arter was the one to come up with crucial breakthroughs in most games and perhaps that was why Taijul was a bit irritated when asked why

Bangladesh had suddenly lost their spin prowess in recent times in Shakib's absence.

"Maybe those of us who are spinners are not good enough. We're not like Shakib bhai and since things were going well when he was there, maybe that is the only answer," Taijul said after the Tigers' practice session at the outer nets in Mirpur yesterday. "We don't have spinners of that quality and that's why such results are happening."

In the past two years, Bangladesh were able to win three Tests, two under the leadership of Shakib. It is true that Shakib's presence impacts the team immensely because of wily spinner's ability to create pressure at one end and enable other bowlers to extract wickets.

And just as an irritated Taijul mentioned, Shakib's ability and the experience brought in by the top all-rounder in a sport cannot be replaced. Still, even without Shakib, and despite lacking resources, the Tigers had to rely on spinners, especially at home.

If the Tigers bank on spin, it will be Taijul who will have to play the leading role. The other two spinners in the squad are Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Nayeem Hasan. Miraz, who just returned from a finger injury, has not been in good touch for a considerable time. And although Nayeem goes to the Zimbabwe Tests on the back of some excellent domestic performances, the 19-year-old still lacks Taijul's experience in the format.

The Tigers have included a total of five pacers in their initial 16-member squad for the Test, which will later be trimmed to 13. While the squad selection suggest that the Tigers might not bank as heavily on spinners as they usually do at home, that only means the role and impact of spinners, even if it is not much, will greatly depend on Taijul's performance during the Zimbabwe Test.

BCB XI shake off nervy start

SPORTS REPORTER



The touring Zimbabwe side reached 291 for seven on the first day of their two-day warm-up match against BCB XI at the BKSP in Savar, with the young guns of the BCB XI pulling things back after a dominant start from the tourists.

Prince Masvaure and Kevin Kasuza handed the tourists a bright start against a BCB XI side that comprised of six members of the U-19 squad that recently won the ICC U-19 World Cup in South Africa. With little rest, the warm-up match against an international side was always going to be a tough ask for them and the bowlers toiled early.

The Zimbabwe opening duo starred in a 105-run partnership after the visitors elected to bat before Masvaure was stumped off the off-spin of Al Amin Jr. A batting collapse ensued and a flurry of wickets fell to non-specialist spinners, reducing the tourists to 226 for seven with opener Kevin Kasuza

It's not about red-ball or white-ball cricket, but about the wickets. When I bowled in away conditions, on wickets where Test cricket is also played, every ball was enjoyable.

SHORIFUL ISLAM
BCB XI PACER

not out on 25 at stumps.

The absence of pace-friendly wickets has been a major deficiency in terms of developing a pace battery for Bangladesh. That was clear to see when Shoriful Islam, who had bowled with plenty of fire in the U-19 World Cup final against India, picked up one wicket in his 15 overs.

Shoriful found the surface to be uninspiring for pacers and, when asked about the difference in the surfaces provided at home to those they played in at South Africa, said: "The first difference is the wicket. There was a lot of bounce there and here there is no bounce at all. The wicket here is not what we had hoped for. Pacers cannot bowl as they would like to."

His desolation, especially playing in the longer format back in home conditions, was pronounced when he said: "It's not about red-ball or white-ball cricket, but about the wickets. When I bowled in away conditions, on wickets where Test cricket is also played, every ball was enjoyable."

run out after a 70-run knock.

Shahadat Hossain did the bulk of the damage, picking up three wickets for just 16 runs while Al Amin bagged two. Zimbabwe recovered after the slump with a 65-run eighth-wicket stand between Carl Mumba, unbeaten on 54, and Ainsley Ndlovu, who was



Spinner Shahadat Hossain's (2nd from left) three-wicket haul helped BCB XI to restrict Zimbabweans to 291 for seven on the first day of the two-day warm-up match at BKSP yesterday. PHOTO: BCB



Bangladesh U-19s' left-arm spinner Rakibul Hasan, who bagged a hat-trick against Scotland in the U-19 World Cup and hit the winning runs as the Young Tigers clinched the historic title in South Africa, was accorded a reception at his home district of Mymensingh in Phulpur Upazila by the local administration yesterday.

PHOTO: MD ANINUL ISLAM

SHORT CORNER

ICC to organise T20 Champions Cup in 2023-31 cycle?

The International Cricket Council (ICC) plans to organise a T20 Champions Cup in the 2023-31 cycle, according to ESPN Cricinfo. A total of 48 matches will be played in the tournament where top ten teams will compete. This is the same number of games which was played during last year's 50-over World Cup.

As per the ICC's proposal, there would be a T20 Champions Cup in 2024 and 2028 and an ODI Champions Cup in 2025 and 2029, alongside the T20 World Cups in 2026 and 2030, and the ODI World Cups in 2027 and 2031. ICC plans to hold all these events for both men and women teams.

The 50-over Champions Cup can be considered the same as the Champions Trophy. However, the T20 Champions Cup can be treated like a World Cup.

ICC's full-member nations have been

given until March 15 to submit expressions of interest to bid for global events in the 2023-2031 cycle.

This proposal may not go down well with the BCCI, Cricket Australia and ECB as these three boards earlier expressed interest for having broad windows for bilateral cricket.

-- STAR SPORT DESK

Silverwood backs Buttler

England coach Chris Silverwood hopes Jos Buttler's return to form in the Twenty20 series decider against South Africa will help revive his Test career in next month's tour of Sri Lanka.

The wicketkeeper-batsman's blistering knock of 57 runs off 29 balls helped England secure a five-wicket win and a 2-1 series triumph on Sunday.

Buttler has struggled in the longest format, however, managing just 158 runs in his last five tests against South Africa and New Zealand.

"Runs breed confidence within a batsman -- to see him come off with a smile on his face in the way he did was superb," Silverwood told British media.

-- REUTERS

Kings XI Punjab buy Caribbean T20 side

The owners of Kings XI Punjab have bought a Caribbean Premier League side, becoming the second Indian Premier League club to own a Twenty20 franchise in the West Indies.

Punjab took over St Lucia Zouks, led by former West Indies captain Darren Sammy, on Monday. In 2015 the Kolkata Knight Riders purchased Trinidad and Tobago.

"We are excited at the opportunity to invest in one of the most exciting sporting tournaments in the world, and we have been impressed by the vibrancy of CPL over the last seven years," Punjab co-owner Mohit Burman said on a St Lucia Zouks media release. --AFP

Taylor bats away retirement talk

REUTERS, Wellington



New Zealand's Ross Taylor will celebrate his 100th Test in the series-opener against India this week and the veteran batsman says he has no intention of winding down his international career as he nears his 36th birthday.

Taylor became New Zealand's leading run-scorer in Tests when he surpassed Stephen Fleming's career tally of 7,172 against Australia in Sydney last month.

In front of home fans in Wellington on Friday, he will become the nation's fourth cricketer to play 100 Tests after Fleming, Daniel

Vettori and Brendon McCullum.

He will also become the first cricketer to reach the milestone in all three major formats.

Far from seeing the finish line for his career, Taylor said he had been urged to reset his goals in a congratulatory call from former New Zealand Test opener and coach John Wright.

"He said it was a nice time to relax, but at the same time nice to rejig those goals," Taylor said on Tuesday.

"Give yourself something to chase ... Goals aren't everything but they're a nice reminder when your mind is going in different directions, to bring you back on track and give you a focus."

Taylor said he was keen to be in

the frame for New Zealand's bid for a maiden T20 World Cup title when the men's tournament kicks off in Australia in October.

He would also not rule out the next one-day World Cup in India in 2023, having played in the heart-breaking defeat to hosts England in last year's title-decider.

"First and foremost I want to get to next year -- the Twenty20 World Cup and then the home summer -- and then I'll have a good idea on how I'm placed at the end of next summer.

"Whether there is still a drive, whether I'm good enough, whether I'm fit enough, and whether I deserve my spot in the side. If I can tick all those, then definitely 2023 is an option."



Bavuma out of first Australia Twenty20

AFP, Johannesburg

Batsman Temba Bavuma has been ruled out of the first Twenty20 international against Australia at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday because of a hamstring strain.

Bavuma opened the batting in three T20 internationals against England and scored 123 runs in three matches at a strike rate of 153.75.

He was injured while fielding in the third match against England. He will stay with the South African squad in the hope that he will be fit for the second and third matches against Australia in Port Elizabeth on Sunday and Cape Town on Wednesday.

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Man City v West Ham
Live from 1:20am (Thursday)
TEN 1
UEFA Champions League

Atalanta v Valencia
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)
TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
Tottenham v Leipzig
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

DAY'S EVENT

BCB XI v Zimbabweans
Two-day Practice match, Day-2
Time: 9:30am
Venue: BKSP

Atalanta ride wave of remarkable run

AFP, Milan

Gian Piero Gasperini's Atalanta are counting on the wave of enthusiasm generated by the Italian outsiders remarkable run in their Champions League debut season to surge past Spanish club Valencia in the knockout rounds.

The team from Bergamo in the foothills of the Italian Alps take on Valencia on Wednesday in the last 16, first leg, at the 80,000-seater San Siro, which has nearly four times the capacity of their home stadium, 55 kilometres away.

"This is a game that we have been waiting months for," said Gasperini.

"Being able to play on front of so many of our fans at a venue like San Siro is a beautiful achievement that we have been waiting a long time for."

"The Champions League is a dream which we'll try to carry forward as much as possible."

"The whole city of Bergamo is practically travelling to Milan."

The team's stunning run comes despite losing their opening three Champions League group games, including 4-0 away to Dinamo Zagreb before a 5-1 loss at Manchester City.

But a 1-1 draw against Man City in the San Siro sparked the revival of 'La Dea' (The Goddess) who finished seven points behind the Premier League side in second to reach the knockout stage.

Atalanta's confidence has been further boosted after seeing off AS Roma 2-1 in a cauldron atmosphere on front of their home crowd at their Atleti Azzurri d'Italia stadium on



Saturday.

The victory consolidated fourth place in Serie A, six points ahead of the side from the capital and bolstered their hopes of Champions League next season.

"This victory gives us confidence for the next games, it was a fundamental clash to be won," said Mario Pasalic who came off the bench and hit the match winner 19 seconds later.

Their current form is a remarkable achievement for a club with a modest budget compared to rivals Juventus, Inter Milan and AC Milan.

Their transformation follows the arrival of Gasperini in the summer of 2016 from Genoa.

The 62-year-old previously coached

Crotona, Palermo and briefly Inter Milan, where he was sacked after a run of five winless Serie A games and just one point.

The team -- founded 113 years ago by a group of students from a local school and named after Atalanta, a huntress in Greek mythology -- had been relegated in 2003, 2005 and 2010.

Gasperini guided them to a fourth-place finish in his first season to qualify for the Europa League.

Last season they finished third, powered by Colombian Duvan Zapata's 23 league goals, and qualified for the Champions League for the first time.

Atalanta have the best attack in the league with 63 goals scored -- 17 more than Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus.

Spurs lose Son to broken arm

AFP, London

Korean star Son Heung-min has fractured his right arm his club Tottenham Hotspur said on Tuesday delivering a blow to their hopes of silverware this season and qualifying for the Champions League next season.

The 27-year-old South Korean international forward suffered the injury in the 3-2 Premier League victory over Aston Villa -- in which he scored twice including the late winner -- on Sunday.

Son suffered the injury in a robust first-minute challenge from Villa's Ezri Konsa. The club did not specify how long Son would be out.

Spurs manager Jose Mourinho is already without star striker Harry Kane -- side-lined since January with a torn hamstring -- and as the club enters a crucial period. Midfielder Moussa Sissoko is another long-term casualty.

"Heung-Min Son is to undergo surgery this week after sustaining a fracture to his right arm," read Spurs statement.

"Following surgery, our medical staff shall be reviewing management options for Son's rehabilitation with the player expected to be sidelined for a number of weeks."



JOSE MOURINHO



JULIAN NAGELSMANN

'Special one' up against 'Baby Mourinho'

AFP, LONDON

A Champions League last 16 tie with Leipzig offers Tottenham a window into what might have been when Julian Nagelsmann brings the buccaneering Germans to London on Wednesday looking to inflict another early exit from the competition on Jose Mourinho.

Nagelsmann, 32, is 25 years younger than Mourinho and has a CV 25 trophies lighter than the Portuguese, yet many believe Spurs missed a trick in failing to pursue him as Mauricio Pochettino's successor.

Pochettino's time at Spurs never recovered from losing last season's Champions League final, instead he lumbered on until November, when he was sacked, paving the way for Mourinho's return to the Premier League.

Despite his relative lack of experience, Nagelsmann would have been a more natural heir to Pochettino if Spurs chairman Daniel Levy wanted to rekindle the high-pressure, attacking and proactive football of the glory days of Pochettino's reign.

But Tottenham and plenty others were too slow off the mark when it came to getting their hands on one of Europe's top

coaching talents.

After three-and-a-half seasons transforming Hoffenheim from battling for Bundesliga survival to qualifying for the Champions League, Leipzig knew Nagelsmann was the man they wanted to fulfil Red Bull's ambitious project to dethrone Bayern Munich as the kings of German football.

An agreement was in place well before Nagelsmann took charge at the start of this season.

"It's like when you go to a disco and you are single, you'll never find a girl," Nagelsmann told The Independent of the interest that followed him signing a contract with Leipzig.

"Then when you go to the disco with your girlfriend, quite a few want you!"

However, experience is on Tottenham's side. Not only do Spurs now have a two-time winner of the competition in the dugout, but a team that has progressed further in the Champions League every year for the past three seasons.

"Jose has experience in every sort of situation," added Nagelsmann. "He has managed so many knockout games and knows what to do if his team goes ahead, is behind, concedes early, needs a late goal. I've only had knockout games in the DFB-Pokal (German Cup)."

'Maguire should have seen red'

REUTERS, Undated

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard has said Harry Maguire should not have been on the pitch when he scored his side's second goal in a 2-0 Premier League win on Monday after the Manchester United defender escaped a red card for kicking Michy Batshuayi.

The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system was in the spotlight after Maguire kicked Batshuayi in the groin area in the first half.

"Maguire should have been sent off," Lampard told British media. "That's clear, and that obviously changes the game."

Maguire went on to score a thumping header in the 66th minute to seal the win.

4TH ISSF ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIPS BAF postpones event due to coronavirus

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) yesterday postponed the 4th ISSF International Solidarity World Ranking Archery Championships, citing the unwillingness of nations to participate following the outbreak of the coronavirus.

The championships were scheduled to begin at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi from February 23.

"Some big teams such as Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Iraq and Azerbaijan are not interested in competing in the championships due to the outbreak of the coronavirus and the number of participating nations has come down from 33 to 20. So, after consulting with OIC and World Archery, we postponed the championships," said BAF general secretary Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapal yesterday.

"It is meaningless to hold the championships if the meet has no importance, so we will try to hold it after the Tokyo Olympics," Chapal added.

The Bangladeshi archers have dominated the medals tally of the ISSF Solidarity Archery championships in the past three editions held in Bangladesh.

Rebic boosts Milan's hopes

REUTERS, Rome

AC Milan forward Ante Rebic continued his superb run of form by securing a 1-0 Serie A win over Torino at San Siro on Monday that sent them within touching distance of the European spots.

The Croatia international latched onto a Samuel Castillejo cross to sweep home the decisive goal after 25 minutes, marking his fifth in the last five league games.

Milan move into eighth place on 35 points but only trail seventh-placed Parma and Hellas Verona in sixth on goal difference.

Torino are 14th with 27 points, five clear of the relegation zone, but have lost their last five Serie A games, conceding 17 goals.



India's cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar (C) receives the Laureus Best Sporting Moment award from Australian great Steve Waugh as German tennis legend Boris Becker looks on during the Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony in Berlin on Monday. Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi and reigning Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton shared the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award.

PHOTO: LAUREUS TWITTER

Visiting Arambagh stun Ctg Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh produced the first surprise in the Bangladesh Premier League, handing a 2-1 defeat to hosts Chattogram Abahani in Chattogram while Sheikh Jamal recorded an identical 2-1 win over hosts MuktiJoddha Sangsad in Gopalganj yesterday.

Boosted with a single-goal win over Sheikh Jamal in their first match, a rejuvenated Chattogram Abahani started strongly at the MA Aziz Stadium and had more of the ball but Arambagh stunned Maruful Haque's charges by taking a lead against the run of the play.



Omar Jobe (L) and Solomon King Kanform scored one apiece as Sheikh Jamal beat MuktiJoddha Sangsad 2-1 in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture in Gopalganj yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

CTG ABAHANI 1 - 2 ARAMBAGH
Rony 45+2', Eleta 38', 45+3'
MUKTIJODDHA 1 - 2 SHEIKH JAMAL
Emile 47', Jobe 44', Solomon 73'

Transitioning quickly from defence to attack, Didarul Haque released a through ball for Eleta Kingsley, who raced onto the pass past three Abahani players before driving an angled shot from the edge of the box past goalkeeper Mohammad Nehal in the 38th minute.

However, the lead lasted only eight minutes. Chattogram Abahani leveled one minute into stoppage time of the first half when Chinedu Mathew ran down from the right flank and squared it to unmarked

Shakhawat Hossain Rony, who tapped home.

With the clock trickling into the final minute of stoppage time in the first half, Arambagh again surprised the port city outfit after a basic error from defender Shawkat Russel.

Arambagh's Egyptian midfielder released a long ball aimed at Kingsley, but found the feet of opposing right-back Russel, whose underhit pass to the goalkeeper was pounced upon by Kingsley. The Nigerian marksman made no mistake in restoring the lead with

another cool finish to the far post.

After resumption, Chattogram Abahani pushed for the equaliser and Nixon rattled the crossbar before Arambagh defender Anisur Alam Sweet's attempted clearance fortunately ricocheted off his own post. Ultimately, Arambagh held their nerve and ended the game with their heads high.

FOREIGNERS POWER
SHEIKH JAMAL
Away at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj, three-

time champions Sheikh Jamal's win over MuktiJoddha Sangsad was secured by a goal apiece from their Gambian duo of Pa Omar Jobe and Solomon King.

Sheikh Jamal looked determined to taste their first win of the new campaign against MuktiJoddha Sangsad, who are going through a players' payment crisis which even saw players not train for two days before the start of the league on February 13.

MuktiJoddha Sangsad's vulnerable backline were unable to stop Sheikh Jamal's foreign attacking lineup, who made the difference in the match. Former national winger Zahid Hossain whipped in a nice cross from the right for Jobe, who scored on the rebound after seeing his fierce header come off the crossbar in the 44th minute.

It did not take long after resumption for MuktiJoddha Sangsad to hit back and they found the equaliser from a counter attack. Midfielder Mohammad Sohel released a defence-splitting through ball for Cameroon's Paul Emile, who advanced into the attacking third before driving a shot from the edge of the box past Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman in the 47th minute.

Sheikh Jamal restored their lead in the 73rd minute with long-serving Solomon heading home a Muzzammil Hossain cross into the box and the Dhanmondi-based outfit walked away with the full three points.

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Tea estate feasting on reserve forest

Keeps defying status quo from Ctg court; forest department watches helplessly

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

A tea estate in Chattogram has continuously been encroaching on one of the oldest and richest reserve forests in the country. Over the years, it has foiled forestation attempts and continuously damaged trees while expanding its territory.

Defying a court order, Halda Tea Valley has been ravaging the Ramgor-Sitakunda forest in Fatikchhari since the district administration leased 1,052-acre land to the estate in 2003 mentioning it as khas land.

The forest department officials say 134 acres of the leased-out land was within the reserve forest, and they sought amendment to the land record that shows it as khas land.

A Chattogram court in June 2017 imposed a status quo on the 845-acre area, which include 134 acres of the forest, following a case filed by the department, they added.

But the tea estate continued cutting trees and expanding its territory while the forest department is unable to take any action until the matter is resolved, in compliance with the court order.

The 845-acre comprises the three plots recorded as forestland in RS (Revisional Survey) in 1927-28.

Before this, these plots were recorded as reserve forest in a Calcutta gazette issued in 1893 by the then Assam-SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Defying a court order, an excavator, deployed by Halda Valley, clears trees at a hillock at Ramgor-Sitakunda forest in Chattogram's Fatikchhari upazila to make a road. The photo was taken last month.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BUSINESS

Walton smartphones going to US

Walton is set to become the first Bangladeshi company to export locally-made smartphones to the US market, in yet another emblem of the country's might in high-tech manufacturing. The company will send the first consignment of smartphones with the 'Made in Bangladesh' label from its Gazipur plant on March 1, said SM Monjurul Alam, its managing director.

"The smartphones are bound for a renowned American brand and Walton is the 'original equipment manufacturer,'" he said, but didn't disclose the name of the US brand. "Walton always remains at the fore and keeps surprising us by hitting new milestones," Telecom Minister Mustafa Jabbar said.

STORY ON B1

7-yr-old raped, then murdered

STAR REPORTS

Police yesterday recovered the body of a seven-year-old girl, killed allegedly after rape, in Chapainawabganj. In addition, two men were sued yesterday in a rape incident in Gazipur and one accused of gangraping a minor was arrested in Khulna.

Two housewives were raped by their neighbours in separate incidents in Brahmanbaria and Habiganj since Sunday night.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reports Moslema Khatun Rima went out from her house, in Manik Hajirtola village under Char Bagdanga union, on Monday, but did not return. Locals found her dead body at a bamboo cluster behind MH Government Primary School, where she was a nursery student, yesterday morning and informed the police.

Police recovered the dead body from the spot at noon yesterday and sent it to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Mahub Alam Khan, additional superintendent of police (Sadar Circle).

It is primarily suspected that she was killed after rape, said the SI.

The victim's father Ruhul Amin said after returning from school at noon on Monday, Rima went out to play but did not return at her usual time. After

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Leadership to people



Rebecca Shelly, french litterateur and a member of a peace mission, calls on Bangabandhu on February 19, 1972.

FEBRUARY 19, 1972
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU EMPOWERED TO REORGANISE AL Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been empowered by the working committee of Awami League to form a committee to reorganise the party to provide the people leadership. The working committee also sets up three subcommittees -- constitution subcommittee, disciplinary subcommittee, and manifesto and policy planning subcommittee.

In a resolution, the working committee urges the government to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

MUJIB BORSHO No excess in celebrations

Hasina warns AL men

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night asked her party leaders and activists not to go overboard with the observance of "Mujib Borsho", the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Speaking at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, she also asked them to stay away from installing any mural of Bangabandhu without the approval of the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust.

"I know what we had to go through after the killing of Bangabandhu. I also know about who played what role and who did what after his killing. So don't set up any mural of Bangabandhu without the permission of the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

When Lundy met Herman



CNN ONLINE

Meet Herman and Lundy, recent cuddle buddies and rescue animals.

The two are an unlikely pair: Herman, a pigeon, suffered neurological damage more than a year ago. He can't fly. Little Lundy, a newborn chihuahua puppy, can't use his back legs.

But stick them together, and the two will snuggle up as though they were members of the same litter -- or nest.

The two met through the Mia Foundation, a rescue organization in Rochester, New York, that rehabilitates animals with birth defects and physical deformities. Sue Rogers, the nonprofit's founder, sends most of her rescues to foster homes around the US but keeps a few of them for school programs about bullying.

Their interspecies friendship has inspired scores of supporters to donate to the foundation. And the animals, Rogers said, make each other better.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

'Drug dealer' killed during 'gunfight'

Family says police picked him up almost a week ago

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight between two groups of criminals" in the district's Bochaganj upazila early yesterday.

The dead is Ayub Ali, 55, of Setabganj in the same upazila. Police said he was accused in 32 cases, including 10 for murders.

However, Ayub's family alleged that he was picked up by two policemen from

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 19

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:20 12:45 4:30 6:03 7:30
JAMAAT 5:55 1:15 4:45 6:07 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Lamia to get her new school building

STAR REPORT

Her wish has been granted and she is going to have a new school building.

The authorities decided to construct the building after Lamia Akter, a fifth grader at Dakkhin Gazipur Government Primary School in Pirojpur Sadar upazila, wrote to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in June last year.

In the letter, Lamia said her school building was in a sorry state and it turned risky. She asked why some 128 children, including her, would have to attend classes in such a risky manner.

She also said the students had to clean their classrooms every day as dust fell from damaged walls and ceilings.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the letter and ran a report on it with the headline: "Pirojpur schoolgirl writes to PM for new school building".

Later, the Ministry

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Nurjahan, aged about 35, drives a battery-run rickshaw in the capital's Shaheed Minar area yesterday. A former owner of a leather goods factory, the woman had to close her small business after incurring a huge loss. She took up pulling a rickshaw to support her elderly parents. After losing several fingers in a road accident last year, she started driving this battery-run rickshaw which earns her about Tk 500 a day.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA Air strikes hit hospitals, camps

Nearly a million fled Russia-backed regime offensive

REUTERS, Beirut/Geneva

Government air strikes have hit hospitals and displaced persons camps in northwest Syria and killed about 300 civilians as President Bashar al-Assad's forces press an assault against the last rebel stronghold, the United Nations said yesterday.

UN officials said relief agencies were overwhelmed by the humanitarian crisis as nearly one million civilians, most of them women and children, had fled towards the Turkish border in bitter winter conditions to escape the onslaught.

"Civilians fleeing the fighting are being squeezed into areas without safe shelter that are shrinking in size by the hour. And still they are bombed. They simply have nowhere to go," UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said in a statement.

Syrian and Russian warplanes meanwhile kept up raids on the town of Darat Izza in Aleppo province yesterday, witnesses said, one day after two hospitals there were badly damaged.

At Al Kinana Hospital, blown-out walls and dust-covered medical cables and supplies were strewn about the hospital after two staff were wounded on Monday, witnesses said.

Appearing on national television on Monday, Assad said the rapid military gains presaged the eventual defeat of the nine-year-old insurgency against him although it could still take time. The rebel factions include Turkish-backed rebels and jihadist militants.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2