



The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

SECOND EDITION



REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXX No. 58

FALGUN 27, 1426 BS

Your Right to Know

RAJAB 15, 1441 HJURI

20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 12.00

"I would like to express my regret and apologise for excessive violence on the part of the Dutch in those years."
DUTCH KING WILLEM-ALEXANDER ON "MASS KILLINGS" DURING INDONESIA'S 1940S INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE. (PAGE 8)



"We have postponed tomorrow's countrywide demonstration due to the health risk posed during mass gatherings following the coronavirus outbreak."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR ON POSTPONEMENT OF DEMOS OVER KHALEDA'S RELEASE.



"We're just at the beginning of this epidemic."
PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON ON CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK IN FRANCE



Screening flimsy at 5 land ports

Health staff checking passengers' body temperature only; situation similar at Ctg, Sylhet airports

STAR REPORT

Despite growing concern over the spread of coronavirus, health screening of incoming travellers remains lax at the country's five busiest land ports.

The situation seems similar at the two international airports in Chattogram and Sylhet.

There was no archway thermal scanner in any of the five land ports -- Hili in Dinajpur, Sonamasjid in Chapainawabganj, Burimari in Lalmonirhat, Akhaura in Brahmanbaria and Benapole in Jashore -- as of Monday, when our correspondents visited the ports.

Health workers were checking people's body temperature using hand-held infrared thermometers, which, port sources said, were giving faulty readings in some cases.

The ports also lacked trained manpower to do the screening, said sources there.

Talking to this newspaper, many travellers complained that the existing health staffers did not seem serious about collecting records from health declaration forms, which people crossing the ports were supposed to fill in and submit to health desks there.

The Daily Star correspondents saw many leaving the ports without submitting the filled-in forms.

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People keep a safe distance as part of precautionary measures against the spread of the novel coronavirus, while lining up to enter a post office in downtown Rome yesterday.

PHOTO:

AFP

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Wash hands frequently, avoid all gatherings

Govt advises school, college students

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government has asked all students of secondary schools and colleges to wash their hands frequently and avoid any kind of gathering as preventive measures to curb the spread of coronavirus in the country.

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) yesterday issued a directive in this regard as the country's first coronavirus cases were detected on Sunday.

"We have issued the directive for all secondary schools, colleges and offices under the directorate," Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk, director general at the DSHE, told The Daily Star.

The DGHS asked students to thoroughly clean their hands with soap and water and not to touch eyes, nose and mouth with unclean hands.

Self-quarantine for two weeks

IEDCR urges all returnees from the countries affected by novel coronavirus

STAR REPORT

Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research has requested all returnees from the coronavirus-hit countries to self-quarantine for two weeks from the date of their arrival to prevent the spread of the virus in Bangladesh.

The IEDCR also discourages people from travelling abroad.

People, be it local and foreigner, of the sixty out of 102 countries that are affected by coronavirus have been requested to be in self-quarantine mandatorily after entering Bangladesh.

"If anyone of them develops COVID-19 symptoms, they have been asked to communicate with the IEDCR immediately," said its Director Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora yesterday.

On Sunday, the IEDCR confirmed that two Italy returnees had been infected with the novel coronavirus. A woman, who had come into contact with one of them, also got infected.

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Testing facilities only in Dhaka

No plan now to expand those outside capital for a lack of trained manpower

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Although the diagnosis of novel coronavirus is so far only Dhaka-based, the authorities prefer not to expand the testing facilities to hospitals outside the capital right now due to a lack of trained manpower and unavailability of the necessary technology.

Besides, the possibility of faulty results and risk of biological hazards are also major concerns for sticking to a centralised diagnostic system, said officials of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research Institute (IEDCR).

At present, only the IEDCR, the national institute for conducting disease surveillance and outbreak investigation, conducts testing for coronavirus.

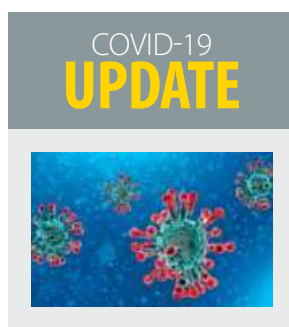
As the country has already confirmed three cases of coronavirus-- known as COVID-19 -- the lack of available testing facilities in different parts of the country has been raised as a concern to dealing with a potential outbreak.

IEDCR officials, however, said the detection of virus is a complex process and requires strict quality control. Most public and private hospitals in the country do not have the trained manpower and technological capacity to diagnose the virus, health experts said.

When a suspected patient is admitted to a hospital outside the capital, the authorities report this to the IEDCR. An IEDCR team will then go to the hospital to collect samples from the patient.

"We take nasal and throat swab samples from the patient, which requires special skills. Therefore, we are sending sample collectors from

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4,067
DEATHS

115,124
confirmed cases in 105 countries

Total cases in China
80,754

Cases outside China
34,370

Mongolia, northern Cyprus confirm first cases
India's total number of confirmed cases rises to 52
Canada records first death

Whole of Italy in lockdown

60m Italians told to stay home; WHO says threat of pandemic now 'very real'

AFP, Rome

About 60 million Italians were told yesterday to stay in their homes to help battle the most deadly coronavirus outbreak outside China, as some Asian nations expressed hope that their outbreaks were abating.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping sought to ease concerns in the country where the virus was first detected in December, making his first visit to the epicentre of Wuhan and declaring the spread in the central city and Hubei province to be "basically curbed".

On the world's financial markets, stocks and oil bounced back on hopes of US economic stimulus measures, after suffering their biggest one-day losses in more than a decade on Monday.

Official figures showed daily infections in China are at their lowest level since record-keeping began in January, with 19 new infections and 17 deaths recorded yesterday, after a similar flatlining of cases in South Korea.

By contrast, Europe's outbreak appeared to be on an upward trajectory.

Italy is the worst affected country outside China with more than 9,000 infections and 463 deaths and has posted huge jumps in cases each day for the past week.

China remains the hardest hit overall with more than 80,000 cases and over 3,000 deaths out of a global total of 114,151 cases and 4,102 deaths across 105 countries and territories, according to an AFP tally based on official data.

Reflecting the differing stages of the outbreak, China relaxed some of its most severe restrictions in Hubei province, the epicentre of the outbreak, at the same moment as several European countries went on full alert mode.

A slew of airlines announced they would cut all flights to Italy for the next few weeks while a number of European countries announced the closure of schools and bans on mass public events.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Tigers eye the perfect end

SPORTS REPORTER

After a commanding 48-run win in the first T20I, host Bangladesh will be looking to complete the two match T20I series with a clean sweep when they take on Zimbabwe in the final game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today. The game is scheduled to begin from 6:00pm BST.

It has been a portrait of total dominance from the Tigers right from the one-off Test series win, which was followed by a whitewash win in the three-match ODI series. Head coach Russell Domingo will surely want to wrap things up in grand style and look to continue his side's dominance against the African nation.

The Tigers however will

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Two men cover their nose to avoid breathing polluted air near Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday. A part of the road was dug up for laying cables and sewer pipes underground. Air pollution remains a serious threat to public health in the city as Dhaka's air quality was ranked the third worst in the world in the Air Quality Index yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Study tour turns into nightmare

Teacher's arm severed, at least 15 students injured as their bus hits parked truck in Gopalganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teacher's left arm was severed below the elbow and at least 15 students of Dhaka's Willes Little Flower School and College were injured when a bus carrying them on a study tour hit a parked truck from behind on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Gopalganj yesterday.

Badly injured Syeda Fahima Begum, 50, of the department of civics of the institution, was flown to Dhaka by an air ambulance.

She was admitted to Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute around 4:00pm. Doctors last night re-attached her arm after carrying out a seven-hour surgery on her.

Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gopalganj Sadar Police Station, said the accident took place around 12:30pm when the bus was heading for Bangabandhu Mausoleum in Tungipara from Dhaka.

The driver lost control of the vehicle in Ghonapara area of Gopalganj and hit the truck parked along the Dhaka-Khulna highway, leaving the 16 injured, he added.

All the injured was first taken to Gopalganj General Hospital. Later, the wounded students were sent to Dhaka by road.

Quoting victims, police said the teacher was sitting in a front row window seat of the bus.

After being brought to the Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, the teacher was rushed to an operation theatre.

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Fahima Begum

Testing facilities

FROM PAGE 1
Dhaka who are long experienced in collecting respiratory samples,” Dr ASM Alamgir, principal scientific officer of IEDCR, told The Daily Star.

He said the samples are then processed through real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), a laboratory technique for the in vitro qualitative detection of novel coronavirus -- which is only available at the IEDCR.

“The detection of virus from the specimens is a complex process. As the 2019 novel coronavirus is an RNA virus, we have to extract the RNA [ribonucleic acid] and then convert it to cDNA [complementary DNA] which is further synthesised to detect the virus.

“The process requires strict temperature control and absolutely contamination-free environment otherwise the specimens can show false positive and false negative results,” he added.

Experts say any breach in laboratory safety can release the virus in the atmosphere and lead to an epidemic.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using BSL 3 (Biosafety level) laboratory while working with live virus.

IEDCR is conducting tests in a BSL 2 laboratory.

According to Dr Alamgir, a BSL 2 laboratory is more than sufficient for pathological investigations, as they work only with dead viruses there.

However, working in a BSL 2 laboratory also requires strict training in maintaining safety, quality control, and hygiene protocol, he added.

“In IEDCR, we have a pool of experienced professionals who have been working in this environment for a long time. This is also a reason why we are not expanding the diagnosis facility to other hospitals,” he said.

Noted physician Dr ABM Abdullah concurs that keeping the diagnostic process centralised for the moment is the right decision.

“In case of a massive outbreak, there is no doubt that IEDCR will have to expand facilities to district-level hospitals. But for now, this is the right decision,” he told The Daily Star.

“Since COVID-19 is a completely new phenomenon, we don’t have the

sufficient manpower and technology to detect it,” said Abdullah.

Besides, if a diagnostic centre conducts this test, they might not be able to quarantine the patients and their contacts immediately which IEDCR is doing by coordinating with local hospitals, he added.

Dr Alamgir said the country’s health system is well prepared to tackle an outbreak, with the institute regularly conducting training for district level physicians.

If the disease spreads in the country, it will not be necessary to conduct test for all patients, he said.

“Thanks to our trainings, doctors will be able to detect coronavirus patients by observing symptoms and give symptomatic treatments. So far, this is our plan for a massive outbreak,” he added.

PREPARATION FOR DMCH'S ISOLATION UNIT STILL UNDERWAY

Over a month ago, Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) opened an isolation unit for coronavirus patients, but it still lacks certain facilities essential for treating patients carrying the virus.

Located on the ground floor of DMCH Building-2, the hospital authorities transformed its acute medicine unit into a 12-bed isolation unit.

A special laboratory, capable of conducting tests like ultrasonography, endoscopy, and X-rays, has been attached to the unit.

However, the unit does not yet have life support and artificial respiration facilities.

“We have sufficient amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) for our staff. We are also in the process of procuring more equipment,” Brig Gen AKM Nasiruddin, director of the hospital, told The Daily Star.

At present, the unit is ready to receive patients, he said, adding that, “We are working to turn this unit into an independent, fully-equipped corona-care unit.”

On January 26, the IEDCR sent a letter to all divisional and district hospitals, asking them to set up such isolation units.

“We are fighting an invisible enemy and we still don’t know much about its nature ... we are preparations,” added the DMCH director.



A health worker scans a homebound passenger for signs of fever at the medical desk, set up by Brahmanbaria civil surgeon's office, at Akhaura Land Port yesterday. Officials say the number of passengers at the port has come down to around 400 a day against the usual figure of about 1,400, largely due to the coronavirus situation.

PHOTO: STAR

Screening flimsy at 5 land ports

FROM PAGE 1

The form contains information on passengers, including their recent travel history and whether they have fever, shortness of breath, nausea, headache or cough.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), however, maintains that all the airlines and land ports were directed to provide those forms to passengers and instruct them to submit those to the health desks.

It was evident that the few health workers were struggling with the screening when a large group of travellers arrived at a time.

Besides, some health staffers were not wearing any hand gloves or disposable apron.

When virologists’ attention was drawn to the matter, they said the health workers run the risks of getting infected with coronavirus. The virus then may also spread to others.

In several land ports, those travelling in inter-border goods-laden vehicles were not going through the screening at all, posing risks of coronavirus transmission.

Osmani International Airport in Sylhet and Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram had one arway thermal scanner each, but those were out of order, The Daily Star correspondents found during their visit on Monday.

Health officials at the airports were seen using hand-held infrared thermometers to check passengers’ body temperature.

The health ministry, however, sent three thermal scanners each to the two international airports and Benapole Land Port yesterday.

Our correspondents also did not see any sort of disinfection activity at the land ports and the two airports.

BENAPOLE

During the visit, The Daily Star found that the lone digital thermal scanner at the Benapole port had been out of order for a long time. Medical teams were conducting health tests on passengers with the lone hand-held infrared thermometer.

SONAMASJID

There was no screening equipment except a hand-held infrared thermometer at Sonamasjid land port.

Medical staffers expressed fear of a possible health risk as they were not using any safety gears whatsoever. They said they did not have any personal protective equipment, including masks, gowns, gloves and hexisol hand rub.

HILI

Health officials were checking body temperature of passengers with the lone hand-held infrared thermometer at this port in Hakimpur upazila of Dinaipur. Wishing anonymity, one of the officials said the thermometer does not work properly all the time.

BURIMARI

The authorities were yet to set up thermal scanners at the Burimari land port in Lalmonirhat’s Patgram upazila to detect any suspected coronavirus patient travelling from India, Nepal and Bhutan.

SHAH AMANAT INT’L AIRPORT

The lone thermal scanner at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram had been out of order for the last two years.

Airport sources said it might take a couple of days for the new one to start functioning.

The airport also has a shortage of medical personnel to screen all incoming passengers, who were now being screened with an Infrared Thermometer Gun, said airport sources.

Contacted, MZA Sharif, assistant airport health officer of the Chattogram airport, told The Daily Star: “We face a huge problem when some 300 to 400 passengers land at a time.”

So far, the novel coronavirus has hit more than 111 countries with 1,13,000 confirmed cases of infection. Among the infected, over 4,000 have died and 63,000 have recovered, according to media reports.

Most of the cases were reported in China. Outside China, Italy has faced the worst outbreak with 7,500 confirmed cases and 366 deaths.

Bangladesh has so far three confirmed cases -- two males and a female. Two of them returned from Italy recently.

Covid-19 -- the seventh strain of the virus that was first detected in China’s Wuhan city in December -- can hide inside human body for up to 14 days without showing any symptom, according to WHO.

Unlike in Bangladesh, some of the major international airports have taken preventive safety measures against the spread of Covid-19.

Termin screening measures at different land ports and airports lax, experts said any loophole could be costly.

“The screening process should be vigorous. A slight oversight could turn costly,” Prof Muzaherul Huq, former regional director of WHO’s South East Asia region, told The Daily Star.

Despite repeated attempts, DGHS Director General Prof Abul Kalam Azad could not be reached over phone for comments.

(Our correspondents in Benapole, Dinaipur, Brahmanbaria, Sylhet, Lalmonirhat, Chapainawabganj and Chattogram Bureau office contributed to this report)

Bolsonaro says virus threat is ‘overstated’

AFP, Miami

Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday minimized the threat of the new coronavirus -- which has killed nearly 4,000 people in more than 60 countries and tanked global financial markets -- saying its destructive power has been “overstated.”

The fall of world markets “basically has to do with the price of oil, which sank 30 percent, and with the coronavirus issue too,” said the ultra-right wing president to a crowd of about 200 Brazilian supporters in Miami, where he is visiting in an effort to drum up foreign investment.

“In my opinion, that virus’s destructive power is overstated. Maybe it is even potentially being exaggerated for political reasons,” Bolsonaro said.

The Sao Paulo exchange plummeted more than 12 percent Monday, its biggest fall since 1998, and shares of Brazilian state-controlled oil giant Petrobras dropped more than 31 percent, as model investors panicked in the face of the spread of the new coronavirus and plunging oil prices.

Tigers eye

FROM PAGE 1

have the luxury to tinker with the playing eleven today and it was learned that experienced opener Tamim Iqbal may be rested to provide an opportunity to young opener Mohammad Naim.

Tamim, along with Liton Das, has been in prolific form since the ODI series. The opening duo registered a record 92-run opening stand in the first T20I on Monday as Bangladesh reached the 200-mark in the shortest format for the third time, riding on fifties from Liton and Soumya Sarkar.

The team management may also want to have a look at few other players, such as young pacer Hasan Mahmud and left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed.

On the other hand, Zimbabwe will be desperate to get some positives from their dismal tour and skipper Sean Williams will be desperate to win the game and at least end on a high.

But with the way things have shaped up for the visitors, it will be a tough task for Zimbabwe and their senior players like Sikandar Raza, Craig Ervine, Brendan Taylor and the skipper himself will have to step up and take responsibility.



Syeda Fahima Begum, a teacher of Willes Little Flower School and College in Dhaka, is being stretchered to an operation theatre at the capital's Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute yesterday afternoon, hours after she was badly injured in a road crash on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Gopalganj's Pathaliya area. Fifteen students of the school were also hurt in the accident.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Study tour turns into nightmare

FROM PAGE 1

Samanta Lal Sen, chief coordinator of the institute, said Fahima’s left arm was severed below the elbow. She also had injuries to her right hand, head and some other parts of her body.

Fahima’s colleagues said she lives with her family at the capital’s Shantinagar. She, along with more than 100 students, nine teachers and some staffers of Willes Little Flower School and College, was going to Gopalganj from Dhaka.

Fahad Arfin Ananta, an injured student, said they started from the capital’s Kakrail for Tungipara on six

buses and a microbus.

“The driver of our bus lost control of the vehicle, which led to the accident,” he added.

Talking to The Daily Star, Director Prof Abul Kalam of the Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute last night said blood circulation to the patient’s left arm was normal after the surgery.

Fahima was shifted to the ICU of the institute, he said, adding that it would take five days for them to tell whether the operation was successful.

Our Faridpur correspondent contributed to this report.

AFP, Seoul

In a black fur hat and clutching binoculars, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw his latest firing drill, a move Seoul said Tuesday aimed at drawing the attention of the US and South Korea.

Kim “guided another firepower strike drill of long-range artillery”, the North’s KCNA news agency reported, a day after Japan said Pyongyang had fired what appeared to be ballistic missiles.

The North has been continuing to refine its weapons capabilities, analysts say, more than a year after a Hanoi summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump broke down.

Images carried by official Rodong Sinmun newspaper showed rockets blasting out of multiple launchers each with four firing tubes, striking what appeared to be an island target.

Other pictures showed smaller-calibre projectiles and artillery

shooting salvos of rounds.

Kim, wearing a Russian-style hat and a khaki military jacket, watched from a trench next to an officer in a black facemask.

Pyeongyang has closed its borders and imposed strict conditions as it seeks to avoid the worldwide coronavirus outbreak.

The three joint firing drills Kim has supervised in the last fortnight were his first military-related activity this year, Seoul’s unification ministry said Tuesday.

Whole of Italy

FROM PAGE 1

In the Middle East there were also signs of a deepening crisis, with Iran -- the worst-affected in the region -- registering 54 new deaths -- the highest single-day toll so far in the country with the third deadliest outbreak in the world.

- ‘Just the beginning’ -

Strict lockdowns and travel restrictions were apparently successful in China but faced a rocky start in Italy, where Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte told residents they should travel only for the most urgent work or health reasons.

While squares in Milan and Rome were emptied of their usual bustle and traffic, some residents were confused as to whether they were even allowed to leave their homes for everyday tasks like shopping.

Queues formed outside supermarkets from Naples to Rome.

“I’m not scared of anything in particular but there is a general worry,” 85-year-old Grazia told AFP as she waited for groceries in the capital.

The confusion forced the government to clarify its decree and warn against panic-buying.

Pope Francis also seemed to muddy the waters, holding a mass in which he urged priests to go out and visit the sick -- something specifically discouraged by Conte.

Governments elsewhere in Europe were also scrambling to balance their responses between restrictions and pushing out accurate information to avoid panic.

Italy’s northern neighbour Austria declared it would no longer admit people other than Austrians travelling from Italy unless they show medical need, one of the most severe steps taken by any European government.

Sport schedules have been wrecked across Europe, with Barcelona’s Champions League football match against Napoli next Wednesday the latest to fall prey to the virus -- it will be played behind closed doors.

In a rare glimmer of positive news, the remaining guests at a hotel in Spain’s Canary Islands on lockdown left the building after a 14-day quarantine, to the cheers and applause of hotel workers and medical staff.

But President Emmanuel Macron provided a reminder of Europe’s plight, warning that France was “just at the beginning” of its outbreak, Europe’s second most acute with more than 1,400 infected and 25 dead.

- Officials at risk -

In the United States, reports have suggested President Donald Trump could be vulnerable after several senior Republicans quarantined themselves because they had been in contact with a virus sufferer.

The White House insisted Trump had not been in contact with anyone confirmed to have COVID-19, but Vice-President Mike Pence did little to dampen concern when he conceded he did not know whether the president had been tested.

There are concerns that the US could become another hotspot, with at least 26 deaths and 605 confirmed infections so far.

Trump said he would propose “very substantial” economic measures to Congress yesterday including tax relief and aid for workers in the gig economy who worry about calling in sick.

In New York, the UN closed its headquarters to the public, while major US universities have been forced to cancel classes and move lessons online.

On the West Coast -- where most of the US deaths have occurred -- the Grand Princess cruise ship has docked at California’s port of Oakland, for more than 2,400 passengers to be taken into treatment or placed in quarantine, in a delicate, days-long operation.

‘Criminal’ killed in ‘gunfight’ with rivals

Say police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A suspected criminal was killed in a “gunfight” between two rival gangs in Bogura town early yesterday, police said.

The deceased, Kabir Hossain Minko, 38, was a resident of Chak Farid Colony, said, Aslam Ali, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch of Police.

Hearing gunshots, multiple police teams rushed to Maltinagar Bhatkandi Bridge area around 1:30am and found the victim lying on the ground with a bullet injury on his chest, said Sonaton Chakraborty, additional superintendent of police (Bogura Sadar Circle).

He was taken to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said the additional SP.

Locals present at the hospital identified the deceased as Minko, who was accused in more than 15 cases, including murder, extortion, and arms cases, Sonaton said.

Police recovered two firearms, eight bullets and two sharp weapons from the spot.

Speaking to correspondents at the hospital morgue area yesterday, Minko’s brother-in-law Zahirul Islam Khokon said, he left home on Monday afternoon after receiving a phone call from his friend Tofazzal Hossain, a businessman of the Betgari Banani area.

And since then, his mobile was found switched off, Zahirul said, adding that Tofazzal, when contacted, denied that Minko had met him.

Failing to find him, the family lodged a general diary with Sadar Police Station around 11:00pm on the day, said the family members.

Police, however, denied that any such general diary was filed.

The Daily Star could not independently verify either of the claims.



Clockwise, from left: Masks on and legs up -- two students of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute replace handshakes with a feet bump, careful not to spread any germs when greeting each other. Meanwhile, amid price hike of masks in many shops following the first confirmed cases of coronavirus in the country, Khukumoni Somaj Kollan Songtha, a charitable organisation, is making masks with fabric, which they distributed for free to passers-by at Farmgate overbridge. Although health authorities say those who aren't ill don't require masks, people are still using them from caution, as evident from passengers of all ages wearing masks at Airport Railway Station yesterday.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, PALASH KHAN

ONE YEAR OF DUCSU

Major problems ignored; no sign of next election

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Elections to Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) were held exactly a year ago with contesting panels pledging to take initiatives to curb accommodation crisis at the dormitories and to improve the food quality of dorm canteens.

As the tenure of the one-year committee nears its end, the present scenario of the residential crisis and food quality bear testament to the fact that the promises remained largely ignored, while students say they are disappointed as Ducsu has failed to meet their expectations.

The first elections to Ducsu in 28 years were held on March 11 last year, amid allegations of irregularities and vote rigging. The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL)-led panel won 23 posts, including that of the general secretary, while the posts of vice-president and social service secretary were won by Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad.

Reviewing electoral manifestos of the two panels, it became clear that most of their pledges were not fulfilled, and in some cases, completely ignored.

"We will play effective roles to extend dormitories, construct new buildings by breaking old ones and recover lands that have been seized by others," reads the manifesto of the BCL-nominated panel.

However, no visible steps were taken by Ducsu leaders to curb the residential crisis.

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PM to open country's first expressway to public tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's first-ever expressway from Dhaka to Faridpur's Bhanga upazila will be opened to public tomorrow, aiming to ensure better connectivity between the capital and southern districts through Padma Bridge.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the 55km four-lane highway, with a service lane on both sides, on the day through video conference from Gono Bhaban, officials said.

However, users will get full benefits of the expressway once construction work of Padma Bridge is completed, which is scheduled to be finished in June, 2021.

After that, those travelling by road from the capital will be able to reach Bhanga, which is a 75km journey, within an hour, officials said.

The project of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) was implemented by Bangladesh Army.

The government took the project to widen the 55km two-lane Dhaka-Bhanga road into four lanes in May

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DIGITAL SECURITY ACT Manabzamin editor among 32 sued for 'defamation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor-in-chief of Bangla daily Manabzamin, and 31 others have been sued under the Digital Security Act, on the charge of "publishing false news and circulating it on social media".

Saifuzzaman Shikhor, a ruling party lawmaker from Magura-1, filed the case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on Monday night, said Shujanur Islam, an SI of the police station.

Shikhor alleged that Manabzamin published a report on expelled Jubo Mohila League leader Shamima Nur Papia with false information, without directly mentioning names but implicating several MPs.

When it was shared on social media, the other accused mentioned his name, the case said.

Shujanur, investigation officer of the case, said the lawmaker alleged that the accused published the story and shared it on social media, and thus defamed him to gain ill interests.

"We did not mention names of anyone in our report. So there is no scope of defaming anyone," Matiur Rahman Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

Al Amin, a reporter of the daily who wrote the report, was also accused.

LABOUR MIGRATION

Hold 'dalals' liable for malpractices: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the government needs to recognise intermediaries, locally known as "dalal", by bringing changes to laws to hold them accountable for malpractices in the country's labour migration sector.

They said the intermediaries are mostly responsible for irregularities and high migration costs and their presence is rampant at different tiers of the recruitment process, but inadequate government initiatives have left them unaccountable.

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) organised the discussion on "Review of Migration-Related Policies and Laws: Perspective of Human Rights, Labour Rights and Women Rights" at The Daily Star Centre.

Presenting a research paper, BILS Deputy Director (research) Manirul Islam said the government should review the Overseas Employment and Migration Act-2013, as the law does not recognise intermediaries.

Manirul said the country's other major migration-related legal instruments, including the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act-2012 and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy-2016 should also be reviewed to ensure "consistency and coherence" among the laws and policies.

Presence of the intermediaries could be seen from rural areas to the offices of recruitment agents in Dhaka, said Israfil Alam, chairman of Bangladesh National Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development.



Participants at the discussion, held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

However, they do not have any accountability. They neither exist in law nor do they abide by any code of conduct or policy, he said while chairing the discussion.

Israfil said although they have repeatedly urged recruitment agents to provide intermediaries with identity cards, the agents did not comply with such requests. "The government also failed to hold them accountable."

Migrant workers and their families will not be able to reap benefits as long as middlemen or intermediaries are not held accountable for their activities, he said, adding that migration cost in Bangladesh is among the highest in the world.

Israfil, an Awami League lawmaker, said the government should undertake an initiative promoting the slogan "employers' pay model", in which all migration costs will be borne by foreign employers.

Pointing to the migration sector's contribution to the country's economy, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said everybody -- including government and non-government stakeholders working in the sector -- has a common goal, which is to ensure safe and dignified migration.

On the plight of female migrant workers, she said female workers are returning home regularly and telling harrowing stories.

"We have to deal with this more seriously," she said, adding that the government should continuously hold dialogues with receiving countries, to make them follow their own laws and other international legal instruments while dealing with Bangladeshi workers.

Proper implementation of policies and agreements can end sufferings

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

KHALEDA ZIA'S RELEASE SC lawyer appeals to president, PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court (SC) lawyer yesterday appealed to the president and prime minister to release BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail on humanitarian grounds, ahead of the birth centenary celebrations of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Advocate Eunus Ali Akond sent two applications to President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, requesting them to pardon Khaleda Zia and release her from jail -- saying that Khaleda is gravely ill.

As per the preamble of the constitution and its articles 11, 48 (3) and 49, the president can commute the jail sentence of any convict on advice from the prime minister, Eunus Ali Akond told this newspaper yesterday.

He said he sent the applications to the president and PM by post yesterday for the clemency and release of Khaleda.

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

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

DHAKA TODAY

CONFERENCE

Women in Politics: Together for Equality
Organiser: Democracy International
Venue: Six Seasons Hotel, Gulshan-2
Time: 11am

Organiser: Samajtantrik Chatra Front, Dhaka University Unit
Venue: Ducsu, University of Dhaka
Time: 3:30pm

SESSION

Sister Library: Reading Together, Reading Women
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Time: 5:30pm

FILM SCREENING

Hakan's Journey to Peace
Organiser: Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal
Venue: IEB, Ramna
Time: 4pm

DISCUSSION

On the relevance of Karl Marx in today's world



PHOTO OF THE DAY

SK ENAMUL HAQ



Three young flower sellers girls pose with their tuberose garlands, all smiles for the camera, after this photographer obliged to their request for a picture. The photo was taken recently at Hatirjheel.

MONEY LAUNDERING

CID claims it has evidence against Papia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday claimed to have found "important money laundering evidence" against expelled Jubo Mohila League leader Shamima Nur Papia and are preparing to file a case against her.

"We have already accumulated some evidence and are now completing the paperwork. Once it is finished, we would lodge a money laundering case against Papia," Imtiaz Ahmed, deputy inspector general of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), told The Daily Star.

The official, however, refused to disclose details of the evidence they found.

"We first investigated her involvement in money laundering and are now moving for the next action," added the DIG.

Earlier, Rab arrested four people -- including Papia -- from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and a five-star hotel in Dhaka on February 22.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Goldsmiths' life expectancy much lower than average

Finds BSMMU study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The average life expectancy of goldsmiths in Bangladesh is 59, in stark contrast with the national life expectancy of 72.3 years, according to a study by the Department of Public Health and Informatics (DPHI) at BSMMU.

Some 45 per cent of them suffer from cardiovascular diseases and 20 per cent suffer from cancer, said the study, titled "Cause of Death in Goldsmith Workers of Bangladesh: Findings from Verbal Autopsy".

The study findings were unveiled yesterday during a workshop at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Md Khalequzzaman, associate professor of DPHI, along with Mohammad Tanvir Islam of the internal medicine department of BSMMU conducted the study.

Twenty deceased goldsmiths selected as the sample of this research were residents of Mohammadpur, Hazaribagh, Lalbagh and Tanti Bazar areas of Dhaka, Shivalaya upazila of Manikganj and Nagarpur upazila of Tangail.

About 3 lakh people are working as goldsmiths, said the study.

Of the 20, 55 per cent died of cardiovascular diseases, including ischemic heart disease and stroke, the study showed.

The study also found that three out of four (75 per cent) of the sample suffered from two or more non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Some 65 per cent had hypertension, 50 per cent had diabetes, 35 per cent had heart diseases, and 20 per cent had kidney diseases.

It further revealed that 70 per cent of the deceased goldsmiths were regular smokers, and 20 per cent of them consumed smokeless tobacco. Half of them were regular alcohol users.

The researchers recommended awareness programmes

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

PRICE HIKE OF MASK, SANITISER

27 businesses in and around Dhaka fined

STAR REPORT

Mobile courts yesterday fined at least 19 stores, including pharmacies, in Dhaka city, Savar, Narayanganj and Manikganj for selling products such as surgical masks, hand sanitiser and different medicines at higher prices than usual.

Mobile courts under Dhaka north and south city corporations conducted drives in different parts of the city and fined 16 shops, including pharmacies, Tk 1.71 lakh for selling surgical masks and hand sanitisers at high mark-up.

Two executive magistrates of Dhaka South City Corporation inspected 1,000 shops in Mitford road, Nayabazar, Babubazar, Chawkbazar and New Market, and fined owners of 13 establishments Tk 1,46,500 for selling surgical masks at hiked prices.

Another court of Dhaka North City Corporation conducted drives in Gulshan, Banani and Mohakhali areas and fined three pharmacies Tk 25,000 for the same offence, Executive Magistrate Selina Parvin, who led the drives, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile in Savar, a mobile court fined a branch of Lazz Pharma Ltd Tk one lakh for selling masks at higher prices, reports our correspondent.

"The pharmacy was selling masks at Tk 40, instead of the set price of Tk 5. We also found some foreign products in the pharmacy but they could not show

any import documents," said Executive Magistrate Abdullah Al Mahfuz, who led the drive.

The mobile court also detained two employees of the pharmacy. They were released after the fine was paid.

The drive was conducted at Thana Road area, upon a tip-off that some shops were selling masks at high prices and without receipts.

In Narayanganj, a mobile court sentenced Bishwajit Das, an employee of Nurul Medical Corner, to one-year jail for selling surgical masks at Tk 50 per piece instead of Tk 5, said Executive Magistrate Mehedi Hasan Faruk.

Three executive magistrates of Narayanganj district, along with the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), jointly conducted drives in different pharmacies at Kali Bazar area of the town, reports our Narayanganj correspondent.

The court also fined eight other pharmacies Tk 1.5 lakh in the same area for storing medicine illegally.

Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection conducted a drive in Manikganj town and fined a clothing shop Tk 5,000 for the same reason.

Assistant Director of DNCRP Asaduzzaman Rumel fined Sujon General Store in the district for selling expired medicine and cosmetics.



A magistrate fines a pharmacy yesterday during a drive at Narayanganj city's Kali Bazar to stop illegal price hike of masks, hand sanitisers and other products, whose demands shot up after the first reports of coronavirus infections in the country.

PHOTO: STAR

CID claims

FROM PAGE 3

Rab seized counterfeit notes, foreign currencies and around Tk 2.5 lakh from their possession. The elite force later raided two lavish flats on Indira Road in the city's Farmgate and a presidential suite at a five-star hotel, and recovered around Tk 58 lakh in cash.

Apart from the flats, Papia (28) and her husband Mazfuz Rahman alias Sumon (38), a former Chhatra League leader, possess two more flats and two plots worth around Tk 2 crore in Narsingdi and several luxurious cars, Rab said at a press briefing earlier. Three cases were filed against Papia -- two with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station and one with Airport Police Station.

The investigation charge of these three cases, were transferred to Rab yesterday. Rab-1 commanding officer Lt Col Shafee Bulbul confirmed to the newspaper.

"Under the custody of the Detective Branch of police, Papia is now on remand, which will end tomorrow [Wednesday]. Once we get her in our custody, we have plan to take her on remand for interrogation," added the Rab-1 chief.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

4 bodyguards of GK Shamim denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail petition of four bodyguards of GK Shamim in a money laundering case.

The court also ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to finish the investigation into the case in four months.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam passed the order after holding hearing on the petition filed by the four accused -- Zahidul Islam, Shahidul Islam, Kamal Hossain and Samsad Hossain -- seeking bail in the case.

Their lawyer Shamim Sarder told The Daily Star that the HC rejected the bail petition of his clients as the investigation into the case against them is going on and they have been in the jail custody for only five months.

ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told this correspondent that the four bodyguards of GK Shamim have committed organised crime of money laundering along with GK Shamim, and that is why the HC rejected their bail petition.

Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the state at yesterday's hearing.

Rab arrested GK Shamim, a Jubo League leader and top-listed government contractor, on September 20 on charges of extortion and tender manipulation. His seven bodyguards, including the four, were also arrested at the time.

During a September 20 raid by the elite force at Shamim's house and office in the capital's Niketan, eight firearms, a huge amount of ammunition, fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) worth Tk 165 crore and around Tk 1.8 crore in cash, a large stash of US and Singaporean dollars and some foreign liquor were seized.

On September 21, Rab filed a case with Gulshan Police Station against GK Shamim. Later on, his bodyguards were shown arrested in the case.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DAY

CARE Bangladesh holds events in three upazilas

CITY DESK

CARE Bangladesh observed National Disaster Preparedness Day in collaboration with the administrations in Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ramu and Moheshkhali upazilas.

On the occasion, 16 multi-purpose cyclone shelters (MPCS) were handed over to relevant administrations after carrying out refurbishment work, said a press release.

Funded by USAID, CARE Bangladesh in association with the government is implementing "Promoting Resilience to Risks of Natural Hazards (PRERONA)" in the three upazilas. The project is being implemented to improve MPCS.

In Moheshkhali, MP Ashek Ullah Rafiq, the chief guest, led a rally where children from different schools took part. Later, he attended a ceremony where refurbished Notun Bazar Govt Primary School-Cum Cyclone Shelter was handed over to local education administration. Moheshkhali UNO Md Jahurul Islam presided over the meeting.

Other refurbished schools were handed over to school authorities in a separate programme at the office of Cox's Bazar Sadar UNO Md Mahmud Ullah Maruf, where government officials and members of school management committee were present.

Major problems ignored

FROM PAGE 3

Dormitories at the university are still plagued with severe accommodation shortage, with many freshers and sophomores still living in congested gono (public) rooms, where over 30 students live in a room meant for four beds. Some even sleep in the corridors and rooftops, and mosques adjacent to the dorms.

Also, the "guest room" culture still prevails at the dorms, where ruling party men torture general students in the name of "teaching manners and etiquette".

On January 22, BCL men of DU's Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall tortured four students at the guest room, drove them out of the dorm and subsequently handed them over to law enforcers.

Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad pledged to oust outsiders and non-students, and take measures to allot seats to freshers. They too failed to fulfil it. Ducus VP Nurul Haque Nur was confined at Salimullah Muslim Hall and assaulted on April 2 last year, after he went there to oust non-students and outsiders.

Talking to The Daily Star, Reza Islam Shuvo, a final-year student of marketing department, said Ducus leaders ignored the major problems that have been gripping the university for a long time and were busy in holding programmes which were of little value to students.

The BCL panel had also promised to introduce health insurance, monitor food quality and increase subsidy at canteens, establish a Liberation War Research Institute, introduce teachers' evaluation, renovate the central library and take steps to shut down evening courses at the university.

Health insurances were introduced at only three departments, prices of food items at canteens have been fixed but the quality has not been improved and no subsidy was given, while a Liberation War Research Institute has not been built.

Talking to The Daily Star, Ducus Assistant General Secretary from the BCL panel Saddam Hussain said, "Authorities have already taken initiatives to build

new dorms to resolve the accommodation crisis as per our demand. We have brought three departments under health insurance, and are working to bring all students under insurance. Several departments cancelled illogical development fees in light of our demands and pressed university authorities to shut down evening courses."

Admitting the "gono room" and "guest room" malpractices, he said the acute accommodation crisis is responsible for the problems, and it would be solved once new dormitories are built.

FATE OF FUTURE DUCSU POLLS

Since no visible steps were taken to arrange the next Ducus polls, and the tenure of the current committee will be completed in 11 days, the term of the incumbent committee is likely to be extended by 90 days, as per the charter.

Section C of Article 6 of the Ducus constitution says, "The elected office bearers shall hold office for 365 days. In case the election is not held in time, the elected office bearers shall continue for a further period not exceeding 90 days or till holding of the election, whichever is earlier, after which the union shall stand dissolved automatically."

Several Ducus representatives told The Daily Star they will hold a meeting to extend the deadline by 90 days.

VP Nur said they are yet to get any clear answer from the authorities regarding extension of current committee's tenure and holding the next election.

"After talking to the VC several times, I realised he is not interested at the moment in holding the polls. He told me huge arrangements are needed to hold the elections. Perhaps he is not getting the green signal as well from the government side in this regard," Nur told The Daily Star.

Contacted, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman said they are yet to pay any attention to the next election, and the issue is "a matter of discussion".

PM to open country's first

FROM PAGE 3

2016, with a budget of Tk 6,252 crore. The deadline for implementing the project was April 2019.

Later, the project was revised twice and total cost rose to Tk 11,003 crore -- making it the most expensive road (considering per kilometre expenditure) in the country, officials said.

Work of a link road under the project is expected to be completed within the extended deadline of June this year.

An expressway is a highway especially planned for high-speed traffic, usually having no or few intersections, limited points of access or exit, and dividers between lanes for traffic moving in opposite directions.

RHD Additional Chief Engineer (Dhaka Zone) Sabuj Uddin Khan said they will start collecting toll from expressway users when Padma Bridge will be opened to public.

When asked about the toll amount, Sabuj said an RHD committee is currently working to set the toll rate.

He said people will have to pay tolls for both the expressway and Padma Bridge, as the two structures are under separate authorities. The expressway is under RHD while Padma Bridge is under Bangladesh

Bridge Authority.

PM TO INAUGURATE 25 BRIDGES AND ANOTHER ROAD

Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate 25 bridges in Khulna, Barishal and Gopalganj zones of RHD tomorrow.

The bridges were constructed under Western Bangladesh Bridge Improvement Project. A total of 82 bridges, including the 25, and approach roads would be constructed under the project at a cost of Tk 2,911.75 crore.

Project Director Abdus Sabur said they were tasked to construct 61 bridges at first, and 21 bridges were added to the project last year.

Although construction of the 21 bridges have not started yet, they are hopeful about completing them within the extended deadline of June 2022, Sabur said yesterday.

At the same programme, the PM will also inaugurate the eight-kilometre approach road of Third Karnaphuli Bridge in Chattogram.

The six-lane approach road, which includes two side lanes, was constructed under a Tk 396 crore project, Abu Hena Md Tareq Iqbal, the project director, told this newspaper yesterday.

HILL CUTTING

Finlay fined Tk 17 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Department of Environment in Chattogram city yesterday fined Finlay Properties Limited Tk 17 lakh and suspended clearance of their site in Panchlaish, for cutting 17,000 square feet of hills illegally yesterday.

The fine was imposed after a hearing at DoE office at Khulshi area of port city.

Mia Mahmudul Haque, deputy director of DoE metro, told The Daily Star that Finlay was also fined Tk 12 lakh last year for the same reason at the same place.

Goldsmiths' life

FROM PAGE 3

regarding risk behaviours and screening programmes at regular intervals to ensure the early detection of NCDs among goldsmiths.

Addressing the programme as chief guest, Vice-Chancellor of BSMMU Prof Kanak Kanti Barua urged researchers to conduct the study with a larger sample.

Prof Syed Shariful Islam, chairman of DPHI, said the research is very short as they had no prior knowledge about goldsmiths.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor of BSMMU Prof Md Shahidullah Sikder, Prof Muhammad Rafiqul Alam and emeritus scientist of icddr, Md Yunus were present as special guests at the event.

Hold 'dalals' liable

FROM PAGE 3


of female migrant workers, said BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan. He alleged those who are entitled to implement the laws lack the capacity to do so.

Laetitia Weibel Roberts, the chief technical advisor of International Labour Organisation's Programme Office in Dhaka, said her organisation has been providing technical support to the Bangladesh government to ensure safe and orderly migration.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Additional Secretary to Expatriates' Welfare Ministry Khadiza Begum said the ministry is committed to bringing changes in the laws and modernise those in the changing context of labour migration sector.

Land Purchase at Gulshan

Wants to buy 10-15 katha land or more at any prime location of Gulshan by **EXPATRIATE BANGLADESHI**. Only genuine Sellers are kindly requested to Contact. (BD) 01911-360990 (UK) +447769179290, E-mail: syedmmurshed@gmail.com



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
আইসিটি'র মাধ্যমে মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক স্তরে শিক্ষার প্রচলন প্রকল্প (২য় পর্যায়)
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর
কক্ষ নং-১১২, শিক্ষা ভবন (১ম ব্লক), ১৬, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোন: ৪১০৫০১০৫-০৬
Web: www.ictedu.gov.bd, E-mail: pd-ict@dshe.gov.bd & pdict2@gmail.com

Ref No: DSHE/ICTP278/2019/100

Date: 10/03/2020

e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender)


e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of goods (NCT/OTM):

Invitation Reference No.	Description of Items	Tender ID	Tender publishing date & time	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
DSHE/ICTP2/0192020/Dev/GD6/001	10 Brand Computer, 10 UPS, 5 Laser Printer, 5 Scanner (Legal Size), 110 Laptop, 110 Wireless Modem with SIM, 668 Speaker, 668 Multi-media Projector with screen for 21 Training Institutions, 9 Zonal Education Offices and 490 Upazila Secondary Education Offices under Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Bangladesh.	402020	10/03/2020 14:00	08/04/2020 16:00	08/04/2020 17:00	08/04/2020 17:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal, and, no offline/hardcopy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to the abovementioned date and time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-477

Prof. Dr. Md. Abdus Sobur Khan
Project Director
Phone: 02 41050101



Save the Children

Date: March 11, 2020
Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children
Invitation for Tender
IFT Ref: IFT/SCI/BDCOI/FY-20/(Manual)/02
Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting proposals from the interested service provider for Human resource service outsourcing for Save the Children International in Bangladesh. For details please see the RFP schedule, which is available on the following link (Information & Download): <http://procurement.scibd.info> (downloaded copy also acceptable for RFP Submission).
Hard copy of the RFP Schedule can be collected at free of cost from SCI's Country office from March 11, 2020 to March 31, 2020 during office hour (9:30 AM- 3:00 PM) at Save the Children Dhaka office, House No. CWN (A) 35, Road No. 43, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.
Pre-proposal meeting date & time: on March 23, 2020 at 11:00AM at Dhaka Office
Deadline for Submission: On or before April 01, 2020 on or before 2:00 PM
OIC of Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain
Save the Children International



Awami League candidate Rezaul Karim Chowdhury campaigns for votes, standing on the back of a pickup truck at Chattogram city's Saltgola Crossing area. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Flanked by supporters and holding BNP's electoral symbol 'sheaf of paddy', the party's mayoral candidate Shahadat Hossain leads a procession in the port city's Nadia'r Haat area yesterday morning.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Rezaul keeps it clean

AL candidate's approach of not speaking ill about competitor welcomed by electorates

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Awami League (AL) mayoral candidate in Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) polls Rezaul Karim Chowdhury steered clear of any badmouthing of his main opponent during electioneering yesterday, and the strategy seemed to be working in his favour. A good number of leaders and activists of AL and its associate organisations were with him during the campaign in three wards of the city yesterday, unperturbed by fears of coronavirus that have been looming over citizens in the last two days.

Scores of local residents were also seen gathering at the campaign spots.

Rezaul started his campaign from Saltgola Crossing in South Halishahar around 2pm. He went there by a mini-truck but later conducted campaigning on foot as well. He addressed gatherings at different spots in the ward, urging the people to vote for him for the sake of continuation of the ongoing development work in the city.

Rezaul did not speak a single ill word against his main rival, BNP candidate Shahadat Hossain, which, according to many locals, was a very positive attitude. He instead chose to make the case that since he is the candidate nominated by the ruling party, it will be easier for him to continue development in the city if he is elected.

Bazal Ahmed, a senior citizen from Soltgola area, appreciated Rezaul's approach. "In past polls, we saw rival candidates remain busy in undermining each other... they used to make ill and derogatory comments against each other but Rezaul remained polite and did not make any derogatory comment about his rival candidate," he told this correspondent.

Another resident Bimal Barua told The Daily Star that he had heard about Rezaul but never met him before.

"I have heard that Rezaul is a politician of clean image... I never got the opportunity to listen to his speech earlier," he said, adding, "Today I heard him speaking for the first time and I am pleased... we need to elect gentlemen as our representatives. I have heard that BNP candidate Shahadat Hossain is also a politician of clean image... so it is going to be a tough contest."

After South Halishahar, Rezaul moved to North Patenga and South Patenga.

The mayoral aspirant told The Daily Star he would campaign in two to three wards every day.



CTG CITY
POLLS 2020

'BNP will win big if polls are free of vote-rigging, intimidation'

Central leaders join Shahadat's campaign trail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP mayoral candidate for the Chattogram City Corporation election Dr Shahadat Hossain yesterday said if authorities ensure an election free of intimidation and vote-rigging, BNP will win by a massive margin in the mayoral election, scheduled to take place on March 29.

On the second day of campaigning, Shahadat was speaking at South Paharholi of the port city.

BNP Vice-President Abdullah Al Noman joined the campaign, along with Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, standing committee member of the party.

Shahadat urged the authorities, including the Election Commission and law enforcement agencies, to play an impartial role in the election.

He said waterlogging is one of the biggest issues of the port city, and ruling

party Awami League did nothing to rid people of the crisis.

"If BNP gets people's mandate in the mayoral election, we will take steps to eradicate the waterlogging problem", he said.

Claiming that a large number of people are joining their campaign, Shahadat said people will be his key resources in battling irregularities at the election.

Shahadat campaigned at South Paharholi, South Kattoli and Jalalabad yesterday, as his supporters and activists joined him in a festive mood.

They handed over leaflets to electorates, urging them to turn up at the polling centre on voting day.

Shahadat said he has been involved in politics for the last 34 years, and knows very well how to organise a planned city for the people.

Abul Hasem Bakkar, general secretary of BNP city unit; Abu Sufian, senior vice president of the city unit; and Mahbubur Rahman Shamim were present, among others, at his campaign.

Nat'l debate fest on Mar 27

CITY DESK

National Debate Federation Bangladesh (NDF BD) is organising the "13th NDF BD National Debate Festival 2020" on March 27-28 at North South University in the capital's Bashundhara R/A.

In previous instalments of the festival, more than 2,000 students, moderators and organisers from over 700 institutions across the country participated.

The festival will begin with paying tributes towards Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. As part of the opening ceremony, NDF BD Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to a debate personality.

The main event will start with the "Child Debate" segment, where kids from different regions will participate.

Ispahani, Coca-Cola, the Ittefaq, Channel-i, Sarabangla.net and Radio Amar 88.4 FM are partners of the event.

FR TOWER FIRE

Dhaka court asks ACC to submit probe report by Apr 22

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit by April 22 the probe report of a case against SMHI Faruque and 22 others over design forgery of FR Tower in Dhaka city's Banani.

Faruque is owner of the land on which FR Tower is built. The other accused include Liakat Ali Khan Mukul, chairman of Rupyann Housing Estate Ltd, the housing company that extended the building illegally; and Tasvirul Islam, one of the FR Tower owners.

The accused in the case also include a former Rajuk chairman and several government officials. Some of them were arrested and later they were released on bail.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Md Abubakar Siddique, also investigating officer of the case, failed to submit any report yesterday.

A devastating fire in Banani's FR Tower left at least 25 people dead and 73 injured on March 28 last year.

Later, on June 25, ACC filed two cases against 23 people for their alleged involvement in illegally extending the building.

In an ACC inquiry, it was discovered that the 23-storey FR Tower had no fire alarm, had narrow exit points and staircases, and blocked fire exits.

Besides, the authorities illegally extended the building to 23-storey, although they had permission for a 15-storey building. As a result, the casualties peaked.



Anti-militant joint exercises titled "Thunder Fist" concluded yesterday with participation from Bangladesh Navy's special force SWADS, para-commandos of Bangladesh Army and special forces of the US and UK. This photo was taken during an exercise at Chattogram's Patenga.

PHOTO: ISPR

SCBA election begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day annual election to the 14-member executive committee, including president and secretary, of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) will begin today.

The polling will start at 10am in SCBA building and continue till 5pm with one hour's lunch and prayer break, and the result is likely to be announced on Thursday, said SCBA superintendent Nimesh Chandra Das yesterday.

A total of 7,781 lawyers will cast their votes in the election, he said, adding that a seven-member committee led by Advocate AF Hasan Ariff will conduct the polls.

SCBA sources said the main contest would take place between panels of ruling Awami League-backed Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad and pro-BNP Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Panel.

The pro-AL panel has nominated Advocate AM Aminuddin and Advocate Shah Monjurul Hoque as candidates for the posts of president and secretary respectively.

The BNP-backed panel has finalised Advocate Zainul Abedin and Barrister Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal as president and secretary candidates respectively.

Advocate Md Eunus Ali Akond will contest as an independent candidate for president post.

1 held in capital over sexual harassment of Jagannath univ student

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested one person in a case filed over sexually harassment of a female student of Jagannath University (JnU) inside a running bus at Taltola Bus Stand area in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on March 8.

"Police yesterday arrested one Tarek Aziz Naim at Paschim Manipur in Mirpur around 3am," Md Abul Kalam Azad, inspector (investigation) of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, told The Daily Star.

"The accused primarily confessed he had sexually harassed the girl," he said.

Tarek was produced before the court with a five-day remand prayer yesterday. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shahidul Islam directed police to interrogate Tarek at the jail gate for one day, within three working days.

The victim filed the case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station against one unnamed person under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on March 9.

According to the case statement, the JnU student on March 8 boarded a bus of Mirpur Link Ltd to reach her Shewrapara residence from Nilkhet intersection around 9:20pm.

When the bus reached Taltola Bus Stand in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar around 10pm, a passenger sexually harassed her.

Hearing her scream, other passengers asked the driver to stop the bus. As the vehicle stopped, the passengers tried to catch the man, but he managed to flee, the statement said.

BRIBERY CASE

Ex-ACC director Basir denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail petition by suspended director of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Khandaker Enamul Basir in a case filed over a transaction of Tk 40 lakh as bribe.

The HC also directed the lower court concerned to finish trial proceedings of the case against Enamul Basir, who was sent to Dhaka Central Jail on July 23 last year, within a year.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam delivered the order after hearing the bail petition filed by Basir.

The HC order came considering the magnitude of the offence, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

On July 16 last year, ACC Director Sheikh Md Fanaillah filed the case with ACC's Integrated District Office in Dhaka on charges of taking Tk 40 lakh as bribe from suspended deputy inspector general of police Mizanur Rahman.

Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the state while Advocate Faruk Alamgir Chowdhury appeared for Enamul Basir.

THE ART OF LIFE

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Home is where your story begins

Public awareness is a must in tackling coronavirus

Make available clear guidelines, daily awareness drives

THE response to the news of coronavirus cases being reported in Bangladesh has been one of widespread panic. According to a report by *The Daily Star*, the news has been greeted with panic-buying and hoarding of face masks, hand sanitisers and antiseptic liquids as protection against a potential spread of the virus, which has globally infected over 100,000 people and killed at least 4,028 so far. In Dhaka, a number of pharmacies and supermarkets have reported a shortage of these items, thanks to coronavirus fears leading to stockpiling. Even the demand for tissue paper, which is not known for offering special protection against the virus, has almost doubled overnight, according to some retailers. The risks associated with such a buying frenzy are well-known: it can, for one, deprive those who might need them. If left unchecked, the effects of panic-buying and hoarding of such items may eventually extend to daily essentials resulting in total chaos in the market, which is anything but desirable at this stage.

Experts have offered some explanations for the panic: that people are resorting to extremes because of the unpredictability of the disease and the mysteries surrounding it; that they are reacting to the lack of a clear direction as well as the lack of preparedness from health officials, etc. Whatever the reason, the government must find a way to address it. Public awareness and clear communication are of the essence if we want to limit the damage of this pandemic with any degree of success. There are two sides to the public engagement issue: first, people should be made aware that responsible behaviour on their part would be of enormous help. This means, no panic-buying. Families of persons coming from abroad, in particular, who may have passed the initial screening but start showing symptoms later, must report such cases to the authorities. Those trying to profit from hoarding should be strongly dealt with. Secondly, health officials and those in charge of tackling the crisis should make available clear guidelines on what to do and undertake daily awareness campaigns using electronic, print and social media.

One of the advantages of the coronavirus entering late in Bangladesh is that we can learn from global best practices. In Kerala, for example, they have formed a cell to counter the spread of misinformation. In Singapore, they have mounted a massive cleaning campaign and even reportedly employed the army to pack masks in their millions to be distributed freely to every single household in the country. These are but a few examples we can learn from. Nothing, however, will be of much use if citizens do not behave responsibly and the authorities do not undertake programmes consistent with the gravity of the situation.

Switching from 2G to 5G

Let users decide if they want to

ACCORDING to a report published on March 10, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has issued letters to listed handset importers, producers and vendors asking them to discourage the use and trade of second generation (2G) mobile phones. The rationale put forth by BTRC is that since 4G services are already being offered in the market and the government is planning to bring 5G services, vendors ought to herald the country into its digital future by deterring 2G use and popularising smartphones instead.

While we welcome the BTRC's ambition to expand digital services for the vast majority of the Bangladeshi population, we are at a loss to understand how "discouraging" 2G use through supply side management makes sense when the demand for smart phones is still very low in the country. As much as 70 percent of the population still use basic phones and have no need for more advanced functions on their phone. Why, then, should they be required to pay thrice as much for a smartphone, if all they need is to make calls? We cannot help but wonder if the BTRC, in its eagerness to propel the country into the future, has forgotten that technology must serve the needs of the people, not the other way round.

Vendors are confused as to what BTRC means by the term "discourage"; we share their confusion as well as their concern. We ask the BTRC to clarify what they mean by it, and urge them to be more prudent in their analysis of the market for smartphones and cognizant of the needs, education and purchasing power of basic phone users. If we want more people to graduate from using 2G to 4G services and decrease the digital divide, we should ensure digital literacy of the masses, create affordable and compelling products that the yet untapped population need, and improve network quality across Bangladesh so that users in remote areas, too, can access 4G services. Rather than address these concerns, simply pulling the plug on 2G handsets would disproportionately impact low-income groups.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Empower women for a better society

Once, our society expected women to be responsible for child-rearing and household chores only. Today, things have changed and women are not only contributing to the workforce but participating in politics, business, sports and other fields. This is a reflection of the gender equality that is needed for the progress of society. Additionally, women's increasing participation in local administration positions like upazila nirbahi officer, district commissioner, secretary, banker, teacher, police etc goes to show that they can compete with male peers and play a significant role in every sector successfully. An educated woman contributes to society in various ways. The provision for scholarships in schools and college is a good place to start, to pave the way for women empowerment. The government should help equip women with these rights, as they lead up to economic growth, progress and sustainable development.

Md Zillur Rahaman, Gandaria, Dhaka.



three decades of suppression of student government in the premier university of the country (as in all other institutions of higher education), the election was seen as a precursor to the revival of a tradition of the university student union as the incubator of democracy, harking back to the glorious past of student activism. How has it turned out?

Ducsu was formed in 1922, a year after the University of Dhaka (DU) was established. The aim of the elected student body was to promote extra-curricular activities at the university and foster a spirit of cooperation and unity among the students of different halls. At critical moments of our history, the university students have taken on the role of the conscience-keeper of the nation. Students in 17 halls or dormitories, each student being affiliated to a hall, cast their vote at their respective halls on March 11 last year. Student leaders had voiced their fears that the election might not be fair if the polling booths were set up inside the dormitories, which were all dominated by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the ruling Awami League-backed student organisation.

Not that the political decision-makers and university authorities looked upon the student body election with any great enthusiasm. The High Court in a ruling on January 17, 2018 had directed the authorities concerned and the government to hold the election in six months. This was in response to a writ petition filed by 25 former DU students in March 2012. The DU authorities filed an appeal to the Supreme Court, which passed an order to hold the election by March 15, 2019.

The election on March 11, 2019 had polling booths set up in the dormitory halls, instead of central locations under public and media gaze. All premonitions expressed about the lack of a fair election proved to be true. The election was marred by all kinds of irregularities, reminding one of all the malpractices heard of in parliamentary or local body elections. The poll was organised by academics at the highest seat of learning, and voters were educated and politically savvy. Yet there were complaints galore about ballot box stuffing, voters prevented from voting, rigged voter rolls and violence—recorded and reported by media—against supporters of panels other than that of the ruling-party backed BCL.



leaders to treat climate change as a truly global emergency.

The global outbreak of coronavirus is demonstrating to all of us that we live in a truly global world and no country can shut itself off from the rest of the world, no matter how hard it may try.

The coronavirus pandemic is a harbinger of more things to come due to climate change, for which we are very ill prepared. Hence, the need now is to figure out global responses that link all countries together to deal with the coming climate change crisis. There are two distinct and clear paths for us ahead, namely either trying to protect ourselves within each country (which is bound to fail) or cooperate with each other to protect everyone (which won't eliminate the problems but will limit their adverse impacts enormously).

It is in this context that the global youth movement takes on an added significance, as it is the seed of a truly global citizenry where every young individual can consider herself or himself as a global citizen first and a national citizen second.

I had an opportunity to speak to over 600 young people from all over Bangladesh at the annual Youth Conference, organised by Jaago Foundation in Cox's Bazar recently. I wanted to share here what I told them and I hope that the young people of Bangladesh will get a chance to read it.

ONE YEAR OF DUCSU REVIVAL

Incubator of democracy or lessons to subvert it?

All the major panels in the election, other than that of BCL, announced a boycott of the election before the end of the day over allegations of irregularities and vote rigging. They demanded its scrapping and a new poll, and called a student strike.

In response, Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman formed a seven-member probe body, headed by Supernumerary Professor Sajeda Banu. The committee was asked to submit its report in seven

The most egregious hostility was the assault on the VP and his peers in his office at Ducsu.

As reported in the media, Ducsu Vice President Nurul Haque Nur and 27 others were injured in an attack allegedly carried out by activists of Chhatra League and Muktijuddha Mancha on December 22, 2019. VP Nur, along with the others, was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for emergency treatment. According to eyewitnesses,

detailed from two dormitories following an attack and counterattack between two factions of the organisation on campus. A house tutor of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall in DU was assaulted when she was trying to stop two clashing groups of Chhatra League women on campus.

If a dream was nurtured that Ducsu would be revived to protect the interests of students; and that it would again play the role it had historically until 1990,



Students line up in front of Poet Sufia Kamal Hall to vote in the Ducsu elections. This photo was taken on March 11, 2019.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

days. No report has been made public and no action has been taken.

Against all odds, out of the 25 elected posts, two were won by non-BCL candidates, including the post of the Vice President (VP), the elected head of DUCSU, with the President being the *ex officio* Vice Chancellor. Nurul Haque Nur, the elected VP, is a popular non-partisan student leader who came to prominence as the organiser of the anti-quota movement (in support of scrapping quotas in the civil service that took more than half of fresh recruitment out of merit-based competition).

But facing a solid wall of opposition in his own cabinet and little support or cooperation from the university administration, the resuscitated Ducsu is hardly alive. In fact, Nur and his sympathisers faced physical assault on the day of the election and continue to be subjected to harassment and even violence since then.

the Ducsu VP office was also vandalised during the attacks. Twenty-eight students were admitted to DMCH, 14 with minor injuries.

The tragic death of Abrar Fahad, a student of BUET, on October 7, 2019, after torture by fellow students, allegedly to demonstrate their loyalty to the ruling party, has not put an end to such mayhem on campuses across the country. There are a number of cases that show this, as gleaned from new reports. For example, four students of the University of Dhaka were beaten up on campus on suspicions of being part of Shibir (student front of Jamaat-e-Islam), allegedly by BCL activists on January 21, 2020. A student of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology filed a case against 10 activists of the university unit of BCL, including its president and secretary, for allegedly physically assaulting him. Twenty activists of the Chittagong University unit of BCL were

when the last Ducsu election was held, it was rudely shattered.

If anything, the Ducsu election has served to "legalise" the ruling party student wing's control over the campus, to the detriment of promoting the academic vibrancy of the university community of students and teachers. Instead of being the incubator of future leaders, the campus has now turned into a training ground for ways to subvert the practice and culture of democracy. The irony is that the value added, even from a narrow partisan point of view, is highly debatable.

The stalwarts of the glorious days of student politics who are still around—Tofael Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haq Inu and a few others—have remained very silent about these disturbing developments. Will they speak up before it is too late?

Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at Brac University.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOUTH

The transformational force behind climate movements

My first point was, as one would expect, to paint a picture of the potential damage that human induced climate change can cause globally and for Bangladesh in particular. However, my second point, which I feel is the more important one, is that while it remains a problem for our country, it also represents a challenge, and indeed an opportunity, for our youth.

This is because we can find solutions for each of the many climate change related problems that we will face before other countries do. Hence, for

face the problems tomorrow that we are facing today.

Let me outline a plan for making this happen, starting with the thousands of postgraduate students studying in more than a hundred universities in our country. Every one of them, regardless of their subject of study, should receive some basic instructions on climate change and Bangladesh, and what can be done to tackle the problem. One such initiative is being taken to provide an online training course on the Bangladesh

to also be radically reformed to try to produce young problem solvers rather than just jobseekers. At the same time, our students also need to change their mindsets accordingly. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has correctly directed all students to aspire to become job creators and not just jobseekers.

None of the above require any additional funding, but it does require changes in the ways of working, and the re-training of university faculties across the country.

Finally, the younger students in colleges, high schools and even primary schools can also undertake actions at their own local levels to identify environmental problems, and can go on to find ways to tackle these problems that they see around them.

One of the characteristics of environmental problems is that they are clearly visible to every one of us as we move around our town or countryside, but each of us feels that either it is someone else's problem to take care of (in which case we just complain about it), or even if we try to do something individually, we know that it will be ineffective unless others join us. Hence, we need to accept that it is up to each one of us to take some responsibility to tackle any visible environmental problem, by both taking individual action and soliciting others to join our actions. We can then lobby with the relevant authorities to do their jobs, but by offering to help them, not just by complaining about their lack of action.

Over the next decade, the youth of Bangladesh have the potential to be a transformational force, not just for Bangladesh but for the world, as it tackles climate change impacts.

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



Thousands of children from different schools and colleges staged a demonstration at Manik Mia Avenue in Dhaka on September 20, 2019, urging world leaders to act against climate change.

PHOTO: STAR/ PRABIR DAS

every solution that we find in any given locality of the country, it is not just a local solution but can also be applied at the national level and indeed, even at the global level. Our young people, if they choose to, can become climate change problem solvers, and that knowledge will become a global public good which other countries will want to learn from, as they

Delta Plan for all Masters level students.

The second cohort are undergraduate students in the same universities. Many of them have already formed green clubs or environmental clubs in their institutions, and these need to be linked up with each other and become solutions oriented rather than only problem oriented. Here, the teaching in our universities has

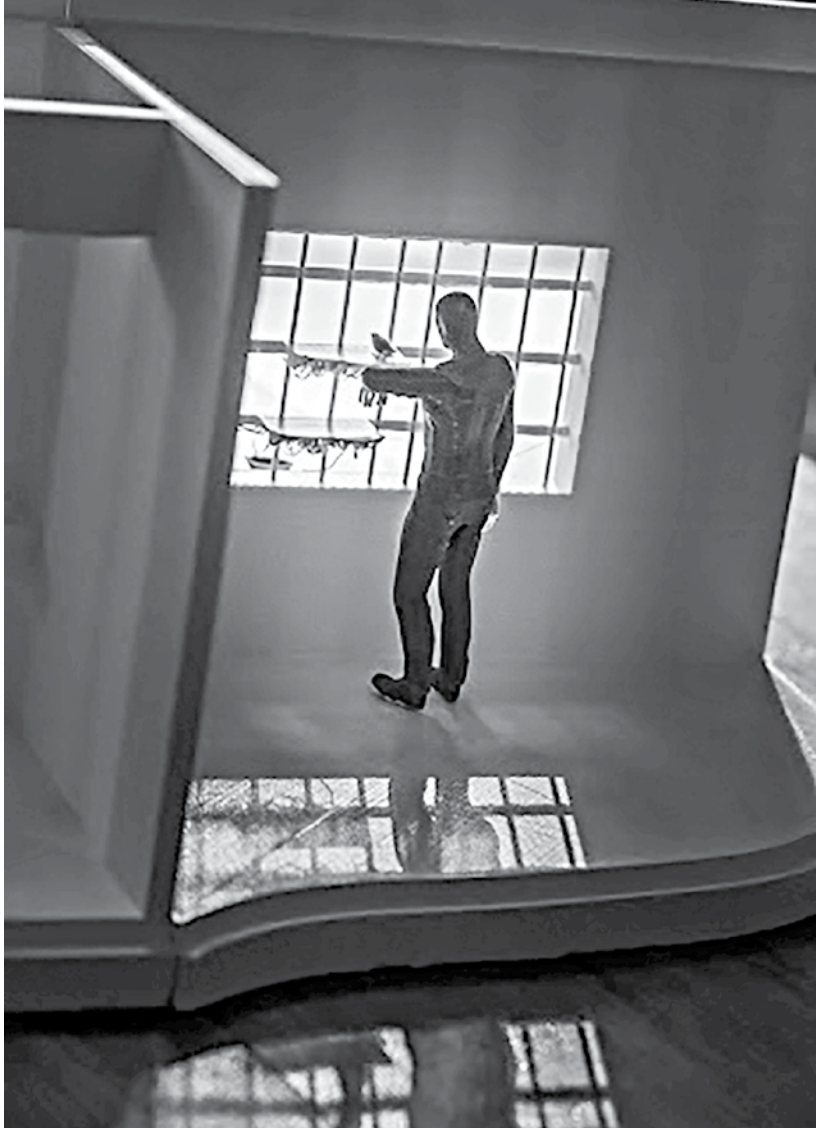
Turning the tide with images

Shahidul Alam's new book remembers Keraniganj jail and the inextricable ties between photography and politics

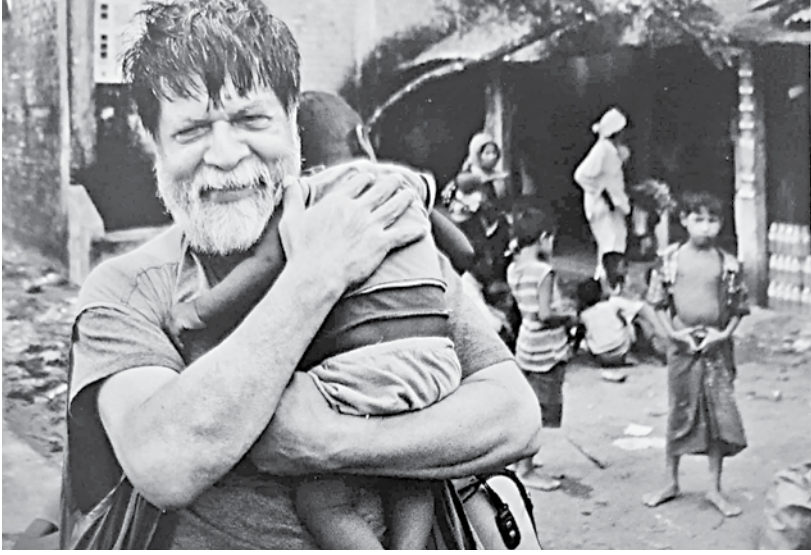
SARAH ANJUM BARI

SHAHIDUL Alam's *The Tide Will Turn* (2019) is a book of absences. In the aftermath of the road safety student movement in 2018, those of us who followed Alam's arrest and the ensuing global backlash will remember the letter he received from writer and activist Arundhati Roy. "This particular malaise, this bout of ill health that has engulfed our planet will pass," Roy insisted in her letter. The book borrows its title from Roy's indignant hope. In a brief narrative comprised of photographs and text, it touches upon the manifestations of this "malaise" across Bangladesh's past and present, and highlights how art—photography in particular—has tried to serve recurrently as an antidote.

It is a book of absences because, as Alam addresses in the first chapter, "Recording the invisible is not the photograph's strength. Absence is implied. The missing referred to in hushed tones." We know why these omissions are necessary and unavoidable—over the course of Alam's activism, evidence of the cruelty he tried to document through his lens was often wiped clean. There were no photos remaining of Chhatoktchori's Nurjahan, who took her own life to avoid the violence of patriarchy, nor was there solid proof of the abduction and disappearance of indigenous activist Kalpana Chakma in June 1996. These gaps form one kind of silence. The other relates to how



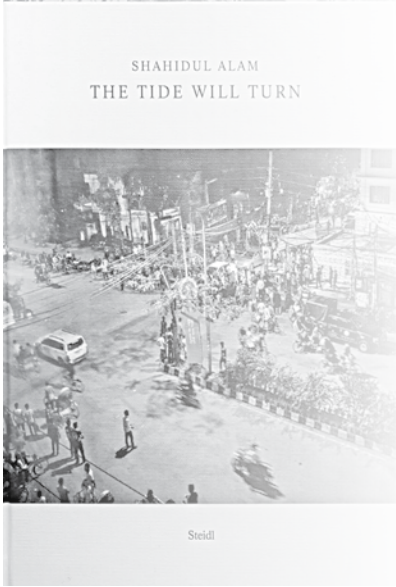
3D printed model of Alam's cell made by architect and artist Sofia Karim, based on recollections dictated by him. COURTESY: SHAHIDUL ALAM



In October 2017, Shahidul Alam travelled with a Rohingya family by boat as they came into Teknaf. PHOTO COURTESY: MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ KHAN



Rohingyas make the hazardous journey, often in moonlight, to Malaysia. PHOTO COURTESY: SHAHIDUL ALAM, OCTOBER 2014



Alam must restrain himself while talking about the circumstances of his arrest on August 4, 2018. And even as he remembers, in this book,

Alam's voice in the text rings with clarity; it is confident about both the specifics of the history he recounts as well as the flaws and triumphs he finds in them. He dwells on each incident, memory, criticism, or word of gratitude only for long enough to drive his point home.

the wardens and fellow inmates who made his stay in prison more tolerable, along with the power

structures that govern our fractured society and inspire much of Alam's activism, he must be careful not to land anyone—including himself—in too much trouble. It is in "hushed tones", therefore, that he narrates the events that sparked the student movement, his own arrest, and the time he spent in Keraniganj jail in Part I of the book. The journalist in Alam kicks in early. The "5Ws and one H" are promptly addressed: July 29, 2018. An Uttara-bound Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan bus crashes into young students, injuring 11 and killing Abdul Karim Rajib and Dia Khanam Meem instantly. A conscience-raising protest ensues. Shahidul Alam speaks out on social media, gives an interview to Al Jazeera, and finds himself behind bars. Later in the chapter, we learn of the buildings named after flowers and rivers in Keraniganj jail: *Bonoful, Shapla, Jamuna, Monihar*; the gathering of new prisoners at the

case table at 5am every day; the dust kicked up by volleyball matches in the evening. We read of bug-infested mattresses and mosquito nets with holes, and meet inmate *baro tukra* Rimon (his name changed in the book) whose "undisputed authority and well-maintained complexion were all food for [Alam's] missing lens." Part II addresses the inextricable ties between art and politics that have prevailed in Bangladesh since before independence, a link powered by the likes of Rashid Talukder, Golam Kasem Daddy, Anwar Hossain, Bijon Sarker, Manzoor Alam Beg, Sayeda Khanam, Aftab Ahmed, Amanul Haque, Nasir Ali Mamun, KM Asad, Ferdousi Priyabhashini, Taslima Akhter, and so many others who feature prominently in the book. Here we revisit iconic episodes of Bangladeshi photography, such as when the head of an intellectual

lay submerged in mud, framed by dislodged bricks (Rashid Talukder, December 17, 1971); when the back of a tiger in a zoo stretched vividly across Bijon Sarker's frame; when Nasir Ali Mamun captured artist SM Sultan crouching on the floor eating rice, facing four cats in front of his plate; when KM Asad's photograph of a Rohingya refugee made it to the cover of the National Geographic in August 2019; and when a man and woman embraced in death, half buried in the debris of the collapsed Rana Plaza garment factory (Taslima Akhter, 2013). Following these histories, Part III is a brief body of text many of us have already read before—the letters Alam exchanged with Roy during jail time and which inspire the underlying message of the book: that the "nameless, faceless people will rise". One mustn't confuse a hushed tone with a weak one. Alam's voice

in the text rings with clarity; it is confident about both the specifics of the history he recounts as well as the flaws and triumphs he finds in them. He dwells on each incident, memory, criticism, or word of gratitude only for long enough to drive his point home. If some parts risk feeling staccato—the pacing too fast, the details too brief (if only because we want to know so much more of what he has witnessed)—they are compensated by the overall sweep of his lucid and quiet passion, the hint of a smile by turns compassionate and sardonic, that one remembers from hearing him speak in person. And being, above all, an artist of visuals, Alam deals with some inevitable absences with earnestness and creativity. In lieu of pictures from inside Keraniganj jail, we are presented with the note issued when inmates have visitors. A letter in a prisoner's scrawl reveals words commonly used to describe their conditions. Architect and artist Sofia Karim conjures a 3D-printed model of Alam leaning against a window in the jail and later facing the case table during his trial. And, drawn from memory, a sketch by artist Najmun Keya recalls a scene from when Alam was visited by family—"The sound in the meeting room can reach up to 110 decibels," he shares in the caption—while another produced by a prisoner pictorialises the sparrows Alam would host at the window of his cell. In the stories that accompany these images, Alam flits between personal anecdotes and national history, etching tender, relatable portraits of the latter. As a general reader, I felt that the characters and episodes described by the author seemed to demand more screen time earlier on in the book, particularly in the chapter recalling Keraniganj jail. But as I kept reading further, revisiting the liberation, the extortion of Bangladeshi migrants and hill tracts residents, and victims of atrocities such as the Rana Plaza collapse, I felt the author's voice grow stronger, sharper, incrementally more invested and fearless, and climaxing, ultimately, on a note of fierce hope. On the last page, Alam iterates, "The case still hangs over my head and the threat of bail being withdrawn is the threat they hope will silence my tongue, my pen and my camera. But the ink in our pens still runs. The keyboards still clatter. At 1/125 of a second, the shutter still clicks."

Sarah Anjum Bari is In-Charge of Daily Star Books. Follow [dailystarbooks](#) on Facebook and [@thedailystarbooks](#) on Instagram. Email: sarah.anjum@thedailystar.net

Have you said these sexist things at work?

SHAMMI QUIDDUS

EVERYONE deserves an inclusive and respectful environment at work. However, women face many challenges in this respect. One such barrier is the daily grind of sexist and misogynist comments, which are a manifestation of the underlying belief that men are superior to women. Dropped casually at the end of a presentation or as crude jokes between male colleagues, such comments belittle women's work, talent, and dignity.

Our default expectation is that the victim is the one who has to fight back, and we often shame them for not doing so. This is the very opposite of what allies should be doing. Instead, they need to take up the fight.

So what is being said in workplaces that is so problematic? I asked both men and women that question and the responses came hard and fast. Women responded with comments that were targeted at them and men responded with what they overhear in all-male settings. This is a simple call to action if you want to be an ally to women: don't say these things and if someone else does, ask them to stop.

Sexual objectification
"Everything my female colleague

says, my male colleague repeats it in a weird moan to indicate girls are sex slaves to us."
"If I wasn't married, I would have taken her to a corner and shown her who is the boss."
Popular media in the subcontinent represents men as having sexual authority over women; they can demand sex, take it without consent and use sexual violence to intimidate women. In the office, the use of sexual insults is a manifestation of men's expectations to have power over female coworkers.

Maternity leave
"Don't hire newly married women, they will immediately get pregnant and you will have to pay for them while they are gone."
"I would rather get a male employee since they won't go into labour."
If only these statements were confined to words; but women are routinely discriminated against for taking maternity leave or due to expectation that they might. Unfortunately, the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006, which guarantees 12 weeks of paid maternity leave, does not include white collar workers. There is no legal protection for women who face retaliation for maternity leave. What stands between them and losing their job and/or promotion is your standing up against such blatant discrimination that is illegal in most countries.

Husband, husband, husband
"Your husband is such a big shot! Why do you still run after money?"

"When I started my business, some said I couldn't even manage my husband (as I am divorced), how can I manage a business?"
"You work so late? Your husband is very generous."
It is difficult for some people to grasp that women are independent adults who make their own decisions and work for the same reasons as men do: to provide for a family, financial freedom, ambition and intellectual fulfilment. Here's a helpful shortcut before making that husband comment. Would you say the same to a man? If not, zip it please!

Competence
"She must've slept with the boss to get the promotion that I deserved."
"You want to hire a woman for the engineering department? She isn't capable of technical work."
"Men don't want to be mentored by women."
Our culture paints men as being more capable than women. So when faced with an accomplished woman, many feel threatened at a subconscious level and look for other reasons to attribute her success to ("she is a slut"), or they simply deny her capabilities. By not being hired for technical or leadership positions, women's career progression stagnates. So when a woman is being passed over for a professional opportunity, triple check that the reasons are based on qualification rather than insecurities and biases.

Body shaming
"You are such a pretty girl, there's nothing wrong with you other

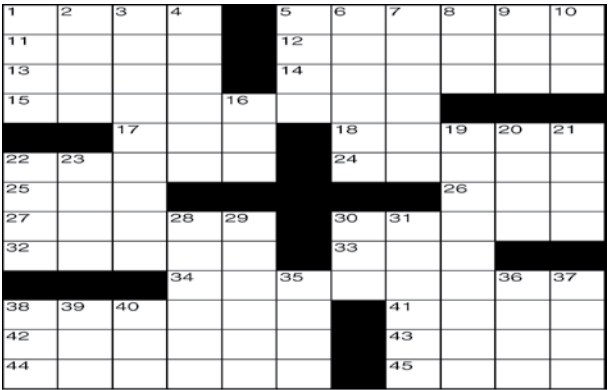
than a few extra kilos, which you can lose easily if you become active."
"Man takes me aside after the workshop and says, "You can't be here without a scarf!"
The need to comment on women's bodies stems from the belief that men have a right to it. Layered on top of that is the expectation that a woman's appearance needs to please everyone around her ("smile more, talk in a soft tone"). In the streets, these manifest as catcalls and groping. In cubicles and open desks, they manifest as body shaming and suggestive compliments.

Responsibility
"I can't believe someone said that to you! Why didn't you say something?"
It's a lot to expect when we ask women to overcome the shock of an insult in real time and challenge someone who can impact their livelihood. Yet, our default expectation is that the victim is the one who has to fight back, and we often shame them for not doing so. This is the very opposite of what allies should be doing. Instead, they need to take up the fight. When sexist comments are made, speak up immediately or send an email afterwards to ensure the person who commented realises that their behaviour was wrong. If the behaviour continues, report to HR and senior leadership. Changing deep seated cultural norms is a lot of work but the change starts with each one of us.

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Shammi Quiddus is a Product Manager at Google.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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| ACROSS | | |
| 1 Canyon sound | flavoring | 9 2016 Olympics |
| 5 Spuds | 38 "The Grass Harp" | host |
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| 12 Pilot Earhart | 41 Storybook | 16 "Gnarly!" |
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| 33 Yale rooter | 6 Reparations | 38 Upper limit |
| 34 Frangelico | 7 Service for a social | 39 Hoopla |
| | 8 High trains | 40 Cook's need |



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

F	A	M	E		Q	U	A	H	O	G
O	V	A	L		U	N	R	U	L	Y
C	O	R	K		E	S	T	E	E	M
I	N	C			Y	E	N	S		
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London Patient ‘cured of HIV’

AFP, Paris

A second patient has been cured of HIV after undergoing stem cell transplant treatment, doctors said yesterday, after finding no trace of infection 30 months after he stopped traditional treatment.

The so-called “London Patient”, a cancer sufferer originally from Venezuela, made headlines last year when researchers at the University of Cambridge reported they had found no trace of the AIDS-causing virus in his blood for 18 months.

Ravindra Gupta, lead author of the study published in The Lancet HIV, said the new test results were “even more remarkable” and likely demonstrated the patient was cured.

“We’ve tested a sizeable set of sites that HIV likes to hide in and they are all pretty much negative for an active virus,” Gupta told AFP.

The patient, who revealed his identity this week as Adam Castillejo, 40, was diagnosed with HIV in 2003 and had been on medication to keep the disease in check since 2012.

Later that year, he was diagnosed with advanced Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, a deadly cancer. In 2016 he underwent a bone marrow transplant to treat blood cancer, receiving stem cells from donors with a genetic mutation present in less than one percent of Europeans that prevents HIV from taking hold.

He becomes only the second person to be cured of HIV after Timothy Brown, known as the “Berlin Patient”, recovered from HIV in 2011 following similar treatment.

Researchers cautioned that the breakthrough did not constitute a generalised cure for HIV, which leads to nearly one million deaths every year.

Castillejo’s treatment was a “last resort” as his blood cancer would likely have killed him without intervention, according to Gupta.



Facemasks and alcohol hand gel are distributed for free amid concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus at a train station in Bangkok, yesterday. Thailand’s tourism sector is facing a big crisis as the new coronavirus outbreak keeps tourists at bay from its world famous attractions.

PHOTO: AFP

Gates, charities pledge \$125m to fight virus

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and two other large charities yesterday pledged up to \$125 million to help speed the development of treatments for the fast-spreading coronavirus, which the World Health Organization said on Monday was nearing pandemic proportions. The effort, known as the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, will focus on new and repurposed drugs that can be used right away to treat patients infected with the novel coronavirus and possibly other viruses in the future. The money is intended to ensure that treatments for the virus will be available in poor countries and affordable for individuals. The Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust medical charity are each contributing up to \$50 million, and the Mastercard Impact Fund has committed up to \$25 million for initial projects.

US military plans portable mini nuclear power plants

The US military said Monday they are planning to deploy a miniature nuclear generator that can be carried in a freight truck and could power a remote base indefinitely. The US Defense Department awarded three contracts for the engineering design of the mobile reactors, targeting a one to five megawatt capacity. The project, dubbed Pele, “involves the development of a safe, mobile and advanced nuclear microreactor to support a variety of Department of Defense missions such as generating power for remote operating bases,” the Pentagon said in a statement. Within two years, one of the three companies will be chosen to produce a prototype.

Putin lays out path to stay in power after 2024



Russian President Vladimir Putin laid out a path yesterday to staying in power after 2024, as lawmakers approved sweeping reforms to the constitution. In a surprise address to the lower house State Duma, Putin said there could be a presidential “reset” allowing him to run after his current term expires. Putin appeared before the Duma after lawmakers proposed a series of amendments to a package of constitutional reforms he announced in January. Among them was an amendment annulling previous presidential terms -- effectively allowing Putin to run again after his current six-year term ends in 2024. He said Russia needed evolutionary change, “because we have had enough of revolutions” while suggesting that Russia may not yet be ready for a new leader.

SOURCE: AFP

PEACE PROCESS IN AFGHANISTAN

US begins military pullout

Taliban ready for prisoner swap amid political chaos in Kabul

AGENCIES

American forces have started pulling out of two bases in Afghanistan, a US official said yesterday, amid report that President Ashraf Ghani was about to issue a decree for at least 1,000 Taliban prisoners to be released this week, paving the way for opening direct talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban insurgents.

The United States is keen to end its longest-ever conflict, and under the terms of a deal signed in Doha last month has said all foreign forces will quit Afghanistan within 14 months -- provided the Taliban stick to their security commitments.

Under the accord, the US is initially supposed to cut its troop presence from about 12,000 currently to 8,600 by mid-July, and close five of its roughly 20 bases across the country.

Troops have started leaving one base in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province in the south, and another base in Herat in the west, a US official told AFP on the



condition of anonymity.

Even with the drawdown, US forces retain “all the military means and authorities to accomplish our objectives”, Colonel Sonny Leggett, spokesman for US Forces-Afghanistan, said Monday.

Under the terms of the withdrawal deal, the Taliban are supposed to tackle jihadists such as the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda, as well as hold talks with the Afghan government that were

due to start yesterday.

But Kabul is in disarray and appears unable to present a unified front to negotiate with the Taliban. On Monday, President Ashraf Ghani and former chief executive Abdullah Abdullah both held swearing-in ceremonies.

However, the Taliban yesterday sent vehicles to collect fighters expected to be released by the Afghan government.

A government source said any release was unlikely in the coming days and could be weeks away. It was also not known how many prisoners would be released initially, but three sources told Reuters on Monday that it could be between 1,000 and 1,800.

Congress rule in MP on verge of collapse

21 MLAs resign amid cries of foul play

NDTV ONLINE

21 Congress MLAs in Indian state of Madhya Pradesh have quit the Congress-led government, plunging the state into a crisis.

Congress only leads 6 of the Indian 31 states and territory and if the resignations are accepted, the 15-month-old Kamal Nath government will be reduced to a minority and likely be toppled.

The state government has been struggling with a wafer-thin majority of just four MLAs - the majority mark was 116 in the 230-member assembly.

Former union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who has been upset with the party over what was being seen as his diminished roles in party affairs, went incommunicado last night. He surfaced this morning in Delhi with BJP chief Amit Shah for a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Within minutes, Scindia tweeted a letter he had written to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, mentioning that he needs to move on.

Minutes later the Congress hit back by expelling the 49-year-old four-time parliamentarian from the party. Scindia is expected to join the BJP and is likely to be rewarded with a Rajya Sabha seat and subsequently a berth in the union cabinet.

BJP MLAs in Madhya Pradesh will meet at a hotel in Bhopal this evening to stake claim to the government. Veteran Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh CM Digvijaya Singh, who led a “rescue” operation last week after 10 MLAs were allegedly held hostage by the BJP at a resort near Delhi, hit out yesterday at a “conspiracy” to unseat the government. Singh, who had alleged MLAs had been offered Rs 35 crore.

NEWSIN brief

Turkey eyes migrant deal by march 26

AFP, Ankara

Turkey hopes to reach a new agreement with Europe to deal with refugees in time for the next EU leaders’ summit, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said yesterday. “If we reach an agreement by March 26 when there will be an EU leaders’ summit, this issue will come on to the agenda of this meeting,” Cavusoglu said a day after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held talks on the migrant issue in Brussels.

Seven Sisters ban foreigners

NDTV ONLINE

The Indian state of Manipur has closed all border entry points with Myanmar to prevent the spread of the highly contagious Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19. Entry of foreigners from these border checkpoints is banned. Mizoram has also said the border with Myanmar and Bangladesh will be sealed and entry of foreigners will be banned. The Arunachal Pradesh government has temporarily stopped issuing Protected Area Permits (PAPs) to foreigners.

UN headquarters closed to tourists

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations yesterday closed its New York headquarters to the general public to help prevent the spread of the new coronavirus. Normally, some 5,000 tourists visit the building each week. The move comes one week after a similar measure was taken at the main UN building in Geneva.

‘Past can’t be erased’

Dutch king apologises for violence during Indonesian independence war

AFP, Jakarta

Dutch King Willem-Alexander yesterday apologised to Indonesia for “excessive violence” during the former colony’s independence struggle in the 1940s.

The king made the remarks during a state visit to the country with Queen Maxima after a ceremony with Indonesian President Joko Widodo in the capital Jakarta.

Indonesia declared its independence on August 17, 1945 following a brief wartime occupation by the Japanese and several hundred years as a Dutch colony.

“The past cannot be erased, and will have to be acknowledged by each generation in turn,” the king said in a joint statement.

In the years after the independence proclamation “a painful separation followed that cost many lives... I would

like to express my regret and apologise for excessive violence on the part of the Dutch in those years,” he added.

“I do so in the full realisation that the pain and sorrow of the families affected continue to be felt today.”

In 2013, the Dutch government publicly apologised to Indonesia for mass killings

by its army in the 1940s war of independence, in the first general apology for all executions.

But the apology Tuesday was a first by a Dutch monarch, according to two sources, including a senior Indonesian government

official.

Previously, the Dutch government announced compensation to the widows of those who died in mass killings.

But not all have received funds, according to the Committee for Dutch Honour Debts.



Tibetans shout slogans during a protest held to mark the 61st anniversary of the Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule, outside the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Don’t block my path to throne

Saudi crown prince sends strong message to critics with crackdown

REUTERS, Dubai

Saudi Arabia’s crown prince meant to send a strong message to critics within the royal family by detaining senior princes this weekend: Don’t you dare oppose my succession to the throne.

The main target in the crackdown, sources said, is King Salman’s brother, Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, one of only three members of the Allegiance Council, the royal body that endorses the line of succession, to oppose Mohammed bin Salman becoming crown prince in 2017 in a palace coup.

Four sources with royal connections said the move aimed to ensure compliance within the ruling Al Saud family, in which there have been rumblings of discontent, ahead of an eventual succession upon the king’s death or abdication.

One of the sources described the detentions as a preemptive effort to ensure Prince Mohammed’s “ascent will be rubber stamped by the Allegiance Council when the time comes”.

Ahmed, 78, was detained on Friday along with Mohammed bin Nayef, who was crown prince until he was ousted in 2017 and replaced by Mohammed bin Salman. Ahmed’s son Nayef and Mohammed’s brother Nawaf were also detained, said two other sources with royal

connections.

The princes have been held at royal villas in the capital Riyadh and some were allowed to contact their families, those sources said.

Crown Prince Mohammed, who has moved ruthlessly to tighten his grip on power, feared disaffected princes might rally around Ahmed and Mohammed bin Nayef as potential alternatives to take the throne, said two of the sources with royal connections, and a senior foreign diplomat.

“This is a preparation for transferring power,” said one of those sources. “It is a clear message to the family that no one can say ‘No’ or dare challenge him.”

If Mohammed bin Salman, 34, succeeds his father, it will be Saudi Arabia’s first generational transfer of power since the death of state founder Abdulaziz Ibn Saud in 1953, who was followed by six of his sons in succession.

The Allegiance Council, made up of one member from each house of 34 sons of Abdulaziz, is designed to ensure that the hundreds of princes that make up the royal family’s next generation unite behind the new king.

Saudi insiders and Western diplomats say the family is unlikely to oppose the crown prince while the king is alive, and the monarch would not turn against his favourite son, to whom he has delegated most responsibilities of rule.



2020 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARIES

Biden eyes extending lead as voting begins in 6 states

AFP, Detroit

Voters in Michigan and five other states headed to polls early Tuesday in the latest slate of primaries that will decide whether Joe Biden or Bernie Sanders will face President Donald Trump in November.

Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota and Washington state also vote Tuesday.

But Michigan, with its large delegate haul and its status as a swing state, is the day’s top prize.

Biden has so far got 670 delegates and Sanders has 574.

To secure the nomination, a candidate needs the support of 1,991 pledged delegates. If no candidate has reached this number by the party’s national convention in Milwaukee in July, it is known as a contested or brokered convention. The nominee is then chosen in a more complex voting system that also involves unpledged delegates – known as ‘superdelegates’ –

who can vote their conscience.

Sanders needs a strong showing in Michigan to remain viable as a candidate, and he and Biden have barnstormed the state in recent days in bids to broaden support and turn out the vote.

The two veteran politicians -- one a centrist, the other a leftist -- are locked in a duel for the Democratic nomination as all other major contenders have fallen by the wayside, many of them endorsing the surging former vice president Biden.

Sanders, who performed well in the three early voting states, is suddenly the underdog after Biden scored a decisive victory in South Carolina and then won in 10 of 14 states last week, on Super Tuesday.

Michigan had voted Democratic in the six previous presidential elections but Trump snatched it in 2016 by wooing disaffected workers, particularly in manufacturing industries like automaking.



WHAT'S ON



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Us Women 2020
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: March 8 – 19
Time: 9:30 am – 7:30 pm



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



Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Joy Bangabandhu
Artist: Nasir Ali Mamun
Date: March 6 – March 24 (Closed on March 13 and 14)
Time: 3 pm to 9 pm (Mon – Thurs); 9 am to 12 noon and 5 pm to 8 pm (Fri-Sat)



Cartoon Exhibition
Title: Shojonghati Rekha
Venue: Kala Kendra
Date: February 21 – March 17
Time: 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Ora Egoro Jon
Organiser: Bangladesh Art Week
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, Banani.
Date: March 7 - 14
Time: 12 noon - 8 pm

‘Muktijoddha O Naisargik Bangladesh’ concludes today



PHOTOS: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

PRİYANKA CHOWDHURY

Artist Akhtar Mahmud Kajal, the son of a government employee, was a school student when he witnessed the Liberation War of Bangladesh and its aftermath.

He also had opportunities to travel and see the picturesque landscapes of the country. For over 40 years, he has been capturing the colours of nature and human living conditions of Bangladesh in artistic expressions on his canvas. 102 of his artworks are currently on display at his solo oil painting exhibition, *Muktijoddha O Naisargik Bangladesh* (Liberation War and Scenic Beauty of Bangladesh), at the National Art Plaza of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The beauty of Bangladesh is brilliantly displayed on his colourful paintings through mountains, rivers, birds and flowers, among other motifs. Dhaka locked in rain or an evening view of the Burigonga, all come to play in his expressions. Art is therapeutic for him.

Kajal sees his mother as his greatest source of inspiration. As a self-taught artist, he often felt the need to learn more. “I asked my aunt to send me video

cassettes of oil painting from the US,” the artist recalls. “She sent them to me and that’s when my journey with oil paintings took off. I have not used any other medium ever since.”

Majority of his artworks have been sold at different countries across the globe. A friend of the artist encouraged him to host a solo exhibition for public viewing. He planned and produced 102 oil paintings over the last four years. The exhibition concludes today at 8 pm.

National Rabindra Sangeet Assembly concludes in Sirajganj

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPUL, from Pabna

A three-day festival, marking the 39th National Assembly for Rabindra Sangeet, concluded in Sirajganj recently, with discussions, cultural programmes and a rally. Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Shammilon Parishad (JRSSP) organised the event at the Sirajganj Government College.

Language veteran and freedom fighter Kamal Lohani inaugurated the assembly. A colourful procession comprised of artists and cultural activists was brought out from Sirajganj Government College.

A discussion meeting was held at Mukti Sopan, Central Shaheed Minar of

the district. Executive President of JRSSP Dr Atiur Rahman chaired the concluding discussion while Secretary of JRSSP Bulbul Hossain, President of Sirajganj District Unit Jannat Ara Talukder Henry, Convener of the assembly organising committee T M Sohel, spoke at the event.

The speakers emphasised on the importance of learning the values of Rabindranath Tagore for building a secular society. Tagore was vocal against fundamentalism and societal injustices.

Artists from across the country performed Rabindra Sangeet, and entertained the audience with their musical performances, recitals and dances. A total of 84 units of the JRSSP in 64 districts joined the assembly this year.

Discussions and cultural programmes were arranged at the Sirajganj Government College field, Sheikh Kamal auditorium, Shahid M Monsur Ali auditorium and Shahzadpur Rabindra Kacharibari.

“To spread the messages of Tagore among people across the country, JRSSP organises the national assembly. For the first time, Sirajganj had the opportunity to host this event,” said Jannat Ara Talukder Henry.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD

Gias Uddin Selim’s ‘Paap Punno’ to hit theatres in October

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Paap Punno, starring prominent actors Chanchal Chowdhury, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Afsana Mimi, Farzana Chumki and Siam Ahmed among others, is set to release this October. The film, produced by Impress Telefilm and directed by Gias Uddin Selim, is based

on the lives of people who live in the rural areas of Bangladesh. The cast and crew recently wrapped up the dubbing and shooting of the film.

The director also mentioned that he will present something new to the audience, especially through the characters of Chanchal Chowdhury and Afsana Mimi in the film.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER DUO WIN ‘SINGER FAMILY AND FUN SHOW’



PHOTO: COURTESY

Farsia Kawsar Chowdhury and Ferdousi Aktar, the mother-daughter duo from Dhaka, became the champions of ‘Singer Family and Fun Show’. The champion family received a Singer No-Frost Refrigerator, Singer Smart TV and Singer Full-Automatic Washing Machine. Anowarul Islam and Sahanara Jiyasmin, a couple from Rajshahi secured the second position, while A K M Hosainujjaman and Tanjila Sultana, a couple family from Dhaka, secured the third position.



PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

Take Back the Streets: Celebrating women empowerment through art

TIASHA IDRAK

The Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of University of Dhaka (DU) was filled with vibrant scenes on International Women’s Day. The premises witnessed a novel celebration, as artists gathered together to create wall art. Titled *Graffiti: Take Back the Streets*, the event was organised by Cartoon People, in collaboration with Plan International Bangladesh and DU. Young artists projected their visions for an equal world through graffiti.

As the sun peeked through the grey clouds, prominent and promising artists worked together to create artworks on custom-made walls to celebrate the day. The works portrayed women of various backgrounds, ages and professions. Yet, they all had one feature in common: women empowerment and leadership.

“We have created these artworks to encourage women from all backgrounds to take back what is rightfully theirs,” said Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy, cartoonist and founder of Cartoon People. The main objective of this event was to uphold the demand of young people for the leadership of girls and young women to establish a world of equality, where everybody will enjoy equal rights.



One of the art pieces featured women of different professions coming together and forming an explosion that looked like a fist aiming towards the sky, as if to say, the sky’s the limit. Another striking piece was a tranquil portrait of a garment worker with her sewing machine. While the graffiti was done with traditional paint, the wings that grew from her back and the crown atop her head was sprayed with ink. “We wanted to portray the extraordinary facets of ordinary people. This woman comes from a humble background, but she is a leader and a queen, in her own right,”

said Mong Shonie, one of the artists of the piece. “We deliberately used spray paint on this piece to show that it is possible to combine two mediums. People often relate spray-paints with vandalism. In this piece, it enhances the beauty.” Other works featured female photographers, Begum Rokeya, young girls pursuing their dreams and so on.

“We wanted to do a campaign stunt, like a flash mob in a public sphere. A form of activism, where people can both observe and participate,” said Kashfia Feroz, Head of Influencing, Plan International Bangladesh. She added that the art installations will be sent to different universities of the country, one being placed at TSC. “We hope that the youth will be inspired by this movement,” she added.

Even though the sudden gust of wind and drizzle disrupted the event momentarily, it did not dampen the spirit of the artists. As the sun came back again, the brushes resumed to paint until the artworks were complete. “Painting is actually a therapeutic experience and we really enjoyed working with all these artists,” said Samira Hossain, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). She, along with many others, volunteered to participate in the event.

UN warns of virus impact on swelling youth unemployment

AFP, Geneva

Measures to tackle the deadly coronavirus could take a particularly harsh toll on young people's access to work, at a time when youth unemployment is already rising, the UN warned Monday.

The United Nations labour agency cautioned that young people risked being disproportionately affected by a looming global economic slowdown brought on by efforts to rein in COVID-19.

The outbreak, which has already infected 110,000 people and claimed more than 3,800 lives worldwide, has sent stock markets crashing and sparked a flurry of warnings that economies and businesses are heading for a slump.

"Young people tend to be more affected by these crises than other age groups, so that is why we very much worry about impact of the COVID-19," Sangheon Lee, head of the International Labour Organization's employment policy department, told reporters in Geneva.

He pointed out that young people tend to hold more temporary, flexible and unstable jobs, often in the services sector, which has been hard-hit by a steep drop in consumer demand as people shun public places.

Joy Bangla

FROM PAGE 16

Delivering the verdict on a writ petition filed in 2017, the HC ordered the authorities concerned to submit a report on the progress of complying with the directives to this court through the Supreme Court's registrar general office within three months.

It said "Joy Bangla" is the slogan of independence and national unity.

"Joy Bangla was the favourite slogan of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," the HC said, adding that Bangabandhu had uttered "Joy Bangla" in his fiery March 7 speech in 1971 which has been included in the constitution.

In the judgment, the court mentioned that the cabinet and the law secretaries in their affidavits have supported the rule over declaring "Joy Bangla" as the national slogan.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader delivered the verdict after SC lawyer Bashir Ahmed filed a writ petition seeking necessary order in this regard.

Following the petition, another HC bench on December 4, 2017, issued the rule asking the government to explain as to why "Joy Bangla" should not be declared the national slogan.

In the petition, the lawyer mentioned that "Joy Bangla" was the slogan of freedom fighters and people of Bangladesh during the Liberation War.

"Joy Bangla was the slogan of our independence and the national unity, and therefore, it should remain as the national slogan -- a symbol of national spirit and patriotism," he said in the petition.

During the hearing of the rule, the HC bench led by Justice Nazmul earlier ruled that "Joy Bangla" slogan must be used at the beginning and end of all state programmes, including those of Victory Day and Independence Day.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashir supported the petition and told the court that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had finished his historic March 7 speech with "Joy Bangla", which is now a part of the constitution.

Bashir represented himself at the hearing.

PM's visit

FROM PAGE 16

was postponed following the detection of three coronavirus cases in the country.

The foreign minister also said two programmes, including a special parliament session, scheduled to be attended by foreign dignitaries later this month, were deferred, reports BSS.

The parliament session was scheduled to be held on March 22-23 and the other programme on March 27.

Momen said Dhaka conveyed the foreign dignitaries, who were scheduled to join the opening of the Mujib Year celebrations, about the revised plan for the inauguration.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sent letters to the heads of state and government informing them about the rearrangement plan of Mujib Year celebrations."

In her letter, the PM said Bangladesh would like to hold the mega event of the yearlong celebration of Mujib Year later on, so the foreign dignitaries could take their decisions about their scheduled visits, he added.

The minister said they were discouraging other foreign guests to visit Bangladesh now. He, however, expected that the invited foreign dignitaries would join the celebrations any time during the Mujib Year (from March 2020 to March 2021).

Momen said the festivity of the grand opening of the Mujib Year on March 17 was scaled down as per the PM's directives.



This picture taken on March 9, 2020 and released from North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday shows a test of weapons at an undisclosed location in North Korea. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has overseen another "long-range artillery" drill, state media reported yesterday, a day after Japan said the nuclear-armed country had fired what appeared to be ballistic missiles.

PHOTO: AFP

'A Day Without Us'

FROM PAGE 16

university lectures.

Elsewhere, women who had chosen to work wore a purple ribbon or garment, in solidarity with the nationwide campaign against gender violence

In Mexico City center, a woman cleaned the glass windows of a cafe bearing the sign in support of the strike that read: "We stand with those who make us giants."

The country's biggest daily newspapers featured purple-colored pages. Spaces normally allotted to pieces by women columnists were empty or filled with the phrase: "A day without them."

The morning radio and television news broadcasts featured only male presenters.

Only a third of Mexican bank Banamex locations opened for business, while less than half of all BBVA bank branches were functioning, the El Universal daily reported.

Nurses and other health workers turned up for work as usual at hospitals, but taco sellers working from street kiosks and subway cleaning staff were conspicuous by their absence.

"In some metro stations, men are working and replacing female employees," Jesus Aguilar, head of the city's Zocalo metro station told AFP.

On Eje Central Avenue in the city center, most businesses run by

women remained closed.

Women's movements in Mexico have gradually become more vocal in their demands for immediate action to reduce the number of femicides, which grew by 136 percent between 2015 and 2019.

Two brutal murders last month, including that of a seven-year-old girl, highlighted the issue ahead of an International Women's Day march on Sunday attended by 80,000.

When a "no-women day" was first announced, businesses and government agencies were quick to report that women employees who took part in the protest would be paid normally.

"Our system is so patriarchal that when women decide to stop (work), men feel compelled to give us their permission," said Yindira Sandoval, leader of a Mexican feminist association.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador dismissed the women's protests as "conservatism disguised as feminism" and accused his political opponents of trying to destabilize his government by using feminist organizations.

Apart from an end to violence against women, feminist groups are also campaigning for progress in reducing the gender wage gap and an end to workplace harassment.

Other women's protests were also held throughout Latin America.

Some 3,000 women taking part in a feminist strike demonstrated in

Chile's capital Santiago, where there were some clashes with police, who responded using water cannon and tear gas.

In Bolivia, 2,000 women marched the 12 kilometers from El Alto to La Paz demanding justice for victims of femicide and the legalization of abortion.

And hundreds of women marched in the Honduras capital Tegucigalpa to demand an end to femicide.

UN ADOPTS DECLARATION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The United Nations on Monday adopted a stripped-down political declaration on women's rights that seeks to preserve gains under threat but does not advocate new ways to ensure progress toward equality.

The declaration was adopted during the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which has been drastically reduced from a two-week affair to a single hours-long meeting because of the global coronavirus outbreak. Twelve thousand participants were originally set to take part.

The adopted text follows the main lines of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995, which sought to promote women's emancipation and advancement around the world. France plans to host a follow-up conference in July to be titled "Beijing+25" aimed at helping protect and ensure the gains women have made over the past quarter-century.

Lax customs' watch for 9 yrs

FROM PAGE 16

turned into a safe haven for smugglers. This passage was being used to bring illicit drugs and other illegal goods in the country.

In order to prevent smuggling, customs must purchase new ships and increase its manpower and other equipment, he added.

Both the divisions -- F Division and Rummage Division -- of the CHC remained almost dysfunctional due to this crisis, said sources.

F Division approves permission of arrival and departure for vessels into the Bangladesh maritime territory after checking the goods the ships carry whereas Rummage Division conducts anti-smuggling activities in 52 nautical miles of Kutubdia to Mirsharai coastal area.

As per the rules, the CHC officials

must visit the vessels, seize illegal goods if found, and issue clearance to the vessels that dock at the anchorage.

Contacted, Fakhru Alam, commissioner of the CHC, said there were irregularities in the system for years.

About a report of The Daily Star on how the two patrol boats of the CHC never became functional after repeated attempts for repair, he said, "Do you think it is possible for me to investigate former commissioners who are now my bosses? Is there no chance of me being biased if I conduct a probe?"

"Either some committee, not related to customs, should conduct probe into whatever happened here or NBR [National Board of Revenue] should conduct a probe."

Asked, Aminul Islam, deputy

commissioner of the CHC, said they visit vessels at the outer anchorage by rented boats when they receive information about smuggling.

Khondaker Muhammad Aminur Rahman, member (customs audit, modernisation and international trade) of NBR, said as the anti-smuggling activities of customs came to a halt smugglers now consider the outer anchorage a safer passage than the port gate.

"Smuggling could not be prevented with limited vehicles and manpower, the customs should keep monitoring the outer anchorage for the sake of this country's safety," he added.

At least 10 speed boats and five patrol boats should immediately be bought for the customs to equip it with proper force, he added.

Mujib's appeal

FROM PAGE 16

Four lakh Bengalees now in Pakistan are passing their days in great agony as they are subjected to various harassment and oppression. The Bengalees living in Pakistan include mostly people from the low-income group, army personnel, government officials, employees serving in private commercial firms, shopkeepers and mill workers. It is reported that Bengalees, who are in government service, are being removed from their jobs and separated from their families and kept in concentration camps.

Pakistani Newspaper Dawn reports that the Pakistan government is finalising plans to expedite the repatriation of Bengalees in Pakistan to Bangladesh.

CREDIT FACILITIES TO INDUSTRIES Bangladesh government has decided to offer credit facilities to various industries taken over by the government through commercial banks. The credits will be of the value of stocks of finished good. Industries Minister Syed Nazrul Islam informs that the decision for extending credit facilities has been taken with a view to facilitating imports of industrial raw materials, chemicals and spare parts. This measure would meet the urgent financial requirements of the different industries, he opines.

It is reported that out of 417 abandoned industrial units so far taken over by the government, 200 have resumed production. The remaining 217 could not resume production mainly due to shortage of raw materials, spare parts and working capital.

RECOGNITION BY GREECE

Greece today recognises Bangladesh. Greek Prime Minister Georgios Papadopoulos has sent a cable to his Bangladesh counterpart Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman informing him of the decision.

PHOTOJOURNALISTS CALL ON

BANGABANDHU

Members of the Dhaka Photojournalists Association and Academy call on Bangabandhu today. The prime minister tells the delegation that the system of accreditation and IB inquiry will be abolished and the photo journalists will be given permanent cards to cover all functions. He also assures the delegation that two photojournalists, selected by their association, will be taken to each foreign trip and all the news organisations will be covered by rotation.

SOURCES: March 12, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Daily Ittefaq, Azad, Morning News, The Bangladesh Observer and Purbodesh.

CMP official faces action

FROM PAGE 16

explain 21 allegations found against him at different points.

Most charges against him involve gross negligence in official and departmental duties, taking money from police personnel for their promotions and concealing allegations from seniors.

Shafiq was asked several times to present his version through show-cause notices, but he did not reply.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the case documents and official show cause notices served upon SI Shafiqul.

According to the reports, most of the allegations involved violations of officials rules, which are punishable offences.

Police sources said SP Noor-E-Alam last issued two show-cause notices to Deputy Commissioner (DC) (Sadar) of CMP for SI Shafiq on December 24 last year, which also went unheeded by Shafiq.

Confirming the notices, Deputy Commissioner (DC) (Sadar) Amir Jafar told The Daily Star, "A few letters came from the SP office and at that time the SI was on holiday. After joining, I asked him to send a reply."

This correspondent visited the SP office a few days back and tried to talk in this regard, but no one wanted to talk about SI Shafiq there.

Additional SP (Sadar) Md Jahangir told The Daily Star "The allegations and departmental case are internal matters."

Talking to The Daily Star, CMP

boss Mahbubor Rahaman said, "I have heard that a departmental case is ongoing against SI Shafiq in the district. I did not get any letters in this regard to take steps against the SI."

"There are several steps of a departmental case and issuing show cause notices is one of them," he said, adding, "If he is found guilty in the case then action will be taken as per the order."

Contacted, SI Shafiq told this correspondent "Who are you and why are you asking this? I am not bound to answer you."

At one point, he said, "In the reserve office, there are 40 to 35 persons, including SIs, ASIs and constables. Why I should take the responsibility for all of them?"

"SP Noor-E-Alam Mina did this against me violating all the rules. He is my close relative, but I don't understand why he did that to me," he said. He then asked the reporter to come to his office for details.

Talking to The Daily Star, SP Noor E Alam said, "The SI is lying and I am not his relative. During my annual inspections I found the irregularities against him and issued show-case notices for that."

"When the procedure of registering departmental case started, he managed to get transferred to the CMP from district police. Despite issuance of repeated show-case notices, he did not reply, but answered through a letter when I left Chattogram to new office station," added Noor E Alam.

Wash hands

FROM PAGE 1

It also asked students to avoid mingling with people infected with the virus, cover mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue paper while coughing or sneezing.

Meanwhile, many guardians have stopped sending their children to the schools while authorities of many schools instructed guardians to keep their children at home if they feel feverish or were suffering from a cough or cold.

While talking to The Daily Star, many guardians have requested the government to shut the schools as a precautionary measure to prevent the virus spread.

Guardians of the students at Dhanmondi's Nalonda High School said the school authorities at a Facebook group urged them to keep their children at home if he or she was having fever, cough and any kind of respiratory problems.

Authorities of William Carey International School Bangladesh of West Rajabazar issued similar directives to the guardians.

A guardian of a student at Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Public College said he was not sending his two children to the school after learning that there are coronavirus patients in Bangladesh.

Rokshana Yesmin Tithi, a guardian of a student at Saint Francis Xavier's Girls' School & College in Old Dhaka, said the government should close all schools for 15 days.

"The government of Jammu and Kashmir has shut down all primary schools as two confirmed coronavirus cases were reported. Dhaka is more densely populated than Jammu," she said.

Opposition BNP also demanded that all the schools be shut down for two weeks.

"We think all school-college, educational institutions should be shut down immediately at least for two weeks. Next steps can be taken after observing the situation," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said yesterday while addressing a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters.

Meerjady Sabrina Flora, director at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, however, said, "No such situation has arisen yet that

we have to close down schools and colleges. But everyone should avoid mass gatherings."

Education Minister Dipu Moni on Monday said that government would decide on closure of schools after consulting with specialists.

Several Indian states have closed down all schools as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the virus.

Unesco said as of March 9, 29 countries in three continents have announced or implemented school closures. Fifteen countries have shut schools nationwide, impacting almost 305 million children and youths.

The countries are Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

PREVIOUS STAR NEWS

CIRCULATED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

A screenshot of a report published on The Daily Star in 2018 was circulated on social media yesterday, claiming that the government instructed schools and colleges to stay closed.

The story, titled "Schools, colleges shut tomorrow: Ministry" was published on August 1, 2018, as part of the daily's reporting on the road safety movement at the time.

Mohammad Abul Khair, public relations officer at the Education Ministry, confirmed last evening that the ministry had not taken any such decision.

"A quarter with vested interest are circulating these rumours," he said, adding that people are being requested not to believe such rumours.

Eight killed in attack on army post in Niger

AFP, Niamey

An attack by Boko Haram jihadists on an army post in the southeastern Niger region of Diffa left eight dead and three missing, state radio said Monday.

Local sources had said Sunday that a "major" attack had killed soldiers who were hospitalised in Diffa, but they did not give figures.



Grand Canal is virtually deserted after a decree orders for the whole of Italy to be on lockdown in an unprecedented clampdown aimed at beating the coronavirus, in Venice, Italy yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃপঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল

e-mail: agailjhara@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-উস্বাক/মেহেন্দি/দরপত্র-বিজ্ঞপ্তি/২০১৯-২০২০/১৮৮(২০)



তারিখঃ ১০/০৩/২০২০ইং

এমএসআর দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি


বরিশাল জেলার মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃপঃ কর্মকর্তার নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স এবং ০৪ (চার)টি উপ-স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্রের জন্য পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট পিপিআর ২০০৯-২০১০ইং মোতাবেক ২০১৯-২০২০ইং অর্থবৎসরে চিকিৎসা ও শৈল চিকিৎসা সনদ্রাম (এমএসআর) সামগ্রী ক্রয় ও সংগ্রহের লক্ষ্যে অত্র কার্যালয়ে উন্মুক্ত পদ্ধতিতে প্রকৃত এমএসআর সরবরাহকারী/উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক পৃথক পৃথকভাবে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়/স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগ।
২।	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম ও ঠিকানা	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃপঃ কর্মকর্তা, মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল।
৩।	কাজের বিবরণ	গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক এম.এস.আর সরবরাহ। গ্রুপঃ (ক) ঔষধ সামগ্রী (ইউসিএল বহির্ভূত)। গ্রুপঃ (খ) যন্ত্রপাতি। গ্রুপঃ (গ) গজ, ব্যাডেজ, টুলা। গ্রুপঃ (ঘ) লিঙ্গেন সামগ্রী। গ্রুপঃ (ঙ) কেমিক্যাল ও রি-এজেন্ট। গ্রুপঃ (চ) আসবাবপত্র ও কিনচেন সামগ্রী।
৪।	সংগ্রাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের অবস্থান	মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল।
৫।	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।
৬।	আর্থিক বৎসর	২০১৯-২০২০ইং আর্থিক বৎসর।
৭।	বরাদ্দ এবং অর্থ প্রাপ্তির উৎস	(রাজস্ব) স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর ঢাকা হইতে বাৎসরিক নিয়মিত বরাদ্দ/অতিরিক্ত বরাদ্দ/বিশেষ বরাদ্দ এবং স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় ঢাকা হইতে বাৎসরিক খোক বরাদ্দ/অতিরিক্ত/বিশেষ প্রাপ্ত বরাদ্দ বা পরবর্তী প্রাপ্ত বরাদ্দ।
৮।	দরপত্রের সিডিউলের মূল্য	প্রতি গ্রুপের জন্য টাকা= ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ টাকা) অফেরতযোগ্য।
৯।	দরপত্রের জামানতের পরিমাণ	গ্রুপঃ (ক) টাকা= ৮০,০০০/- (আশি হাজার) মাত্র। গ্রুপঃ (খ) টাকা= ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) মাত্র। গ্রুপঃ (গ) টাকা= ১৫,০০০/- (পনের হাজার) মাত্র। গ্রুপঃ (ঘ) টাকা= ২৫,০০০/- (পনের হাজার) মাত্র। গ্রুপঃ (ঙ) টাকা= ২৫,০০০/- (পনের হাজার) মাত্র। গ্রুপঃ (চ) টাকা= ২৫,০০০/- (পনের হাজার) মাত্র।
১০।	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃপঃ কর্মকর্তা, মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল।
১১।	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের স্থান	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃপঃ কর্মকর্তা, মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল।
১২।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	১১/০৩/২০২০ইং।
১৩।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/০৩/২০২০ইং দুপুর ২.৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত।
১৪।	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৩/২০২০ইং তারিখ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে।
১৫।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৯/০৩/২০২০ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকায়।
১৬।	দরপত্রদাতা/ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা	দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী মতে।
১৭।	মালামাল সরবরাহের স্থান	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল।
১৮।	দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	(১) দরপত্র সিডিউল এর মূল্য কোড নং- ১। ২৭১১। ০০০০। ২০৬৬ এ যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংকে জমাকৃত ট্রেজারী চালানের মূলকপি দাখিল ব্যাপেক্ষে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃপঃ কর্মকর্তা, মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল এর বরাবরে সর্বাধিক ঠিকাদারের নিজস্ব প্যাডে লিখিত আবেদনের মাধ্যমে সিডিউল ক্রয় করিতে হইবে। (২) ট্রেজারী চালানের মূলকপি দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হইবে। (৩) ট্রেস লাইসেন্স ২০১৯-২০২০ইং। (৪) ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ (১৩ ডিজিট)। (৫) টিআইএন সনদিত আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ হালনাগাদ পরিশোধিত ২০১৯-২০২০। (৬) এমএসআর সরবরাহে ০২ (দুই) বৎসরের কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা। (৭) চেম্বার অফ কমার্স ২০১৯-২০২০ইং। (৮) ড্রাগ লাইসেন্স নবায়নকৃত। (৯) ২০/০৩/২০২০ইং তারিখে ৩২,০০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ লক্ষ) টাকার ব্যাংক স্থিতি সনদ দাখিল করিতে হইবে। (১০) ০২/০৩/২০২০ইং তারিখে ৩২,০০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ লক্ষ) টাকার ব্যাংক স্থিতি সনদ দাখিল করিতে হইবে। (১১) ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি। দরপত্র ক্রয় করিবার সময় দরপত্রদাতা উপরোক্ত দলিল সমূহের মূলকপি সহ তার নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদন করিবেন। আবেদনের সাথে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (মূলকপি) (আইডি কার্ড), নমুনা স্বাক্ষর সঙ্গে আনিতে হইবে এবং নমুনা স্বাক্ষর এর সহিত জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের স্বাক্ষরের মিল থাকিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র ক্রয় করিতে পারিবে না।
১৯।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	ডাঃ এস.এম. রমিজ আহমেদ।
২০।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃপঃ কর্মকর্তা, মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল।
২১।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগ	মোবাইল নং-০১৭৯৫১০৮৭৮১।


দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে হইতে জানা যাইবে এবং সিডিউলের সাথে সংযুক্ত থাকিবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে দর্শনে ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল, সমাধান বা এতদসংক্রান্ত সরকারি নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী যেকোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করণ। ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

ডাঃ এস. এম. রমিজ আহমেদ
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃপঃ কর্মকর্তা
মেহেন্দিগঞ্জ, বরিশাল

জিডি-৪৭৪



Narayanganj City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban
10, Bangabandhu Road, Narayanganj
www.ncc.gov.bd



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.44.6700.015.09.057.17-20.773(50) Date: 10-03-2020

e-Tender Notice No-17/2019-20


e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works under the “ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসায়ীদের পুনর্বাসনসহ নারায়ণগঞ্জ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন এলাকায় অপরাজিতা নগর বিদ্যালয় নির্মাণ” Project in Narayanganj City Corporation.

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Description of work & Package No.	Online tender publication date	Online tender closing date
01	414743	NCC-Aparajita-W1 Construction of Aparajita School Building from 1 to 7 storied in Ward No-15	11-03-2020	Please see tender notice in e-GP

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). This notice is also available in Narayanganj City Corporation website (www.ncc.gov.bd). The bill will be paid under available of the fund.


Md. Kamrul Ahsan
Superintending Engineer
Narayanganj City Corporation, Narayanganj
Ph. 02-7645032
e-mail: se@ncc.gov.bd

GD-476



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police
Police Telecom & Information Management Headquarters
Police Telecom Bhaban, Rajarbag, Dhaka
www.tim.police.gov.bd



স্বাস্থ্য
১০০

Memo No-44.01.0000.057.11.051.19/1436/Betar
Date: 10-03-2020

Invitation for Re-e-Tender

For the financial year 2019-2020, Re-e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following items.

SI	Description	Re-e-Tender ID	Procurement method	Online tender publication date & time	Online tender closing date & time
1.	Re-Tender Name: Design, Supply and Installation of a 150-Feet 3-Legged Self-Supporting Tower with an Equipment Shelter Room and Dismantle of existing Tower (if any) Wind Speed:130-220 Kph.	438550	OSTEOTM	11 Mar 2020 11:00	30 Mar 2020 12:45

This is an online tender, where only Re-e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit Re-e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Systems Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the Re-e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

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

Haroon-ur-Rashid Hazaree
SP (Admin & Finance)
Additional Charge of SP (Logistics)
Police T&IM, Rajarbag, Dhaka
Ph: +880 2 8301105 Fax: +880 2 8301530
E-mail: splog.telecom@police.gov.bd

GD-473



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কমান্ডিং অফিসারের কার্যালয়
২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন
মুজাপাহা, ময়মনসিংহ



উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-কিউএম-২৭৩/২০১৯-২০/৭৩৩ তারিখঃ ০৮/০২/২০২০খ্রিঃ

২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে ২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মুজাপাহা, ময়মনসিংহে ফোর্সের নিম্নোক্ত লট ভিত্তিক কাজের জন্য 'দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮, ২০০৯' এবং ভৌম সংশোধনী অনুসারে নির্ধারিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/পুলিশ বিভাগ।			
০২।	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।			
০৩।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	কমান্ডিং অফিসার (এসপি), ২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মুজাপাহা, ময়মনসিংহ।			
০৪।	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহবান	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে লট নং-১, ২, ৩ ও ৪-এ বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষে।			
০৫।	সম্ভাব্যক সন্ধানের জেলা	ময়মনসিংহ।			
০৬।	দরপত্র আহবানের সূত্র নম্বর	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্মারক নং কিউএম-২৭৩/২০১৯-২০২০/৭৩৩			
০৭।	তারিখ	০৮ মার্চ/২০২০খ্রিঃ।			
কাজের বিবরণ					
০৮।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।			
অর্থের উৎস					
০৯।	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক বাত	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বাজেট অর্থ বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে।			
বিশেষ তথ্যাদর্শী					
১০।	দরপত্র প্র্যাক্কেজ নং	১০/২০১৯-২০২০।			
১১।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	০৮ মার্চ/২০২০খ্রিঃ।			
১২।	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০৫ এপ্রিল/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৪.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
১৩।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬ এপ্রিল/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
১৪।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৬ এপ্রিল/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৩.৩০ ঘটিকা।			
অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা					
১৫।	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	(ক) ডিআইবি, এপিবিএন, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা। (খ) কমান্ডিং অফিসার (এসপি), ২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মুজাপাহা, ময়মনসিংহ। (গ) পুলিশ সুপার, ময়মনসিংহ।			
	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস	(ক) কমান্ডিং অফিসারের কার্যালয়, ২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মুজাপাহা, ময়মনসিংহ। (খ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ।			
	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	কমান্ডিং অফিসারের কার্যালয়, ২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মুজাপাহা, ময়মনসিংহ।			
১৬।	প্রি টেন্ডার সভার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	২ এপিবিএন, মুজাপাহা, ময়মনসিংহ। তারিখঃ ০১/৪/২০২০খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।			
দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্য					
১৭।	দরপত্র বোধ্যতা	(ক) হালদাদা ব্যবসায়িক বৈধ ট্রেন্ড লাইসেন্স (খ) হালদাদা আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (গ) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র (ঘ) ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদপত্র (ঙ) বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকত্ব/জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র (চ) একিডেজিটি মুদ্রা ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানা বোধ্যপত্র (ছ) প্রতিনিধির ক্ষেত্রে ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে প্রতিনিধির স্বাক্ষর সভায়ামনসং কমতা অর্পণ দিতে হবে (জ) ১ম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সভায়িত সকল দলিল পত্রাদিসং ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনপত্র প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে দরপত্র তফসিল (সিডিউল) বিক্রয় করা হবে এবং দরপত্র তফসিল ক্রয়ের সময় ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব সীল সঙ্গে অনাংক হবে (ঝ) অন্যান্য বোধ্যতা যা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।			
১৮।	মাল্যামালের বিবরণঃ				
লট নং	আইটেম	পরিমাণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য (অক্ষেরতথ্যে)	দরপত্র জামানত	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়সীমা
১	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে ফোর্সের টাটকা রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়/সরবরাহ কাজ।	চাহিদানুযায়ী	১,২৫০/-	৪,০০,০০০/-	(জুলাই/২০২০খ্রিঃ হতে জুন/২০২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত)
২	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে ফোর্সের জ্বালানি কাঠ ক্রয়/সরবরাহ কাজ।	চাহিদানুযায়ী	১০০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	
৩	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে ফোর্সের গম পিষানো কাজ।	চাহিদানুযায়ী	১০০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	
৪	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে ফোর্সের তুলা রেশন সামগ্রী সরকারি যে কোন থানা ওদাম হতে গাড়িতে উঠানো এবং বিএন সদরে গাড়ি হতে নামিয়ে বিএন রেশন স্টোরে ওদামজাত করণ কুলি সরবরাহ কাজ।	চাহিদানুযায়ী	৮৫০/-	৪৫,০০০/-	
দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণ					
১৯।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	জনাব মোহাম্মদ নাজরুল হোসেন।			
২০।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	কমান্ডিং অফিসার (এসপি)।			
২১।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মুজাপাহা, ময়মনসিংহ।			
২২।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ফোনঃ ০৯০৮৮-৭৫৩৪৪, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৯০৮৮-৭৫২০১।			
২৩।	বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ				
	ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।				
	খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।				
	গ) দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।				
	ঘ) দরপত্র দাখিল সফ্রেজ বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস হতে এবং দরপত্র তফসিলে পাওয়া যাবে।				
	ঙ) দরপত্র পিপিআর/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।				
	চ) দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখিত প্রতিটি কাজের জন্য পৃথক পৃথক নামে পৃথক পৃথক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।				

উল্লেখ্য, উক্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি CPTUএর ওয়েবসাইটে (www.cptu.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে। (তদুপরি লট-১ এর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য)।

মোহাম্মদ নাজরুল হোসেন
বিসি নং-৭০৯৮০১০০৪৪
কমান্ডিং অফিসার (এসপি)
২ এপিবিএন, মুজাপাহা, ময়মনসিংহ



Bangladesh Bank
(Central Bank of Bangladesh)
Head Office
Motijheel, Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh



জাতিবন্ধু
১০০

Request for Expression of Interest (National) for Senior Procurement Specialist (Individual)

Ref No: IPFF II/09(Service-S16)/2020-236 Date: 08/03/2020

Name of the Project	:	Investment Promotion and Financing Facility II (IPFF II) Project
Name of the Package	:	Individual Senior Procurement Specialist for PIU
Credit No.	:	IDA 6004 (Portion A)-BD & 6005 (Portion B)-BD
Reference No.	:	IPFF II S16

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Investment Promotion and Financing Facility II (IPFF II) Project, a project of Finance Division, Ministry of Finance & implemented by IPFF II Project Cell, Bangladesh Bank (BB) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for selection of **'Senior Procurement Specialist'**.
- The Individual Consultant would require providing services for initially 12 (twelve) months (which may be extended if required) and the place of work is IPFF II Project Cell, Bangladesh Bank.
- The scope of services of the **'Senior Procurement Specialist'** will include but not limited to the following (Complete TOR is available in the following website: www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php):
 - Prepare and update the Procurement Plan for good and service packages to be procured under the Project; and incorporate those information in STEP system of World Bank.
 - Prepare, review and finalize procurement documents e.g. REOI, ToR, Invitation for Tenders, RFP, bidding documents, bid and proposal evaluation report etc. for all contracts in accordance with the applicable procurement regulations of the World Bank and GoB.
 - Organize and assist in the opening of bids/proposals and prepare draft minutes.
 - Assist PIU in organizing all clarification meetings, pre-proposal meetings etc. with prospective bidders/consultants and actively participate and prepare draft minutes.
 - Act and play role as a mandatory member of the bid/proposal evaluation committee.
 - Provide Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited (BIFFL) and PPP Authority with the guidance regarding their procurement of Services under the Project.
 - Carrying out all activities related to contracting including negotiation, signing, publishing contract award notice and performance of contracts etc.
- The Interested Consultant should provide information demonstrating that he/she has following qualifications and relevant experiences to perform the services.
 - At least B.Sc in engineering or master's in Economics/Statistics/Finance/Business/ Administration/Management/ Procurement/Law or any other relevant field. Professional degree in procurement from any internationally recognized institution will be given preference.
 - At least fifteen (15) years general work experience including ten (10) years of experience in the field of procurement in a public/autonomous/international organization where the responsibility substantially covers the procurement of goods and services. Candidates having experience as consultant in the field of procurement in similar World Bank aided project will be given priority.
 - Sound understanding of principles underlying good procurement practices; procurement guidelines of international agencies; procurement rules and procedures of the Government of Bangladesh; ability to identify and resolve procurement issues.
 - Excellent communication (both oral and written) in Bangla and English, interpersonal and computer skills and strong negotiation skills.
- The applications will be evaluated based on following Criteria: Relevant Educational Qualifications-30%, General Experience-10%, Adequacy for the Assignment (experience in similar assignments etc.)-60%.
- Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents: Letter of application; CV indicating all past relevant experience, qualification etc.
- The Consultant will be selected using Individual Consultant Selection (Open-National, Contract type: Time-based) method following the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrower, July 2016.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail: bb.ipff@bb.org.bd) by **31 March, 2020 up to 3:00pm**. Hard copy of EOI is required (1 Original and 1 Copy).

ব্যাকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

DCP: 48/2020-966
Date: 09-03-2020
GD-471

Dr Abul Kalam Azad
Executive Director & Project Director
Phone: 9530537



Kanchan Ali Sikder during class at Bilkis Jahan Technical School and Business Management College recently.

PHOTO:STAR

Two decades on, he carries on

Age-defying retired teacher continues giving free English lessons at schools he established

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Freedom fighter Kanchan Ali Sikder, now 90 years old, still teaches after retirement following a career spanning 60 years -- and plans to do so for the rest of his life. Locally known as Kanchan Master, he has established two educational institutions in his native village Deuli, and has been teaching English here free of charge for over 24 years now. Earlier, Kanchan Master served as head teacher in seven educational institutions in Barishal and Patuakhali districts for 36 years, retiring in 1996 from Hanua Motijan High School in Barishal. "I could not stay idle without learning further or teaching -- it's my habit-turned-

addiction," Kanchan told The Daily Star. Deuli is part of Garuria union under Bakerganj upazila of Barishal. Kanchan studied at Garuria Secondary School and then at BM College in Barishal. His first job, in 1960, as head teacher was for a salary of Tk 10. "From then until 1996, when I retired, I served as the head teacher at seven high schools," he said. Though Kanchan got the opportunity to enter public service in the police and air force among others, he felt unable to leave the teaching profession. "In 1977, I was elected union parishad chairman, but was not disconnected from the school. I loved very much my students, my classroom, and I could not separate myself from them," said Kanchan.

Though he taught both English and Bangla regularly, Kanchan said teaching English has been the most rewarding aspect of his six-decades-long career. A dedicated teacher, even in his old age, he has never been late to class or sat down while taking lessons. "Until my death, I want to stay with my students and continue teaching them." The inspirational teacher sets an example for local teachers. Mihir Karmakar, a teacher of Kanchan Sikder Bidyaniketan High School, said he understands the honour in teaching after joining the school. "Where people pass their leisure time at home, Sir took classes for such a long time, many times taking two classes back-to-back

but I have not seen him sit down," he added. Ninth-graders at the school -- Lamia Akhter, Mukta Akhter, Nayan Sikder, and Arifur Rahman -- said they used to wait for Kanchan Sir's English class. "My father loves his students and loves teaching," said ASM Zulfikar Haider, chairman of Garuria union parishad and elder son of Kanchan. His other son is principal of Bilkis Jahan Technical School and Business Management College. He also has three daughters; all his children are well educated. They are involved in the work of the two schools their father had set up in Deuli -- Kanchan Ali Sikder Bidyaniketan High School, in 2013, and Bilkis Jahan Technical School and Business Management College in 2012.

1,000 poor people get eye operation for free

BNSB Eye Hospital in Moulvibazar Sadar arranged the programme marking Mujib Borsho

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

As many as 1,000 poor and elderly people got free treatment for different eye problems including cataract at BNSB (Bangladesh National Society for the Blind) Eye Hospital in Matarkapon area of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila during a three-day programme ending yesterday. The programme, held with the support of ANDHERI-HILFE, Germany, was arranged on the occasion of



Mujib Borsho. Talking to The Daily Star, day labourer Jalal Mia, 59, a patient from Zakiganj village in Zakiganj upazila under Sylhet district, said, "I couldn't imagine seeing with my left eye as the problem got very serious. But BNSB helped me to see again with the eye, providing treatment for free." A 61-year-old farmer, Javed Mia, who came from the same village, echoed him. Moulvibazar BNSB Eye Hospital organized a free eye screening camp in Zakiganj upazila of Sylhet with the support of ANDHERI-HILFE, Germany, said Abdul Hamid Mahbub, joint secretary of the hospital's 17-member executive committee. "Of the 1000 selected patients, 70 received cataract operation while others got treatment for different complications in the eyes. Medicines and dark glasses were provided to the operated patients yesterday, the last day of the three-day programme," he added. "Our mission is the prevention of blindness by creating mass awareness and early intervention," said Syed Mushahid Ahmed Chunnun, general secretary of the hospital's executive committee.

Unmarked speed breakers pose risk

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Unmarked speed breakers in Inderhat-Chandkathi road in Nesarabad upazila of Pirojpur pose risk of accidents for drivers and commuters. There are 31 unmarked speed breakers in the 16-kilometre road that is used for going to Pirojpur district headquarters, Nazirpur upazila, Goplaganj, Barishal and other areas of the country. The speed breakers, made allegedly by locals for their convenience, cause problems for users of the road including a large number of motorcyclists, especially at night. "As the speed breakers are unmarked, we often fail to identify them from a reasonable distance. When a motorbike comes across such a speed breaker, it becomes difficult to control the vehicle," said Koushik Bepary, a motorcyclist on the road. "I have to run my motorbike along the road several times daily. And so, I know where the speed breakers are and have got used to the situation. Still I face trouble when I have to move at night," said Md Nadim, another motorcyclist. The road with roughly made speed

breakers poses risk for the newcomers, he said. Over 2,000 vehicles including battery-run auto-rickshaws, leguna (locally made motorised three-wheelers), passenger carrying motorbikes and personal motorbikes move on the road daily, locals said, adding that the unmarked speed breakers pose problems for the vehicles. "I find it difficult to move on the road as I have to cross over 30 speed breakers," said Mohammad Ibrahim, driver of a battery-run auto-rickshaw plying the road. Mir Ali Shakir, upazila engineer at Nesarabad, admitted that the unmarked speed breakers cause sufferings to people using Inderhat-Chandkathi road. "I also face trouble while traveling along the road by motorbike. The speed breakers were not made when Local Government Engineering Department constructed the road. Locals made those later for their own interest. "We asked the local public representatives to see the matter but they seem not careful about it. At this moment we do not have any fund for removing the speed breakers," he said.



Acute manpower crisis hampers operational activities at Hemnagar railway station in Tangail's Gopalpur upazila for long. Below, local farmers now use the railway station for threshing and drying crops.

PHOTO:STAR

Hemnagar rly station a sorrow for commuters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Acute manpower crisis has been hampering operational activities at Hemnagar railway station in Gopalpur upazila for the last five years, causing immense sufferings to commuters. As a result, furniture of the office rooms and other structures in the station have been lying damaged, said locals, adding that some valuable things were also stolen from there. Farmers now use the lone railway station for threshing and drying crops during the daytime while the same place becomes a heaven for drug addicts and sex workers at night. Md Masum Khan, stationmaster of nearby Bangabandhu Bridge East Railway Station, said posts of three stationmasters, three points men, three booking clerks and a fourth-class employee in Hemnagar railway station have been lying vacant for the last five years. Although three local trains and an intercity train stop at the station, local passengers cannot collect tickets from there for not having any ticket master at the station, said commuters. Construction of 42 km metre-gauge line stretching from Tarakandi to Bangabandhu Bridge east was completed in 2011. The prime minister inaugurated the rail line the following year. There are 52 bridges and culverts and four railway stations in the long rail track. The Hemnagar railway station is one them. There have been no formal activities in Hemnagar railway station since 2015 as its staffers have been transferred to different



stations, said local railway sources. Only one gateman has been performing duty at the railway station for the last five years, it added. Despite repeated pleas, the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to recruit manpower at the station to mitigate train passengers' sufferings, said local commuters. Mohammad Kamal Hossain, a schoolteacher of Hemnagar area, said they have to collect tickets from Bhuapur and Sarishabari railway stations, about 10 km to 15 away from Hemnagar. On the other hand, local passengers feel serious insecurity for not having any security guards at the lonely station, said the schoolteacher. Shawkat Jamil, divisional manager (east) of Bangladesh Railway, said the posts of stationmasters, points men and booking clerks are lying vacant at Hemnagar railway station for long as its staffers have been transferred to different busy and important stations. They have already informed the higher authorities about recruitment of manpower at the station, but to no respond yet, he said.



Unmarked speed breakers, like this one on Inderhat-Chandkathi road at Sohagdal village in Nesarabad upazila of Pirojpur, cause nuisance for vehicles. Inset, a motorcyclist avoids a bump on the road at Batnatala village in the upazila.

PHOTO:STAR



Littered with all sorts of trash all around, no one will now recognise the existence of the government pond in Haatkholia area of Jhenidah town.

PHOTO: STAR

Destruction of Jhenidah town ponds in full swing

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Unplanned urbanisation, absence of civic conscience among townspeople and lack of garbage management services are contributing to destruction of various waterbodies including ponds in Jhenidah town.

With most of the ponds, filled up with garbage, turning into a source of putrid odour, the fire service of the town is having difficulty finding sufficient water to douse fire.

Senior citizens in the town said there used to be over 150 ponds in the town in the '70s. But there are only 20 of those, both government and privately-owned, in existence now.

Indiscriminate dumping of waste has turned most of the waterbodies into landfills and breeding ground for mosquitoes, they also said.

Haatkholia government pond was once a source of fresh water for the townspeople, said Pikul Malitha, a grocer in the neighbourhood.

This also looks like a garbage dump now. Everyone in the vicinity considers this as a place to dispose of any sort of garbage. Fish sellers at the fish market adjacent to the pond have been dumping fish waste in the pond for eight to ten years, causing an unbearable foul odour to hover in the air.

"The water in the pond used to be crystal clear and the beauty of the pond was a sight to behold. Over the years, when people's need for freshwater for household work started to diminish, a cattle market took shape on its banks. Now a goat market has replaced the cattle market there."

The entire area surrounding the pond sometimes becomes so smelly that customers often avoid his grocery store and go to stores in other areas, he added.

The state of the private ponds in the town is no different. Many owners are filling those up to accommodate housing for their family members or to build markets or rental houses for generating income for their families. The others are just being used to dump waste.

Tofajjal Hossain, owner of a pond in Hamdaha area, said he and his siblings inherited a pond from their father who had passed away.

The siblings are living in different areas and the population in the families are growing. With cost of living on the rise, all their family members have been looking for ways to make best use of common family resources as a source of additional income.

Considering the situation, he said he and his family members are now filling up

the pond to build houses on it. Since they cannot afford to buy new land to build houses, the filled-up land will enable each member of the family to own his or her own house.

Besides, no land is available for sale in the town, Tofajjal added.

A Jhenidah fire service station official, Dilip Kumar Sarkar, said the fire service has been facing acute water shortage during fire incidents in the town as most ponds or waterbodies have been filled up.

Lives are endangered and the extent of damage of property increases when they spend crucial time looking for water. Considering this aspect, the town needs to preserve all its ponds, he observed.

Rafikul Islam, associate professor of zoology at Govt KC College, said the remaining ponds in the town are being polluted by dumping of toxic and non-biodegradable waste -- from both houses and factories nearby.

The emission of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide from the waste is giving rise to levels of these harmful elements in the air, thus endangering public health, he said, adding that in order to protect human health, the ponds and waterbodies in the area have to be saved from pollution and encroachment.

Environment and Diversity Preservation Committee President Masud Ahmed Sanju said ponds and marshlands help protect ecological balance in an area by allowing fish and other aquatic animals to survive and by maintaining balance of temperature, humidity and precipitation in the area.

Without sufficient ponds in an area, temperature rises and aquatic animals including fish become scarce in the area. Moreover, not only water for everyday use in households become scarce, population of birds and other animals in the area falls too.

Therefore, the government including municipality authorities need to make serious efforts to save ponds and other waterbodies, he observed.

Jhenidah Deputy Commissioner Saroj Kumar Nath said absence of civic awareness is causing such destruction to the waterbodies and ponds. The district administration will launch campaigns in future to raise awareness on the negative impact of destroying and polluting waterbodies.

They will also take initiatives to clean up the waterbodies as well as protect those from further pollution, he assured this correspondent.

Banana boon for farmers in 10 south-western dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Bumper yield and high demand have brought smile to banana farmers in 10 south- western districts under Khulna division.

The districts are Kushtia, Meherpur, Jashore, Khulna, Magura, Narail, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Satkhira and Bagerhat.

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) sources said 9,978 hectares of land have been brought under banana cultivation in the districts this year. At the same time, the DAE has set a target to produce 15,873 tonnes of banana.

Mentionable, banana was cultivated on 8,912 hectares of land last year and 7913 hectares the previous year.

The DAE sources further said banana cultivation is more profitable than cultivation of any other crops.

Farmers are getting more interested to cultivate banana due to its growing demand and less cultivation cost than other crops like paddy, jute and sugarcane, said Mohammad Ali, additional director of DAE in Jashore region.

Besides, growers usually can sell bananas at the fields and its market price is quite satisfactory.

A DAE official in Kushtia said cultivation of pointed gourd besides banana has become very popular in the region in recent days. Growers are making double cash by this integrated farming.

Though the farmers usually produce this fruit round the year, key season will begin in March and April.

Shaheed Ali of Bhatoai area in Jhenidah said he has cultivated banana on three acres of land this year.

A farmer spends Tk 20,000 to Tk 25,000 to plant 250 to 300 banana trees on one bigha of land, said Shaheed, adding that the grower can make profit of around Tk one lakh from it.

Farmers in the region plant different varieties of banana, including sagar, sabri, madna, chapa and anupam.

Bahar Uddin of Madhupur in Kushtia Sadar upazila said he has planted banana on two bighas of land by spending around Tk 48,000 this season.

He hopes he will get a profit of Tk 80,000 to Tk 90,000 from the cultivation.

Bahar further said he does not need to spend extra money for transportation as Madhupur banana market in Kushtia, one of the largest banana selling centres in Khulna division, is near to his home.

Five cops among 25 hurt in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 25 people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League (AL) at Ysufdia village in Saltha upazila on Monday night.

Police arrested Md Wahiduzzaman, former chairman of the upazila parishad, in this connection.

Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Wahiduzzaman and Md Enayat Hossain, a local AL activist, over establishing supremacy in the area.

As a sequel to the conflict, the men of the two rivals on Monday attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving at least 20 people from both sides injured.

Five policemen were also injured during the incident, said Subrata Goldar, sub-inspector of Saltha Police Station.

Tornado victims still under open sky

The families in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari waiting for govt help to rebuild houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, LALMONIRHAT

Around fifty families of Badiarchar village of Kamlabari union of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila are still staying under the open sky as the hard-pressed people could not repair their houses damaged by the tornado that lashed the village on Saturday night.

The district administration distributed food items among the tornado victims on the night.

The victims, however, are yet to receive any assistance to repair the damaged houses.

Aklima Bewa, one of the victims, said all the three rooms of her family house were damaged by the storm.

"I along with family members are passing days under the open sky as we don't have the ability to repair the house," she said.

Nazrul Islam, a farm labourer of the village, is also in the same boat.

"The tornado destroyed all three rooms of my house. I and four other family members are staying under the open sky as I have no money to repair the damaged houses," he said.

"Without government's help, it is impossible to repair or build a new house," he added.

Farmer Abdul Mannan said four rooms of his house were damaged by the tornado and he has somehow repaired one of them.

"All the trees around my house got uprooted during the storm. My family is facing hardship due to the disaster," he said.



A woman weeps as she with her family members have to stay under the open sky since a tornado destroyed their house at Badiarchar village under Kamlabari union in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila on Saturday.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Faruk Imrul Kayes, chairman of Aditmari Upazila Parishad, said most of the families affected by the tornado are ultra-poor and depend on daily income as farm labourers.

"We have appealed to the district and upazila administrations for allocations to repair and rebuild the damaged houses of the tornado

affected families," he said.

Aditmari Upazila Project Implementation Officer Mofizul Islam said, "We have prepared a list of 43 tornado victim families. They will receive government's assistance including corrugated iron sheets and money to rebuild the damaged houses soon."



On the occasion of National Disaster Preparedness Day-2020 yesterday, the Fire Service and Civil Defence organised a fire fighting demonstration for students of Vivekananda School and College in Tangail town.

PHOTO: STAR

<div><div><div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div></div></div></div></div><div><div>Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</div><div>College Education Development Project (CEDP)</div><div>College Name: Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj</div><div>College Address: Manikganj</div></div></div></div>				
Invitation for Tenders				
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.		
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.		
3	Procuring entity name	Md. Nurul Amin, Principal, Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj.		
4	Procuring entity code	N/A		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Renovation of subproject office rooms, class rooms, washrooms, common-rooms, library, and Departments (All tiles, Thai glass, Screen for windows, Painting, False roof).		
7	Invitation Ref. No.	GDC.2020.CEDP-1157/W-01/38		
8	Date	09-03-2020		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit).		
11	Development partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project code	224017200		
13	Project name	College Education Development Project (CEDP).		
14	Tender package No.	W-01		
15	Tender package name	Renovation of subproject office rooms, class rooms, washrooms, common-rooms, library, and Departments (All tiles, Thai glass, Screen for windows, Painting, False roof).		
16	Tender publication date	09-03-2020		
17	Tender last selling date	28-03-2020		
18	Tender closing date and time	29-03-2020, 1:00pm		
19	Tender opening date and time	29-03-2020, 2:00pm		
20	Name & address of the office	Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj.		
	Selling tender document			
	Receiving tender document			
	Opening tender document			
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not Required.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	(1) The tenderer shall have a minimum number 05 years general experience in refurbishment activities (renovation/repair/ extension) and physical services. (2) The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of refurbishment activities of minimum BDT 35 lac only under maximum 01 contract in the last 03 years. (3) The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 80,00,000.00 (eighty lac) only over the last 03 years. (4) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderers shall be Tk 25 lac.		
23	Brief description of goods or works	Renovation of subproject office rooms, class rooms, washrooms, common-rooms, library, and Departments (All tiles, Thai glass, Screen for windows, Painting, False roof).		
24	Brief description of related services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract, Section 6: Bill of Quantities.		
25	Tender document price	BDT 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred).		
26	Lot. Identification No.	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months
	01 W-01	Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj	1,50,000.00	Two months
27	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Nurul Amin, Principal.		
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal		
29	Address of official inviting tender	Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj.		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 02-7710404	Fax : 7710040	E-mail : debendracollege@yahoo.com
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			
Md. Nurul Amin Principal Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj				
GD-475				

A rare moment, but also one for introspection

NABID YEASIN

 Bangladesh stand on the brink of a rare moment going into today's encounter against Zimbabwe in the second and the final T20I of the two-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Tigers, who hammered the visitors in the lone Test last month and also won the following three-match ODI series convincingly before taking the lead in the T20I series with a 48-run win on Monday, will have the chance to complete a clean series sweep -- winning all the matches in all three formats in a series.

High-flying Bangladesh are undoubtedly favourites to ensure this feat barring any mishaps today. It would be no surprise to see the Tigers win today. Instead, it would be shocking to see them fail to win given their recent performances against a side ranked 11th in the world in T20I cricket.

However, such a momentous occasion also begs the question: how much does this incredible feat mean? How much of an impact will this feat have in Bangladesh's current context?

Just before the start of the Zimbabwe series, Bangladesh's condition -- in all three formats -- was in tatters. The Tigers had just recorded their sixth consecutive Test defeat after losing to Pakistan in the Rawalpindi Test by an innings and 44 runs after losing the three-match T20I series 2-0 after the final game was washed out.

Those fortunes only changed when the Tigers met Zimbabwe at home. Even through the dramatic change of ODI captaincy -- Mashrafe Bin Mortaza announcing his retirement as ODI captain before the final ODI in Sylhet and Tamim Iqbal being handed the baton soon after -- Bangladesh seemed unfazed and continued to dominate.

The Tigers' sheer dominance in the series can be gauged from the fact that the same team which had flailed miserably with the bat in Pakistan, even on batting-friendly wickets, suddenly began re-writing the record books against a toothless Zimbabwe bowling line-up.



LITON DAS



TAMIM IQBAL



MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN

Tamim and Liton notched Bangladesh' highest ODI partnership (292) and highest opening partnership in T20Is (92) in this very series. The records and supremacy are always commendable as they always provide the players with confidence, something that the Tigers have long been missing.

It is true that the Tigers have been served a much-needed mental boost through this Zimbabwe series, but it can still be argued if such a boost can act as a false assurance of form for players.

Even Soumya Sarkar, who had smashed a brilliant unbeaten fifty in the first T20I, admitted that the quality of bowling was not the same they would be up against in Pakistan when they visit the country for the third phase of their tour to play a lone ODI and their second World Test Championship fixture next month.

Tamim went to play the second-phase of the Pakistan tour on the back of a brilliant unbeaten 300 in the domestic circuit, but the southpaw failed when he faced the likes of Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah in the Rawalpindi Test.

Even mathematically, the clean series sweep against Zimbabwe would not count for much.

The innings and 106-run victory against Zimbabwe in the lone Test will not be added to the Test Championship, a competition where Bangladesh are yet to register a single point. Meanwhile if the Tigers are even able to play out a draw in their second World Test Championship against Pakistan next month, they would get 20 points. A win would account for 60 points from the allocated 120 points for each Test series according to ICC. And if Bangladesh do get a win today, their rating in T20Is would be increased by just one point, from 226 to 227, without any change in their position.

However, regardless of the calculations and opposition's team strength, any series win provides the team with confidence. The wise thing for the Tigers would be to carry all these achievements and such brilliant performances when they face challenges from higher-ranked sides in the future.



Bashundhara Kings coach Oscar Bruzon (C) watches his new recruit Hernan Barcos (R) closely in training at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday ahead of today's AFC Cup fixture against TC Sports Club of Maldives.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bashundhara Kings make continental debut today

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings are looking forward to making their maiden AFC Cup campaign a memorable one as they take on TC Sports Club of Maldives in Group E opener at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The match will kick off at 3:30pm.

Bashundhara Kings are the fifth Bangladeshi outfit to play in the second-tier club competition of Asia, with six-time champions Abahani making the farthest by reaching the knockout stages last season in their third appearance. Three-time league champions Sheikh Jamal finished bottom of their group in 2016 while Sheikh Russel KC were twice knocked out of the pre-qualifying stage in 2015 and 2017 and Saif SC suffered the same fate in 2018.

Bashundhara Kings, who will play directly in the group stage as Bangladesh Premier League champions, clinched the Federation Cup earlier this year but their league performance has not been the best as they suffered a 1-0 defeat against Mohammedan in their last match on Saturday.

They are, however, looking forward

to making a good start against TC Sports Club, a club that beat Saif SC twice in 2018 apart from lifting the title of Sheikh Kamal International Club tournament in Chattogram in 2017.

"Our mentality is to win every match we play; our mentality is to win every tournament we participate in, and our mentality is also same here in AFC Cup," Bashundhara Kings coach Oscar Bruzon told reporters at a pre-match conference yesterday.

Brazilian marksman Marcos Vinicius and local forward Matin Mia made a deadly attacking pair last season, sharing 30 goals in the league. However, in absence of Vinicius, who has been released by the club, and Matin, out with injury, Bashundhara Kings are struggling to score despite creating chances.

"(If you call) Winning the Federation Cup and losing one game only in 2020 tough time, it shows the expectation surrounding our team. You can't expect a team win week after week. Last year, Marcos and Matin scored 30 goals and we are missing them inside the box. Daniel Colindres is an excellent player but he is not a pure No. 9. We have very good players up front but we need to improve our finishing skills," said Bruzon.

However, the big motivation for

Bashundhara Kings is having former Argentina international Hernan Barcos, who is set to make his debut in this match. The veteran striker, according to the coach, has been doing well in training sessions.

"We are not on our best in the league but it is AFC Cup and the team is absolutely balanced. We will see big difference tomorrow. The problem of converting chances we are having recently will be solved. Hopefully we have our best team tomorrow," said an optimistic Bruzon, who has four foreign players -- Colindres, Barcos, Bakhtiyar Duyshobekov and Nicolas Delmonte at his disposal.

TC Sports Club coach Mohamed Shazly feels his side have an equal chance to win the fixture.

"We know Bashundhara Kings are very strong and they have an advantage of having good foreign players. We know about him (Barcos) and we love to play against good and great players. Not only Barcos, Bashundhara have other good players too," Shazly said.

"TC Sports have a team with experienced players including five national players and also have good foreign players. Even though Ali Ashfaq is a local player, I rate him as a foreign player. For me, my team is good," warned Shazly, whose side came to Dhaka following preparation in Qatar.

Soumya in, but list still too short

SPORTS REPORTER



It took almost 48 hours for the Bangladesh Cricket Board to rectify the mistake of not including A-plus category player Soumya Sarkar in the list of centrally-contracted cricketers for the year 2020.

In a press release yesterday, the board drafted Soumya into the A-plus category for white-ball formats and released a revised list of 17 cricketers with new central contracts.

After its meeting on Sunday, the BCB had disclosed the names of 16 players for new central contracts. But many eyebrows were raised as Soumya was left off the list.

After chief selector Minhajul Abedin admitted to it being a mistake, the BCB moved to include him. However, during the players' revolt last year, the board had pledged to include at least 30 players under central contracts. It remains to be seen if including just half that number was a mistake too. And if so, then will it be rectified as well?



SALARY STRUCTURE

Category: A plus (Monthly salary Tk 4 lakh)

Red Ball: Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal

White Ball: Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudullah Riyad, Soumya Sarkar

Category: A (Monthly salary Tk 3 lakh)

Red Ball: Mominul Haque

White Ball: None

Category: B (Monthly salary Tk 2 lakh)

Red Ball: Liton Das, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Tajjul Islam

White Ball: Liton Das, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Mustafizur Rahman

Category: C (Monthly salary 1.5 lakh)

Red Ball: None

White Ball: Mohammad Mithun, Mohammad Saifuddin

Category: D (Monthly salary Tk 1 lakh)

Red Ball: Mohammad Mithun, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Nayeem Hasan, Abu Jayed, Ebadot Hossain

White Ball: Tajjul Islam, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Afif Hossain, Mohammad Naim

* Players to feature in both red and white-ball formats will draw full amount of their salary in one format and half of the other format.

Ireland clinch a super-over victory

AFF, Greater Noida

Kevin O'Brien hit a last-ball six as Ireland clinched a consolation super-over win against Afghanistan in the third Twenty20 international in India on Tuesday.

With three runs needed for victory off the final ball of the super over, O'Brien cleared the long-off fence to end his team's 12-match losing streak in T20s against the Afghans.

O'Brien made 26 off 21 balls in Ireland's 142 for eight after electing to bat first.

Afghanistan, who won the series 2-1, replied with 142 for seven.

"Luckily that last hit came off," a relieved O'Brien said after receiving the man of the match award.

"We have learnt from game one to game three, about specific plans for each player. You have to adjust quickly and I think we did."

Afghanistan needed 16 to win off the final six deliveries of normal play, and paceman Craig Young claimed Asghar Afghan for 32 before Rashid hit a boundary off the last ball, taking the game into a deciding over.

Young then bowled a disciplined line and length to keep Afghanistan to just eight runs in six balls.

Gareth Delany also played a key part in Ireland's win after top-scoring with 37 and then taking two wickets with his leg-spin.

Injury woes add to Imrul's misery

SPORTS REPORTER



Things went from bad to worse for Imrul Kayes as the left-hander, who was not included under the new central contract for 2020 by the Bangladesh Cricket Board, is now facing at least three weeks on the sidelines due to injury.

The 33-year-old hurt the little toe on his left foot while fielding during a training session for his club, Sheikh Jamal, ahead of the upcoming Dhaka Premier League campaign.

"Normally it takes two weeks to recover from such an injury but the doctor advised me to rest for three weeks because I am a

sportsman. Obviously, I am disappointed as I had taken very good preparation and was looking to do well. It will be difficult for me to recover from this injury and gain rhythm again," Imrul told The Daily Star yesterday.

Imrul was in good form in the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League where he represented Chattogram Challengers and finished among the top six run-getters with 442 runs in 13 games at an average of 49.11, including four fifties.

The upcoming edition of the Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier League will begin from March 15. The first three rounds will be played in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar due to a shortage of grounds in Dhaka.



Ireland opener Kevin O'Brien (L) and teammate Harry Tector celebrate after a Super-Over win in the third T20I against Afghanistan in Greater Noida yesterday.

Need Bevan or Dhoni type of finisher: Langer

PTI, Melbourne



Australia head coach Justin Langer says his team is desperately looking for a finisher in the mould of Mahendra Singh Dhoni or Michael Bevan in limited overs cricket.

Their three-match ODI series against New Zealand, beginning on March 13, provides Australia an opportunity to test the depth in their middle order, and potentially hone in on batsmen who could fill the 'finisher' role.

"We've been fortunate in the past with a Mike Hussey or a Michael Bevan who are masters at it. MS Dhoni is a master of it, Jos Buttler has been brilliant at it for England," Langer was quoted as saying by ICC.

"What I've learned is everyone in the world is looking for it," he added.

Dhoni has won India innumerable matches from seemingly hopeless positions, and so did the likes of Bevan and Hussey.

South Africa crushed Australia 3-0 in the recently-concluded ODI series where Mitchell Marsh played at number 6 in the second and third games and scored 32 and 36 runs respectively.

Langer feels it is the right time for the potential candidates to seal the spot. The challenge starts with the upcoming ODIs against New Zealand.

"So it's a role that's there for someone to grab hold of," said Langer.

"No one at this stage has absolutely secured it, have they? But there are good opportunities there for someone to do that," he added.

Over the last year, as many as 13 batsmen have occupied positions 4-7 for Australia in ODIs, with nine different batsmen tried out at No.6.

Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis occupied the spot in five matches each, but Stoinis, particularly, misfired in the role, scoring just 27 runs in four innings.



PHOTO: AFP

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
 Second T20I (D/N)
 Time: 6:00pm

GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
 Second T20I (D/N)
 Live from 6:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
 Man City v Arsenal

Live from 1:30am (Thursday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
 Borussia M'gladbach v FC Coln
 Live from 11:30pm
TEN 1
UEFA Champions League

PSG v Dortmund
 Live from 2:00am (Thursday)
TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
 Liverpool v Atletico
 Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
 Second T20I (D/N)
 Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium

AFC Cup
 Bashundhara v TC Sports
 Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



Jamie Vardy scored two goals as Leicester City bounced back from a poor run of results with a resounding 4-0 win over Aston Villa at the King Power Stadium on Tuesday. The win consolidated the Foxes' third position in the Premier League table with 53 points.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PSG under pressure

AFP, Paris

Nothing ever seems to go to plan in the Champions League for Paris Saint-Germain, whose bid to avoid yet another exit in the first knockout round against Borussia Dortmund will be played out before an empty stadium on Wednesday.

After Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and co. lost 2-1 to an Erling Haaland-inspired Dortmund before a crowd of 80,000 fans at the Parc des Princes in the region of six million euros (\$6.9 million), while the president of the club's Ultras fans group has called on supporters to gather outside the stadium instead.

Estimates put the financial hit to Qatar-owned PSG of playing the game without the presence of nearly 50,000 fans at the Parc des Princes in the region of six million euros (\$6.9 million), while the president of the club's Ultras fans group has called on supporters to gather outside the stadium instead.

However, it is still possible the strange atmosphere will work in the home team's favour, removing some of the immense pressure on them.

Agitated supporters are restless at the thought of their team -- despite all the Qatari investment -- going out of the Champions League in the last 16 for the fourth year running.

Following the first-leg defeat, one banner targeted captain Thiago Silva and their two superstar forwards, asking: "Silva, Mbappe, Neymar, afraid of winning? Show some balls."

While PSG's record in France, where they are on course for a seventh Ligue 1 title in eight seasons, is excellent, it is also almost irrelevant. This is a club that begs to be judged on its performance in Europe.

They are the fifth-richest club in the world in the most recent Deloitte

Football Money League, with 636 million euros in revenue last season, behind only Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester United and Bayern Munich.

However, they have fallen at this hurdle in each of the last three seasons, often in farcical fashion.

In 2017 there was the capitulation in Barcelona, a 6-1 defeat following

Plus, sporting director Leonardo tried to take pressure off Thomas Tuchel's team before the Dortmund tie.

"It's not life or death. If we lose we will try again next year," he insisted. "We need to stop all the negativity. We have a fantastic team and fantastic players."

Nevertheless, it is worth pondering how what is essentially a vanity



With Kylian Mbappe doubtful, the onus will be on Neymar to overturn a 2-1 deficit when Paris Saint-Germain host Borussia Dortmund in their Champions League Last 16 fixture tonight.

PHOTO: PSG TWITTER

a 4-0 first-leg win. They then spent over 400 million euros to make Neymar and Mbappe the two most expensive signings in the world, but the Brazilian missed the second leg of the 2018 defeat by Madrid due to injury and then sat out both legs of an improbable exit to Manchester United last year.

In eight years since the Qatari takeover, PSG have beaten just three teams in Champions League knockout ties: Valencia, Bayer Leverkusen and Chelsea (twice).

In a recent interview with Canal

project can continue to be credible if PSG keep on losing the games that really matter.

The need to beat Dortmund is therefore critical, even in these mitigating circumstances, and the futures of both Neymar and Mbappe, forever linked to Real Madrid, could depend on it.

If they do reach a first quarter-final since 2016, the weight off their shoulders will be huge and might well be replaced by a realisation that winning the trophy for the first time is a real possibility.

Mbappe doubtful for Dortmund tie

AFP, Saint-Germain-En-Laye

Paris Saint-Germain are sweating on the fitness of star striker Kylian Mbappe who has picked up a throat infection ahead of Wednesday's Champions League last-16 return-leg against Dortmund.

The French World Cup star missed team training Monday and Tuesday and was reported to have a sore throat, with his club needing to overturn a 2-1 deficit from their first leg defeat in Germany two weeks ago.

Spanish forward Pablo Sarabia is also a likely inclusion should Mbappe miss the game.

Olympiakos owner infected

AFP, Athens

The owner of Greek league leaders Olympiakos on Tuesday said he had coronavirus, two days before a Europa League clash with Wolves that is to be held behind closed doors.

Vangelis Marinakis, who is also the owner of English second-tier club Nottingham Forest, said he was taking "all necessary measures" and "feeling well".

"I am following the instructions of doctors. I strongly (advise) all my fellow citizens to do the same," Marinakis, 52, said on his Facebook page.

Imperfect Liverpool offer Atletico hope

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool's 2-1 victory over Bournemouth on Saturday was met with an unusual sense of relief around Anfield for a side that had just clinched a 22nd consecutive home league win

and moved 25 points clear at the top of the Premier League.

Such has been the Reds' relentless run towards a first league title in 30 years that three defeats in three different competitions in four games was considered a slump in form.

A 3-0 reverse at Watford deprived Jurgen Klopp's men the chance to match Arsenal's "invincible" unbeaten league season and a FA Cup exit at the hands of Chelsea means they cannot replicate Manchester United's treble of 1998/99.

However, the most damaging of the trio of defeats could still prove to be the 1-0 deficit they must overturn when Atletico Madrid travel to Anfield for the second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie on Wednesday.

When at their best, Liverpool have shown they are more than capable of second leg fightbacks at home. Most spectacularly when Barcelona were humbled 4-0 in last season's semi-final despite holding a 3-0

first leg lead.

However, there are cracks in the English champions-elect's armoury that Atletico can expose.

After keeping 10 clean sheets in 11 league games between early December and mid-February, Liverpool have conceded in each of their last five games.

The loss of goalkeeper Alisson Becker to a hip injury is a massive blow with his erratic understudy Adrian at fault for the opening goal against Chelsea last week.

Jordan Henderson's presence in midfield has also been badly missed after he limped off with a hamstring injury in the first leg against Atletico and could be rushed back to face the Spaniards.

Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane again carried the goalscoring burden to turn the game around against Bournemouth, but the form of Roberto Firmino is also a worry for Klopp.

The Brazilian's all-round game makes him the perfect foil for the Salah and Mane to come off the wings and get the goals, but Firmino has been out of sorts in recent weeks and still has not scored at Anfield all season.

Liverpool can at least rely on a vociferous home support that makes Anfield such a fortress on European nights.



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Serie A suspended

AFP, Rome

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on Monday announced that the country's top-flight Serie A football league will be suspended because of the coronavirus crisis.

"There is no reason why matches and sporting events should continue and I am thinking of the football championship," Conte told a press conference. Italy's Olympic Committee had recommended earlier that all sporting events in the country be suspended until April 3.

La Liga behind closed doors

AFP, Madrid

Spain's La Liga confirmed on Tuesday that first and second division matches in Spain will be staged behind closed doors for at least two weeks due to the coronavirus.

The measures follow the decision of the Spanish High Council of Sports that all sporting events in Spain at state and international level should be played without fans to limit the spread of the virus.

FROM DHAKA

DESTINATIONS	ECONOMY	BUSINESS
KUALA LUMPUR	263	583
LANGKAWI	283	673
BRISBANE	840	1,662
SYDNEY	852	2,264
AUCKLAND	959	2,272

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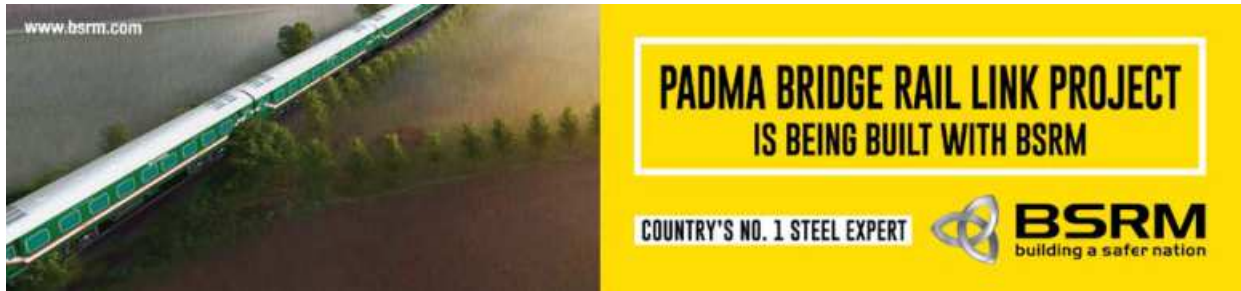
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‘Joy Bangla’ a national slogan

Declares HC, asks govt to ensure its use at state events

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Declaring “Joy Bangla” as the country’s national slogan, the High Court yesterday directed the government to take necessary steps so that the slogan is used at all state functions and academic institutions’ assemblies. The authorities concerned have been asked to take measures so that constitutional post holders and high-ranking state officials utter “Joy Bangla” after their speeches on national days, and teachers and students do the same at the end of their assemblies.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

OUTER ANCHORAGE OF CTG PORT Lax customs’ watch for 9 yrs

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

The outer anchorage of Chittagong port, the largest entrance to the naval facilities of Bangladesh, has been almost out of the customs’ watch for the last nine years.

The crisis that occurred due to manpower shortage and lack of vessels at Customs House Chattogram (CHC) is turning outer anchorage a safe passage for smugglers, said insiders.

According to the CHC, around 70 percent of the total imported goods including coal, oil, edible oil, scrap ships, bitumen and other various consumer goods enter the country through the outer anchorage.

But, the CHC lost its capacity to monitor this vital point of Bangladeshi naval route nine years ago when two of its patrol boats -- PB Safen and PB Somikkha -- became unusable, said an official.

Besides, acute manpower shortage is another major reason behind the present situation at the outer anchorage, he added.

The CHC has a total of 10 officials at present but the organisation needs at least 50 people to properly conduct activities at the outer anchorage, he said.

Seeking anonymity, a former official of CHC said around 40 vessels dock at the outer anchorage every day that were supposed to be checked by the CHC officials. But, with the existing manpower, the CHC can check two vessels a day at best.

Contacted, a customs official, seeking anonymity, said they visit the vessels docked at the outer anchorage very rarely.

Instead, the CHC issues entry permit to the vessels inside Bangladesh territory without any checking, he added.

“It is simply not possible for us to visit all the vessels docked at the outer anchorage and issue clearance due to the manpower shortage and lack of vessels,” he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, another official of the CHC said the outer anchorage

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU’S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Mujib’s appeal for safe return of Bengalees



Dr E Saller, head of the UN consultants team and Australian ambassador with Tony Hagen, chief of UN Relief Operation call on Bangabandhu on March 11, 1972.

MARCH 11, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

LEADING NATIONS TAKE UP REPATRIATION ISSUE

Bangabandhu’s communications to the leading countries of the world to ensure the safe return of Bengalees from Pakistan have received positive response, informs Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. He adds that the countries have taken up the matter seriously and they are ‘very much sympathetic’ towards the issue.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PM’s visit to Japan postponed

Spl JS session deferred amid virus scare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has postponed her two-day official visit to Japan amid a global outbreak of novel coronavirus, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.

“The prime minister was scheduled to leave for Japan on March 30, but her visit has been postponed as the coronavirus has spread there also,” he said.

The minister was talking to journalists after holding a meeting of the sub-committee on “international activities and communication” for the celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the capital’s International Mother Language Institute.

Earlier, the March 17 grand inaugural ceremony of Bangabandhu’s birth centenary celebrations

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 11

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
JAZAN 5-05	12-45	4-30	6-12	7-30
JAMAAT 5-40	1-15	4-45	6-15	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

‘A Day Without Us’

Mexican women’s unique protest

AFP, Mexico City

Women mostly stayed off Mexico City’s streets Monday as part of a protest against the country’s soaring rate of gender violence.

The “Day Without Us” strike was staged to highlight the more than 1,000 women and children murdered in Mexico last year.

“This is what a society without women would look like,” said Jorge Luna, 21, an employee at a chain of cafes where only male customers and

staff were present on Monday.

Few women could be seen walking or driving through the center of the capital, waitresses abandoned cafes and restaurants to their male counterparts and female teachers and office workers for the most part stayed at home.

“Parents, be informed that female personnel are joining this national strike by women,” read a sign posted outside one school in Mexico City.

Many schools remained shut as a result, while female students boycotted

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY, PROMOTION ‘BUSINESS’, NEGLIGENCE

CMP official faces action

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Kazi Shafiqul Islam worked as a reserve officer (RO)-01 at Chattogram District Police Lines for seven years. His tenure was marked by allegations of bribery, promotion business, gross negligence in duties and misbehaviour with his colleagues.

He was then transferred to Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) from district police. The transfer opened the floodgate of his irregularities, as they began to come

to light one by one.

Shafiqul, currently a sub-inspector, has been sent show cause notices from the Chattogram SP office, but he has not responded to those. A departmental case was also filed against him over irregularities.

The case is currently under investigation.

Mentioning “administrative reasons”, the SI was stand released from the RO-1 post of CMP by the Police Headquarters and transferred to Armed Police Battalion (APBN) on

December 30. Afterwards, the order was cancelled.

Following this move, the then superintendent of police (SP) of Chattogram Noor-E-Alam Mina found many irregularities against the SI during an annual visit to the Reserve Office at Halishahar Police Lines on December 3, 2018.

In the eight-page report signed by SP Noor-E-Alam and attached to the show cause notice issued on December 12, 2018, he asked the SI to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

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- ❖ অনেক দোকানদার ঝাড়ু দিয়ে ময়লা-আবর্জনা বুড়িতে না রেখে রাস্তা/ফুটপাথে ফেলেন।
- ❖ অনেক ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন/সরকারি-বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের ডোবা/জলাশয় কচুরিপানা এবং ময়লা-আবর্জনা পরিপূর্ণ।
- ❖ এছাড়া অনেক বাসা-বাড়ি/নির্মাণাধীন ভবন/প্রতিষ্ঠানের ভিতরে-বাইরে পাত্র/চৌবাচ্চা/ডাবের খোসা/টায়ার ইত্যাদিতে পানি জমে থাকে।

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- ✓ ব্যবসায়ীদেরকে ময়লা-আবর্জনা দোকানের ভিতরে নিজ-নিজ ময়লার বুড়িতে রাখার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।
- ✓ সকল ডোবা/জলাশয় থেকে কচুরিপানা/ময়লা-আবর্জনা নিজ দায়িত্বে অপসারণ করার অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।
- ✓ এছাড়া সকল বাড়ি/হাউজিং সোসাইটি/নির্মাণাধীন ভবন/প্রতিষ্ঠানের ভেতরে-বাইরে কোনো পাত্র/চৌবাচ্চা/ডাবের খোসা/টায়ার ইত্যাদিতে কোনো অবস্থায় যেন পানি জমে না থাকে সেদিকে বিশেষভাবে লক্ষ্য রাখার অনুরোধ করা হলো।

অন্যথায় ভ্রাম্যমাণ আদালতের মাধ্যমে কঠোর আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ
ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন

করোনাভাইরাসের (কোভিড-১৯) প্রাদুর্ভাব রোধে জনসচেতনতা মূলক তথ্যাবলি

করোনাভাইরাস সংক্রমণের ঝুঁকি রোধে করণীয়

১. ঘন ঘন দুই হাত সর্বদা পানি দিয়ে কমপক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ডে যাবত পরিষ্কার করুন।

২. যেখানে সেখানে কফ ও পুস্ট ফেলবেন না। হাত নিশ্চয় নাক, মুখ ও চোখ স্পর্শ থেকে বিরত থাকুন।

৩. ঠাটি-কাশির সময়ে চিন্তা অথবা কাপড় দিয়ে বা বাহুর ভেঁজে নাক-মুখ ঢেকে ফেলুন। ব্যবহৃত চিন্তা চাকরনামুক্ত ময়লার পায়ে ফেলুন ও হাত পরিষ্কার করুন।

৪. জ্বর, কাশি, শ্বাসকষ্ট

৫. করোনাভাইরাস (কোভিড-১৯) এর লক্ষণসমূহ

করোনাভাইরাস (কোভিড-১৯) আক্রান্ত দেশ হতে আসার অথবা আক্রান্ত ব্যক্তির সংস্পর্শে আসার ১৪ দিনের মধ্যে উপরের যে কোনো লক্ষণ দেখা দিলে-

- ✓ নাক-মুখ ঢাকার জন্য মাস্ক ব্যবহার করুন
- ✓ সুস্থ ব্যক্তি হতে ৩ ফুট দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন
- ✓ আইইডিসিআর- এর হটলাইন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন

করোনাভাইরাস (কোভিড-১৯) আক্রান্ত দেশ থেকে ফেরা বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের স্বাস্থ্যসেবা প্রসঙ্গে

আক্রান্ত দেশ থেকে যদি কেউ এসে থাকেন এবং যাদের মধ্যে (কোভিড-১৯) রোগের কোন লক্ষণ দেখা যায়নি, তারা মোট ১৪ দিন ধরে স্বেচ্ছা কোয়ারান্টাইনে থাকবেন।

আক্রান্ত দেশ থেকে যদি কেউ এসে থাকেন এবং বাংলাদেশে অবস্থানের ১৪ দিনের মধ্যে (কোভিড-১৯) রোগের লক্ষণ দেখা দেয় তবে তাৎক্ষণিক ভাবে আইইডিসিআর হটলাইনে ফোন করবেন।

আইইডিসিআর-এর হটলাইন নম্বরে: ০১৯৩৭ ১১০০১১, ০১৯৩৭ ০০০০১১, ০১৯২৭ ৭১১৭৮৪, ০১৯২৭ ৭১১৭৮৫ ও স্বাস্থ্য বাতায়ন-১৬২৬৩

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর
স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়

স্বাস্থ্য বাতায়ন ১৬২৬৩
স্বাস্থ্যের সেবা, সব সময়

EDITOR & PUBLISHER : MAHFUZ ANAM. Printed by him from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 09610222222, 9144330 & 9117796, Fax: 58156306, GPO Box No: 3257, for Advertisement: 01711623910, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net, reporting@thedailystar.net, advertisement@thedailystar.net