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SHAH CEMENT

Another worry for Bangladesh

Countries dealing with Covid-19 ask Bangladesh to take back its undocumented workers

PORIMOL PALMA and JAMIL MAHMUD

On top of the coronavirus crisis and the feared economic aftershock, Bangladesh is now facing pressure from different countries to take back undocumented Bangladeshis working there.

Kuwait and the Maldives have formally informed Bangladesh about the matter while Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain had initiated talks on sending back undocumented migrants, officials said.

There could be about 75,000 undocumented Bangladeshis in Kuwait and the Maldives, they added.

"At this moment, there is pressure, but we have to take care of our citizens. At the same time, we will make diplomatic efforts to handle the issue and see how our people can have the best deal," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

He said ministers and officials at home, foreign, and expatriates' welfare ministries would hold a meeting at the foreign ministry today to discuss how to go about with this.

The meeting would be a follow-up to a similar meeting held on April 5.

According to an expatriates' welfare ministry official, Kuwait asked several countries, including the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Egypt and Bangladesh, to take back the undocumented migrant workers.

"The Philippines already started repatriation of its undocumented nationals in Kuwait. Egypt agreed to do

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People from low-income families wait for relief on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city. With the country in a shutdown for two weeks, many underprivileged people are struggling to get by as they have no work. The photo was taken around 9:00pm on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Benazir new IGP, Mamun Rab DG



Benazir Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed Additional Inspector General Benazir Ahmed as the new inspector general of police (IGP).

The home ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification in this regard saying the order would come into effect from April 15.

Benazir has been serving as the director general of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) -- the elite force of Bangladesh police -- since January 2015.

Additional Inspector General Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, also the chief of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), was made the DG Rab.

Benazir will succeed Mohammad Javed Patwary.

Patwary, who is known to be an officer with a clean image and has earned huge accolade during his tenure as the IGP since 2018, will resign from Bangladesh Police on April 13.

"The government will appoint Patwary as the ambassador of a Middle Eastern country," a highly-placed source at the home ministry recently told The Daily Star.

Benazir joined Bangladesh Police as an assistant superintendent of police in February 1988. He has served in various capacities of the force and proved his professionalism, dedication and excellence.

Born in Gopalganj in 1963, Benazir completed his honours and masters' in English literature from Dhaka University. He also

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 9

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-45 6-21 7-45
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bernie Sanders suspends 2020 Democratic campaign

REUTERS, Washington

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders suspended his campaign for the White House yesterday during a conference call with staff, making former Vice President Joe Biden the presumptive nominee to face Republican Donald Trump in the November 3 election.

Sanders plans to address supporters during a livestream at 11:45 ET (1545 GMT), a statement said.

The US senator from Vermont, a democratic socialist whose progressive agenda pulled the party sharply to the left, shot to an early lead in the Democratic race but faded quickly after losing South Carolina in late February as moderate Democrats

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

'Every means will be used to establish socialism'

APRIL 9, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU ELECTED AL PARLIAMENTARY LEADER

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is today elected leader of the Awami League Parliamentary Party in the Bangladesh Constituent Assembly. Bangladesh Constituent Assembly will open tomorrow to begin a new chapter in the history of the new nation.

UNITE AND RESIST MISCREANTS

Bangabandhu today urges those who truly believe in socialism to unite and resist the miscreants. Addressing the inaugural session of the 13th National Conference of Bangladesh Students' Union at Suhrawardy Uddyan, Bangabandhu declares that every means will be used to establish socialism in the country because in it lays the welfare of the people. He will welcome cooperation and help in whatever way that come to establish socialism, he adds.

Bangabandhu strongly criticises the role of the government of communist China during the

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Bangabandhu releases doves -- a symbol of peace -- at the 13th annual conference of Bangladesh Students' Union at Suhrawardy Uddyan (Apr 9, 1972).



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RAPE OF GIRL 2 teens sent to correction centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Kurigram court yesterday sent two teenagers to a juvenile correction centre in connection with the rape of a second grader in the district's Rowmari upazila on Tuesday.

Abu Mohammad Hasan Dilwar Inam, officer-in-charge of Rowmari Police Station, said the duo abducted the girl on her way back to home from a nearby playground. They then took her to an isolated maize field and raped her.

Hearing the victim scream, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her. They also managed to catch the duo who were later handed over to police, he added.

The victim's mother filed a case with the police station on Tuesday night.

Yesterday, police produced the duo before the court that sent them to juvenile correction centre.

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STAY HOME, STAY WELL

Using time to nurture talents

Quarantined celebrities surprise with hidden skills

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

During the days of quarantine, people get a huge amount of time to spend inside the house with their nearest and dearest ones.

The pandemic has also opened a new avenue for celebrities across the globe to hone their hidden talents.

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan recently took to social media to sketch out a charcoal design on paper.

"So the way we dress is perhaps the best thing that our culture has ever done to us," said Khan as he began sketching in the video.

Another Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif gave a surprise to her fans by appearing on social media with a guitar.

She promised that soon she would release another video where she would sing too.

Jacqueline Fernandez took her fans breath away by posting her yoga videos.

These are a few examples that can inspire people to harness their latent talents in this leisure time.

One may be good at painting, one may be in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Syria behind 2017 chemical attacks

Says OPCW

AFP, The Hague

The world's chemical weapons watchdog yesterday for the first time explicitly blamed Syria for toxic attacks in the country, saying President Bashar al-Assad's regime used sarin and chlorine three times in 2017.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said it "has concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the perpetrators of the use of sarin as a chemical weapon in Lataminah in 2017... and the use of chlorine... were individuals belonging to the Syrian Arab Air Force".

The report is the first released by the Hague-based watchdog's new Identification and Investigations Team (IIT), set up specifically to finger the perpetrators of chemical attacks in Syria's ongoing nine-year-long civil war.

"Attacks of such a strategic nature would

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A pet shop owner feeding the animals at his shop in the capital's Kataban market yesterday. The animals had been suffering from a lack of food and care since a shutdown was enforced in the country on March 26 over Covid-19. Authorities on Monday allowed the owners to keep their shops open for two hours every day to look after the animals, after a photo on the animals' plight went viral on social media. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A doctor on duty braving increased risk

RAFIUL ISLAM

She is a cardiac patient.

Yet, the 35-year-old doctor did not evade her duties -- knowing the added risks -- during the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

She continues to work at Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital. The government in late February announced it as a special hospital to treat Covid-19 patients.

She was among the doctors who handled the first confirmed case on March 7.

Despite being vulnerable to coronavirus as a cardiac patient, taking a break has been quite impossible for her due to the number of patients snowballing -- forcing her to overwork at times with other colleagues.

She was forced to pause only when her CSFP (coronary slow-flow phenomenon) got complicated and she had to be admitted at a hospital in late March.

But after three days, she returned to work to serve patients.

"It is our duty... This is the time to prove our commitment to the state... to show our dedication to the oath we took," the doctor told The Daily Star today.

Against the backdrop of some hospitals being criticised for "mishandling" patients during this time of crisis, there have been similar accounts of doctors who have been working tirelessly to attend to patients. One of the doctor's colleagues, who was pregnant, had a miscarriage while performing duties at the same hospital, she said.

Despite all odds, 60 physicians and consultants and 85 nurses are serving patients at Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital.

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