

Anger as China

FROM PAGE 12 freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland under a "one country, two systems" formula at its 1997 handover.

"We deplore the decision," EU Council President Charles Michel told a news conference.

"This law risks seriously undermining the high degree of autonomy of Hong Kong and having a detrimental effect on the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law."

Authorities in Beijing and Hong Kong have repeatedly said the legislation is aimed at a few "troublemakers" in Hong Kong and will not affect its rights and freedoms, nor investor interests.

The end of quota

FROM PAGE 12 After that, the PSC in a circular said it had recommended 306 candidates of the 38th BCS for appointment to the administration cadre and 100 to the police.

In total, 613 candidates were recommended for general cadres, 239 for agriculture extension officers, 220 for assistant surgeons, 71 as dental surgeons, 532 in some technical cadres, and 768 for education cadres. On the other hand, 6,173 candidates did not get any cadre and will have to wait for non-cadre jobs.

PSC Chairman Mohammad Sadiq said, "We were preparing to publish the results by the end of March or the first week of April. But the coronavirus has changed everything. We started working after the lockdown. Finally, we are successful. I have to thank PSC members and officials who have worked a lot for this."

The selection process for the 38th BCS began following a Ministry of Public Administration requisition to the PSC on March 5, 2017, for the recruitment of 2,024 cadre officers.

The preliminary exam of the 38th BCS, involving over 3.5 lakh candidates, was held on December 29, 2017. The preliminary exam results were published on February 18, 2018, with 16,000 passing it.

The written test ended on August 13, 2018, and the results were published on July 1, 2019 -- a new record for delayed publishing of the written results. The PSC then took a viva test of over 9,000 successful candidates till February this year. But due to Covid-19, the final results were delayed.

PSC officials said it was often seen in the past that many competent candidates got low marks in the written test as there was evaluation negligence. To avoid this in the 38th BCS, the PSC decided for the first time that two examiners will evaluate the written papers and an average will be taken.

But in many cases the markings of the two examiners so widely varied that they had to send it to a third examiner. As a result, it took a year to publish the written results. That was the main reason for the delay.

END OF QUOTA SYSTEM
The PSC confirmed that the 38th is the last BCS for the quota system. As there were no qualified candidates in the quota, more than 6,000 posts remained vacant in different cadres from the 28th to 37th BCS.

Even though meritorious applicants passed, they did not get jobs; on the other hand, hundreds of posts remained vacant. In particular, candidates in technical cadres like doctors, engineers and agricultural officers were most deprived.

There were strong protests from February to July 2018, demanding reforms in the quota system. It rapidly attained popularity among college and university students, forcing the government to announce changes in its policy.

In the wake of the movement, the government in October 2018 issued a circular dismissing the quota system for recruitment in the ninth to thirteenth grades (formerly known as first and second class jobs).

On July 30, 2019, the government announced that there is no quota in recruitment in 1st and 2nd class posts (9th to 13th grade) at present; the quota for the post of 3rd and 4th class posts (14th to 20th grade) is still in force, but if no candidate of the relevant quota is found, it has to be filled from the merit list of the general candidates.

In addition to clarifying the previous circular on quotas issued on January 20 this year, the cabinet also approved a proposal provided by the Ministry of Public Administration to cancel quotas on direct appointments to eighth or higher-grade posts in government jobs.

But there was confusion about the 40th BCS as the circular of this BCS was published on September 11, 2018, just one month before the abolition of the quota system. But the PSC said the quota system will not be applied for that BCS.

PSC Chairman Mohammad Sadiq said last night, "The 38th is the last BCS exam where the quota system has been applied. Though the circular of 40th BCS was published before the abolition of the quota system but we said that we will follow the government's last order regarding quota."

"As the government has issued a circular abolishing the quota system there is no scope for quota in the 40th BCS. So you can say the era of the quota system has ended with the 38th BCS."



Pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong observe a minute of silence during a protest after China's parliament passes a national security law for Hong Kong yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wasa to collect raised water tariffs

FROM PAGE 12 Rahim on June 22 issued injunction till August 10 on the Dhaka Wasa decision of increasing the water tariff.

Writ petitioner Advocate Tanvir Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday that there was no legal bar for the Dhaka Wasa to collect the hiked water tariff following the SC stay order.

He, however, did not say the reasons for which the apex court stayed the HC order of injunction.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam appeared for the Dhaka Wasa while Barrister Aneek R Haque represented

the writ petitioner. On June 15, Tanvir Ahmed filed the writ petition with the High Court seeking its order of injunction on the Dhaka Wasa decision of hiking the water price to 25 percent since April 1 this year.

He submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the High Court through virtual system also praying to the court to declare the Dhaka Wasa's move to increase the 25 percent water price.

Citing the petition, Tanvir Ahmed told The Daily Star that the Dhaka Wasa had increased 5 percent water price on September 1 last year.

It has further increased the water price to 25 percent since April 1 this year which has been reported in different newspapers including The Daily Star, he said.

Advocate Tanvir said the most of the countrymen are now facing serious financial crisis and amid this situation hiking 25 percent water tariff is not only illegal but also a heartless act.

The Dhaka Wasa can increase only 5 percent water tariff in consultation with the government as per section 22 of the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act, 1996, the writ petitioner added.

No aid

FROM PAGE 12 Tajuddin Ahmad further says that under no circumstances the country would accept any aid with strings. "We will starve if necessary but would not accept loan with strings," he emphatically says.

He, however, did not say the reasons for which the apex court stayed the HC order of injunction. Attorney General Mahbub Alam appeared for the Dhaka Wasa while Barrister Aneek R Haque represented

between the two leaders since it was preceded by a 40-minute meeting between the two yesterday. These meetings prove to be inconclusive. However, Indira Gandhi visualises more summit meetings between India and Pakistan even if the current talks don't yield meaningful results.

ROTARY CLUB HONOURS MUJIB
Dhaka Rotary Club today declares Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the best Rotarian for his uncompromising stand for truth and for his strong sense of justice and fair play. The declaration is made by the Rotarians at their first meeting in independent Bangladesh, held today

in Dhaka. **BRIDGE ON THE RIVER JAMUNA**
Communication Minister Muhammad Mansur Ali says today that the government is determined to go ahead with the construction of a bridge over the River Jamuna. A Japanese team has already prepared a preliminary feasibility report for the proposed bridge and the selection of the site has been made. A detailed study is awaited. The government will negotiate with the Japanese government in the matter, the minister adds.

SOURCES: July 2, 1972 issues of *Bangladesh Observer*, *Dianik Bangla* and *Dainik Ittefaq*.

Farmers fear the worst

FROM PAGE 12 hardships as their houses have been washed away by floodwater.

"My house along with 10 decimals of land has been washed away by floodwater five days ago. Now, I have become completely helpless," said Basanti Rani, a resident of Sujauler Para area under Sariakandi upazila.

In Gaibandha, some 3,570 hectares of croplands were inundated in Sadar, Sundarganj, Saghata and Fulchari upazilas.

Over 1 lakh people are directed affected by flood in these areas. Around 22,000 houses been damaged, said AKM Idris Ali, district relief and rehabilitation officer.

In Lalmonirhat, over 550 hectares of croplands have been submerged in the mainland. Apart from this, vast areas of cropland of island areas have been submerged.

The damage to croplands of these islands cannot be assessed immediately, said Shamim Ashraf, deputy director of the Lalmonirhat DAE office.

Mobarak Ali, a farmer of Harinchara Majherchar under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said, "I cultivated groundnut on 10 bighas of land. I had to invest around Tk 70,000. But all the crops have been damaged by floodwater just one week before harvesting."

Our correspondents from Bogura, Lalmonirhat, Jamalpur, and Sylhet contributed to this report.

Jute workers

FROM PAGE 12 At the protest rally, workers' leaders said if the government decision was not revoked by yesterday, the workers would go on a hunger strike along with their family members at their respective mill gates from July 1.

Sahana Sharmin, president of Platinum Jute Mill Workers Union, told The Daily Star that they would continue their demonstration until the government cancelled its decision.

Over three crore people are involved in the jute sector directly and indirectly. If the mills are closed, they with their family members will have to suffer immensely, she said.

Sardar Abdul Hamid, convener of Bangladesh Jute Workers Protection CBA and Non-CBA Sangram Committee, said the decision to close 25 government jute mills was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting on June 25.

If the decision is not changed, the workers and their family members will start a hunger strike from July 1, he said.

Asked, Boniz Uddin Miah, Khulna regional coordinator of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, told this newspaper that they were observing the situation and informing it to their higher authorities. They would make decisions as per the higher authorities' instructions, he said.

Health minister under fire at JS

FROM PAGE 1 compared to many other countries.

He also claimed that many doctors and health staffers got infected with Covid-19 at the primary stage as "they didn't know how to wear and take off PPEs".

Participating in the discussion, JP MP Pir Fazlur Rahman said the health ministry was in a grave situation.

"The people of my constituency asked me to place it [their desire] before the prime minister so that she would remove the health minister entrusting him with another responsibility and bring Matia Chowdhury to the post," he said.

Another Jatiya Party MP, Mujibul Haque Chunnu, alleged that the health ministry did not initially take any effective measures to tackle the coronavirus.

"Almost all doctors and nurses in my two upazilas got infected with Covid-19 as sub-standard PPEs and other health safety items were given to them," he said.

Lambasting the director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Dr Abul Kalam Azad, the JP MP asked how a person of his stature could comment that Bangladesh would not be affected by Covid-19 due to the high temperature.

"And the same person is now saying the virus infection may continue for two to three years," Chunnu said, adding that the government should investigate what study he had gone through before making such comments.

He demanded that the prime minister make it mandatory for all MPs, ministers and government officials to receive treatment at public hospitals instead of Combined Military Hospitals.

Echoing Chunnu, JP MP Rowshan Ara Mannan said the health minister must come up with a clarification on why there was a scarcity of testing kits at the primary stage.

BNP MP Harunur Rashid during his speech emphasised on addressing the manpower crisis in the sector.

He alleged that there was no coordination between the health ministry and the DGHS. He also suggested the institutions be reformed.

MINISTER'S REPLY
In reply to a volley of criticisms, the minister said there were 14,000 beds dedicated to treating Covid-19 patients in different hospitals and as of yesterday, only 60 percent of those beds were occupied.

He also denied the allegations that patients were not getting treatment at any hospital in Bangladesh. The minister said initially there was an outcry for ventilators, "but now it seems that there is no outcry for ventilators as only 50 of the 400 ventilators are being used."

He added that most of the patients placed on a ventilator died within a few days.

The minister also said high flow oxygen is essential for Covid-19 patients. So, the government has taken initiative for arranging 1,000 high flow oxygen (or central oxygen lines) and 10,000 new oxygen cylinders. Talking about the allegation of irregularities in the hotel bills and food costs of doctors and health workers at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Zahid said the allegation was not correct as some 3,700 healthcare staffers, including doctors, stayed in 50 hotels for a month and Tk 500 was given to each of them every day for three meals.

So, the allegation regarding the irregularities was not correct.

He said currently there was no allegation about the standard of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The government has already sent 30 lakh PPEs to different hospitals, he added.

WHO warns

FROM PAGE 12 the authors said, adding that "close monitoring in human populations, especially the workers in the swine industry, should be urgently implemented".

The study highlights the risks of viruses crossing the species barrier into humans, especially in densely populated regions in China, where millions live close to farms, breeding facilities, slaughterhouses and wet markets.

The current coronavirus sweeping

the world is believed to have originated in horseshoe bats in southwest China and could have spread to humans via a seafood market in the central city of Wuhan, where the virus was first identified.

The World Health Organization (WHO) will read the Chinese study carefully, spokesman Christian Lindmeier told a Geneva briefing yesterday, saying it was important to collaborate on findings and keep tabs on animal populations.

Indian vaccine gets nod

FROM PAGE 12 the vaccine, which was developed and manufactured in Bharat Biotech's facility at Genome Valley in Hyderabad, India.

India, which lags only the United States, Brazil and Russia in total cases, reported close to 20,000 new infections yesterday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned citizens against flouting rules to prevent the spread of coronavirus, as he extended a vast social security scheme until November.

Several Indian cities prepared to extend their lockdowns to combat the

spread of the infection.

"Ever since (easing of restrictions) started in the country, negligence in personal and social behaviour has been increasing," Modi said in a televised address yesterday, adding citizens were ignoring guidelines on social distancing and hand washing.

Under pressure for leaving the poor to fend for themselves early in a stringent lockdown that began in March, Modi also announced the extension of a scheme providing free food grains to 800 million Indians, at a cost of around \$12 billion.

Life expectancy at birth rises

FROM PAGE 12 "People of Bangladesh can now have three meals a day. They also have quick access to facilities like community clinics and hospitals. This is why life expectancy is rising," said Prof AKM Nurun Nabi, former chairman of Dhaka University's population sciences department.

"Reduction in child mortality has a direct link to the rise in overall life expectancy at birth and Bangladesh has been doing quite well in reducing child mortality," said Nabi, also former vice chancellor of Begum Rokeya University.

Maternal mortality rate has also fallen over the last few years and complications during childbirth has also reduced. These contributed to greater life expectancy in women.

Maternal mortality rate came down to 1.65 per 1,000 live births in 2019 from 1.81 in 2015. The under-five child mortality rate fell to 28 per 1,000 live births in 2019 from 36 in 2015, according to BBS.

Migration to urban areas from rural regions and other towns have seen a rise in the last five years.

Some 117 in every 1,000 people moved to urban areas in 2019, a significant rise from 90 in 2015.

Search for better education and employment are key factors driving people to urban areas, said AKM Ashraf Haque, director of Monitoring the Situation of Vital Statistics Project.

According to the report, the literacy rate among people over 15 rose to 74.7 percent in 2019 from 64.6 percent in 2015.

The rural-urban gap in literacy was big last year. The adult literacy rate in rural areas was at 68.4 percent against 82.2 percent in urban areas.

Women were behind men in terms of attaining literacy, as 71.9 percent women were literate compared to 77.4 percent men.

Crude birth rate (CBR), the simplest measure of fertility, was estimated at 18.1 per thousand in 2019, which was 18.3 in the previous year. The CBR was 18.8 in 2015.

The crude death rate (CDR) declined to 4.9 per thousand in 2019 from 5.1 in 2015. CDR was 5.0 per thousand in 2018.

The latest report said that the total population of the country as of January 1, 2020 stood at 167.43 million, among them 83.80 million were men and 83.63 million women.

About 93.5 percent households in 2019 use electricity, according to the report.

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গ্রিহজনকে বই উপহার দিন।

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মালিন্দানবীন অগ্নিদান অর্ধকাপি মন্দির (সোয়েভান সিটি) স্টপওয়ার বাস টার্মিনাল এর বাসস্টেশন ইজারা।

১.	অফিস/কিছা	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় অফিস।
২.	সংস্থা	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
৩.	দরপত্র আহবানকারী	পরিবহন বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, নগর ভবন, ঢাকা।
৪.	ক্রম পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (PSC-3 সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্র সিদ্ধিগত ক্রম করতে হবে এবং সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে)।
৫.	ইজারার মেয়াদকাল	কার্যক্রমে তারিখ থেকে পর্যন্ত ০১ (এক) বছর।
৬.	জামানতসহ দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	(১) ব্যক্তিগত পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্য সত্যি সত্যি ছবি ২ (দুই) কপি। (২) কার্টার/ডায়েরি/ডায়েরি কন্ট্রোল অফিসের সত্যায়িত কপি। (৩) হস্তাক্ষর টিকাইন স্যাটাইফিকেশনের সত্যায়িত কপি। (৪) কোম্পানীর ক্ষেত্রে হস্তাক্ষর ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও ভাট স্যাটাইফিকেশনের সত্যায়িত কপি সহকারে সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। (৫) উক্ত দরপত্র উপর ৩০% (শতকরা ত্রিশ ভাগ) জামানতের অর্থ ঢাকা/স্বদেশে কোন সিদ্ধিগত ব্যাংক হতে মাননীয় চেম্বার, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর অনুমোদিত উন্মুক্ত সিদ্ধিগত পেমেন্ট/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দাখিলে সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।
৭.	সিদ্ধিগত টিকা জমা দেয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	সিদ্ধিগত মূল্য বরাদ্দ নির্ধারিত অর্থ ব্যাংক ডায়েরির মাধ্যমে চেম্বার, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, স্টপওয়ার বাস টার্মিনাল নং ২০০০১৩৩৬ (বিবি) জামানতপূর্ণক উপস্থিত কার্যালয়ে হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সিদ্ধিগত বিজ্ঞপ্তি করা হবে।
৮.	দরপত্র বিক্রির স্থান	(ক) সিদ্ধিগত কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ (খ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের পরিবহন বিভাগ, হিসাব বিভাগ ও নগর আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় (গ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়।
৯.	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	(ক) সিদ্ধিগত কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ (খ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের পরিবহন বিভাগ ও নগর আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় (গ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়।
১০.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	স্মারক নং-৪৬.২০১৭.০০২.১৬.০৭.৫২৫.১৪৪.২০২০ তারিখ ৩০/০৬/২০২০খ্রি।
১১.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শুরু তারিখ	পত্রিকা বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে।
১২.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২১/০৭/২০২০খ্রি তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১৩.	দরপত্র সফিলের তারিখ ও সময়	২২/০৭/২০২০খ্রি সময় ৯.০০টা থেকে ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
১৪.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২২/০৭/২০২০খ্রি সময় ০১.০০ ঘটিকার সময় মহানগরস্বাক্ষর (পরিবহন)-এর দপ্তরে (কক নং-৩২৪, ৩য় তলা, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, নগর, মরশাহারের সড়কে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাজ বোলা হবে।
১৫.	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	টেলিফোন নম্বর ৯৫৬৫২৫২।
১৬.	দরপত্রাদার প্রতি বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা (ব্যাংক-ব্যাংক)	(ক) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত শর্তাবলী অনুসরণ করা হওয়া। (খ) প্রতি সেট সিদ্ধিগত মূল্য ৮৪,৩০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার আশি) টাকা কর্পোরেশন অফিসে ডায়েরি সত্যায়িত জামানত করে তা দাখিলের সহিত সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ কোন সিদ্ধিগত বিজ্ঞপ্তি হবে না। দরপত্র গ্রহণ করার দিন কোন কার্যবাহী সরকারি চুক্তি মোতাবেক হলে পরিবর্তী কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যমে গ্রহণ করা হবে।

কাজের বিবরণ

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	আনুমানিক মূল্য	প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	নিয়োগের মেয়াদ	দরপত্র বিক্রয় মূল্য
১।	অগ্নিদান-অর্ধকাপি মন্দির (সোয়েভান সিটি) স্টপওয়ার বাস টার্মিনাল হতে টার্মিনাল কি ও কন্ট্রোল রুমের আনয়ন কাজের ইজারাদার নিয়োগ।	উক্ত দরপত্রের ৩০% (শতকরা ত্রিশ ভাগ)	বাসস্টেশন ৩০০/- টাকা (চার কোটি বিশ লক্ষ নয়শত পঞ্চাশ চারশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা।	কার্যক্রম প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে পর্যন্ত ১ (এক) বছরের জন্য	৮৪,৩০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার আশি) টাকা মার (অক্রেতারপক্ষে)

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