

**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**  
Global cases exceed 15 million as Trump admits situation to 'get worse'  
**SEE PAGE 6**

# The Daily Star

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## Govt going for DGHS shake-up

*After the DG's resignation, director of hospitals unit set to be removed from the directorate beset with controversies, criticisms*

WASIM BIN HABIB and MOUJIB AHMED SUJAN

Following weeks of controversies and a day after the director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) quit, the government has decided to make some reshuffles at the top end of the directorate.

Prof Abul Kalam Azad resigned from the post of DG of DGHS on Tuesday after a blame game between the ministry and the directorate over the signing of a deal with Regent Hospital that issued fake Covid-19 test reports.

The health ministry has now decided to remove Aminul Hasan, director of hospitals and clinics unit of the DGHS. A circular would be issued soon, said sources in the ministry.

They said the director of hospitals and clinics, Aminul, was responsible for making sure that the private hospitals and clinics run following rules. His section was directly responsible for signing deals with hospitals for Covid-19 testing and treatment.

They said the removal of Aminul was just the tip of the iceberg. Officials of other sections, including administration, planning, and government hospital unit,

would also be changed soon.

Experts, however, said removing a few people would not solve the problems the health sector has long been facing and a major overhaul was imperative.

"Removing any person will not bring any result, unless the whole system is rearranged. It is urgent to assign skilled, efficient and honest people everywhere, especially in administrative posts," said Prof ABM Abdullah, noted medicine specialist.

"If we do not take effective measures, our development will be hampered. We have to take up programmes to rearrange the entire system," he told The Daily Star.

Ehteshamul Huq Choudhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association, said, "The government has started at the right place. But removing only a person will not bear any fruit. Everyone involved in irregularities and the inefficient people have to be removed."

"Besides, the people involved in anomalies must be held accountable."

If any allegation is raised against the health ministry, it should also be

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People walking nonchalantly on the rail lines even though the approaching train is quite close. This habit not only results in accidents but also is a constant annoyance for the drivers. The photo was taken in the capital's Moghbazar yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

<b>BANGLADESH UPDATE</b>	<b>2,744</b> New cases in 24hrs	<b>2,13,254</b> Total cases	<b>2,751</b> Deaths	<b>1,17,202</b> Recoveries	<b>GLOBAL UPDATE</b>	<b>621,615</b> Deaths	<b>15,172,678</b> Total cases
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## Don't let private hospitals go beyond control

*HC tells govt; says authorities should have restrained some of the hospital owners*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that the authorities concerned of the government should remain cautious so that private hospitals cannot go beyond control.

The authorities should have restrained the owners of some private hospitals from showing their powers, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim said during virtual hearing of five writ petitions filed seeking necessary orders to ensure treatment of patients at all hospitals.

The bench made the observation in response to a discussion over the Shahabuddin Medical College Hospital's owners reportedly meeting with the home minister after the law enforcers raided the hospital for irregularities, court sources said.

The court also said duties of mobile court magistrates are to conduct the courts on specific allegations and punish the

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## A formula for disaster?

*At least four labs using one kit for testing two Covid-19 samples*

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Some government-approved laboratories are using a single kit for RT-PCR testing of two samples for the novel coronavirus -- a novelty practice that several experts termed not only unscientific and unethical but also something that risks producing faulty results.

They even said it may allow the highly contagious virus to spread further.

The Daily Star found at least four laboratories doing such tests and officials of those facilities said they were following this practice due to an acute shortage of testing kits.

These lab officials claimed they have got the full support of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) for employing this unconventional method.

They said they were getting similar results by using this method as achieved with the use of one kit for one test -- which is standard practice here and worldwide. The national guideline on Covid-19 test also recommends one kit for one sample.

A RT-PCR kit contains reagent, the main ingredient of this or any chemical test, which is prescribed for testing one sample. The officials of these four laboratories, however, say they are using half of the reagent in the kit for testing each sample.

Additionally, the national guideline on Covid-19 does not specify the amount of reagent required in a testing kit.

The Daily Star asked several experts in the field about this method but received a mixed response as to whether the practice is scientifically accurate.

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## Imran Khan calls Hasina

*The two leaders discuss Covid-19 situation, floods*



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanged greetings with her Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan yesterday afternoon when the latter called her.

The two prime ministers discussed various issues, including Covid-19 and the flood situation in Bangladesh, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said, reports UNB.

Imran phoned Hasina around 1:00pm and they talked for about 15 minutes.

After exchanging greetings, Imran wanted to know about the Covid-19 situation in Bangladesh

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## Shutdown ended, not their hardship

*Low-income families still in need of help but food relief and charity now scarce*

NILIMA JAHAN

With the lifting of the shutdown, food relief and cash charity have almost come to a standstill, though incomes of many poor families saw no recovery.

Those who had lost their jobs in the coronavirus-induced shutdown are not faring any better in the partially reopened economy.

Many told this correspondent that they had not received any food or monetary assistance from anyone after Eid-ul-Fitr, observed on May 25.

Rimu from Mirpur's Bhashantek slum said she had received some dry food including rice, lentils, oil, potatoes and sugar from the local commissioner, NGOs and some youth groups twice during the shutdown.

It was a big help, said the 26-year-old wife of a day labourer.

Though her husband's income has halved now, no one visits them any longer to see how they are doing, Rimu lamented.

"We need at least Tk 12,000 per month

to maintain our family of four, pay the house rent and loan instalments [against the amount] that I borrowed earlier from microcredit [organisations] and some relatives," she added.

The income of Eti's family from Mirpur's Bauniabadh slum have also reduced drastically since the pandemic.

Three members of the family once had worked -- Eti did handicraft, her mother worked as a part-time maid, while her father pulled a rickshaw.

Together their income sometimes neared Tk 20,000 a month.

But now, only Eti's 55-year-old father has his earnings of about Tk 500 a day.

Eti stopped getting orders for her work from the last week of March, while all six employers of her mother refused to allow her in their houses because she lives in a slum.

"My mother is now jobless," said 15-year-old Eti.

It has become hard to maintain the rent, food and other expenses for the family with just one member's income, she said.

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## Seven killed in Cox's Bazar road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least seven people were killed and several others injured in a head-on collision of a human haulier and lorry on Chattogram-Cox's Bazar road in Chakariya area amid heavy rains yesterday evening.

Police could confirm the identities of Badiul Alam, 50, of Harbang area in Chakariya; Al Amin, 48, of Bandarban's Lama; haulier driver Minar Uddin, 23, of Amirabad area in Lohagara, Chattogram; and Firoz Ahmed, 32, and Bablu, 40, of Konakhali, Chakariya.

They died at the scene, police said, adding that seven others injured in the crash were sent to a nearby hospital.

Both the vehicles skidded off the road and fell into a ditch after the collision around 6:00pm, they added.

Anisur Rahman, in-charge of Chiringa Highway Police Outpost, said locals, police, and

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Cattle traders bringing cows to Sagorika market by trucks in Chattogram city. Truckloads of sacrificial animals have been arriving in the port city from different districts for the last few days as the Eid approaches.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## 'Cattle train' plan draws a blank

*Farmers still find trucks suitable, economically viable to transport sacrificial animal for Eid*

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A government move to transport cattle to Dhaka and other big cities by train ahead of Eid-ul-Azha has so far failed to draw any response from farmers and traders.

As a result, Bangladesh Railways (BR) has not been able to operate a single such train till last night, just over a week before the festival on August 1.

Talking to The Daily Star, farmers and cattle traders said carrying the sacrificial animals by trucks, which they always do, is economically viable for them. It also involves less hassle, they said.

In such a situation, the special "cattle train service" is apparently left in limbo.

The railway ministry made the decision of introducing the service during a meeting in the first week of this month. The aim was to bring the cattle to the capital and other cities from southern and northern districts hassle-free, said railways officials.

The BR was supposed to run the first such train from Khulna to Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka 10 days before Eid, with five stoppages for loading and unloading the animals.

The plan was to extend the service to other big cities, including Chattogram, said the officials.

Nasir Uddin, divisional transportation officer of railways (Pakshey), said the authorities yesterday fixed Tk 12,000 for each cattle cart, which can carry 16 bulls/buffalos or 30 goats/lambs.

It means carrying cost for each bull/buffalo will be Tk 750, while it will be Tk 400 for each goat or lamb.

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A flood-ravaged road in Dahagram union under Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Flood devastates Dahagram, again

A large area of the enclave being eroded by the Teesta every year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A large area of Patgram upazila's Dahagram union, a Bangladeshi enclave surrounded by Indian territory on three sides and the Teesta river on the other, is experiencing severe erosion due to floods.

So far, 300 families lost homes and agricultural land after the Teesta, that enters Bangladesh through Dahagram, suddenly flooded most parts of the union on July 12. Locals said that at around 8:00pm that night, all floodgates of Gajaldoba Barrage in India were opened.

A flood control embankment along the Teesta can only save the farming community from further devastation, said the residents of Dahagram, which is connected with mainland Bangladesh only through the infamous Tin

Bigha Corridor.

As the onrush of floodwaters swelled the Teesta and crossed the danger level, the authorities of Teesta Barrage -- constructed to divert water of the river as part of the largest irrigation project in Bangladesh -- were forced to hoist red alert in and around the barrage and opened all its gates on the night of July 12.

Hundreds of inhabitants of Dahagram have taken shelter on high land after the floodwaters toppled over electric poles and washed away roads, farmlands and dwellings.

"I never saw such a flood in the last 30 years... It was beyond my imagination that the Teesta would destroy all my belongings including my house," said Azizul Islam, an elderly resident of Dahagram village.

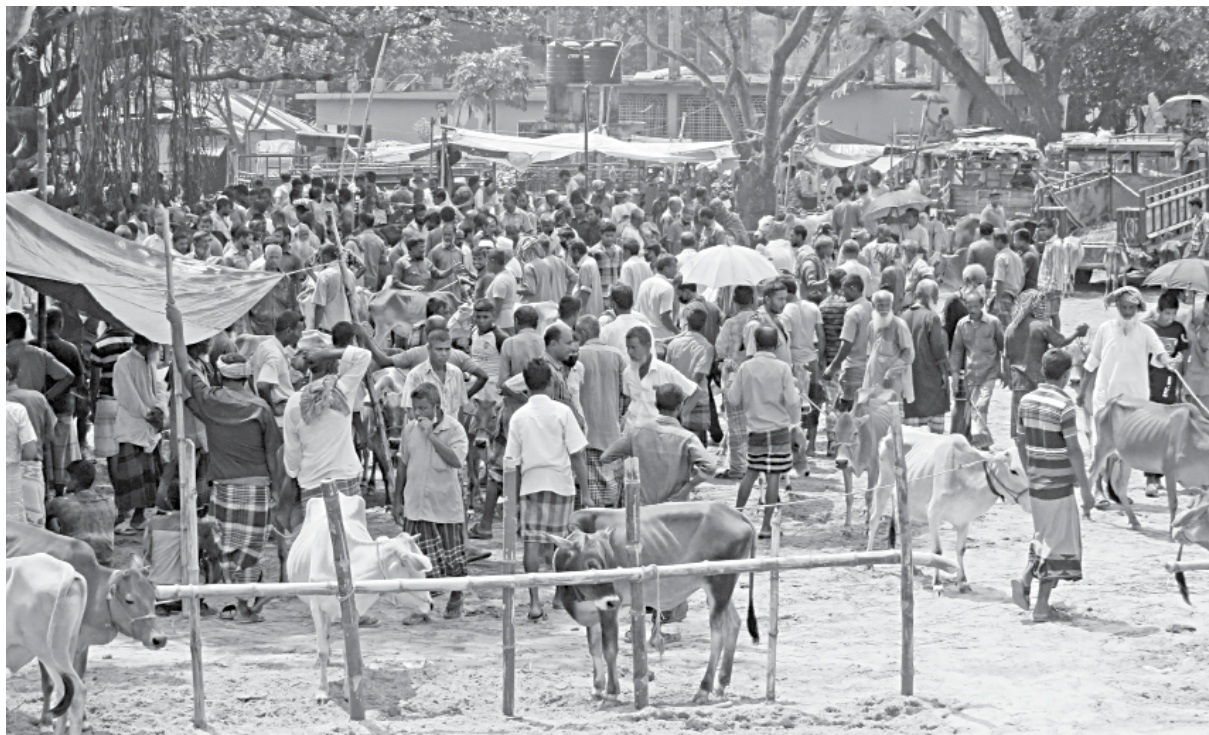
Another flood victim, Delwar Hossain, 75,

said, "We don't want any relief or any assistance for rebuilding our damaged houses from our prime minister; we only want an embankment. It's the only way Dahagram can be saved from disappearing."

Dahagram Union Parishad Chairman Kamal Hossain said the union is getting smaller in area due to recurring floods every year.

Unless effective measures are taken to protect it from the erosion of the Teesta, there may come a time when Dahagram would cease to exist in the map of Bangladesh, he added.

Contacted, Mizanur Rahman, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), said the decision of building a levee along the Teesta to protect Dahagram lies with the high-ups in the government as the union shares its border with a foreign land.



Without maintaining health guidelines and social distancing amid the Covid-19 pandemic, buyers and sellers crowd carelessly at Karenthaat cattle market in Dinajpur Sadar upazila. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

## TANGAIL 4 MURDER Key suspect confesses crime

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The prime accused, arrested in connection with a case for killing four of a family in Modhupur upazila of July 15, confessed to the crime before court on Tuesday.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Sagar Ali, 27, from Brammanpara village on Sunday, using mobile tracking technology.

Tangail Senior Judicial Magistrate Shamsul Alam recorded Sagar's statement under Section 164.

On Friday, police recovered bodies of Osman Gani, 52, his wife Tajiron, 38, son Tajel, 18, and daughter Sadia, 9, from their Masterpara residence.

## Ropa Aman farming in full swing in Jhenidah

About 1,04,125 hectares of land have been brought under cultivation this year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Hundreds of farmers in the district have started planting Ropa Aman paddy with the hope of getting fair prices. The growers are eager to start Aman farming earlier to get high yield.

In the last Boro season, the growers got good prices. Due to this, farmers have started planting Ropa Aman earlier this year to get fair prices.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Jhenidah, 10,125 hectares of land in six upazilas of the district were brought under Ropa Aman cultivation in 2018-2019 and 10,4125 hectares in 2019-2020. Meanwhile, 104125 hectares of land have been brought under the paddy cultivation in 2020-2021.

In 2020-2021, the target of Aman cultivation in Sadar upazila is 31380 hectares, 24885 hectares in Shailakupa, 20150 hectares in Harinakundo, 21140 hectares in Moheshpur, 6120 hectares

in Kotchandpur and 18550 hectares in Kaliganj upazila.

Farmer Arman Ali of Enayetpur village in Kaliganj upazila said he cultivated Boro paddy on two bighas of land in the last season and got 36 maunds and sold Tk 1000 per maund.

This year, he will plant Ropa Aman on more four bighas of land to get fair prices, he said.

Another grower Altaf Hossain of Taherhuda village in Harinakundo upazila said he got fair prices by selling Boro paddy last year.

He will plant Ropa Aman on three bighas of land this season as the market price of the paddy remains satisfactory, said Altaf.

Deputy Director Kripangshu Biswas of Jhenidah DAE said the farmers got fair prices by selling Boro paddy in the last season. The target will be exceeded this year as the farmers are planting Ropa Aman spontaneously with the hope of getting fair prices.



Farmers plant Ropa Aman paddy at a field in Bejpara village of Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

**রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর**  
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ

**Office of the Registrar**  
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স্মারক নং-বিজ্ঞ/১০০২/১৯৯৭/১৯৯৭ (নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)/পাট-৫/১৯-১৯৯৭ তারিখ ২২/০৭/২০২০খ্রিঃ

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী**

স্মারক নং-বিজ্ঞ/১০০২/১৯৯৭/১৯৯৭ (নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)/পাট-৫/১৯-১৯৯৭, তারিখ: ০৪/০৭/২০২০খ্রিঃ মোতাবেক প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ এর প্রকৌশল পদের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতায় "In the Engineering Department B.Sc. Engg. or equivalent degree may also apply for the post of Lecturer." বাক্যটি পরিহার করা হলো।

প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য বিষয় অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

স্বাক্ষর/

প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আহসান হাবীব  
রেজিস্ট্রার  
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জিডি-১১৮০

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
LGED, Madaripur  
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি।

Memo No. 46.02.5400.001.07.002.17(Part-3)-2312 Date: 21/07/2020

**e-Tender Notice**  
Tender No. e-Tender Notice: 2020-21/03

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

Location	T-ID /method	Name of the work	Tender closing	Remarks
SHIBCHAR	480245 (OSTETM)	CBU-100/Purto-95 Construction of 54.0m long RCC Girder Bridge on UZR-4, Shannayshirchar UP office to Banderkhola UP office via Riaz Uddin Mathborkandi GPS & Pallimongol GPS road at Ch. 3740m (Road ID No. 354873040).	20-Aug-2020 within 12:30pm	Due to e-GP system problem tender publish again newly in the newspaper.
MADARIPUR SADAR	456156 (OSTETM)	CBU-100/Purto-94 Construction of 48.0m long RCC Girder Bridge over Loapur Kumar River on Kumarkhali Bazar-Peyarpur UP-Ghotokchar Bazar-Kuniahat Road in front of Apashi School R&H Road at Ch. 3940m (Road ID No. 354543007)		

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 ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required.

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

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) and also from e-mail: [xen.madaripur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.madaripur@lged.gov.bd) or call to 0661-62445.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

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LGED, Madaripur  
Tel: 0661-62445 (Off)  
e-mail: [xen.madaripur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.madaripur@lged.gov.bd)

GD-1176

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Upazila: Hatiya, District: Noakhali  
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শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি।

Memo No: LGED/UE/HATI/NOA/2020/560 Dated: 21-07-2020

**e-Tender Notice No: 01/2020-2021**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works mention below under LGED, Upazila : Hatiya, District : Noakhali.

Sl No	Package No	Tender ID No	Description of Works	Tender Closing (Date & Time)	Tender Opening (Date & Time)	Method
01	e-Tender/NBIDNNGPS/NOA/HAT/2018-2019/W1.02536	473305	Construction of class room of HAJI LAL MIAH Government primary school under NBIDNNGPS Project-1	25/08/2020 12.00 pm	25/08/2020 12.00 pm	OSTETM
02	e-Tender/NBIDGPS/NOA/HAT/2019-20/W1.06018	415465	Construction of Paschim chanddi GPS	25/08/2020 12.00 pm	25/08/2020 12.00 pm	OSTETM

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents form the national e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to 12:00 pm on 25/08/2020.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and form e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

*Signature*  
21.07.2020  
Tapan Chandra Deb Nath  
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E-mail: [ue.hatiya@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.hatiya@lged.gov.bd)

GD- 1177



# Mangoes, lychees, and childhood memories in 'Amar Chelebela'

ELITA KARIM

For me, *Amar Chelebela* (1991) by Humayun Ahmed would not only be a summer read but also a comfort read, a holiday retreat, a walking tour of a Bangladesh unheard of today, and also a sneak-peek into the daily bustle of a family who redefined literature, science fiction, caricatures, humour and so much more. It is a book that I have read numerous times over the years—while stuck in traffic, on flights, at home over tea and just last week, on the balcony while it was raining outside (the best way to read it for sure!)

I absolutely love the book, because it travels from Bangladesh in the early '40s and '50s all the way to post-liberation days and back to when Ahmed was just a child, roaming about the streets without a care in the world.

He talks about how life as a toddler for him began away from his young mother, growing up with his aunt, at his grandmother's. His mother Ayesha Khatun was suffering from typhoid and had lost a year or two from her memories because of the illness. Humayun Ahmed's description of his mother regaining her memory and suddenly remembering her baby boy would have the reader smile and cry at the same time. Because his father Foyzur Rahman Ahmed was in the police, his never-ending transfers would have the family travel all over the country. Each district and city would hold mysteries and adventures.

There are many stories that I look forward to reading when I pick up this book. One is of the family's annual Eid vacations. I wonder in awe at his



COLLAGE ILLUSTRATION: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

descriptions of the long train rides to his *nanar bari*; the cups of steaming tea early in the winter morning during station breaks, and how Ahmed's *nanar bari* was a tad bit louder than his *dadar bari*—reserved, religious, yet breaking

age-old barriers. Interestingly, most kids back then would grow up with two or three different names. Young parents could suddenly change the name of their 4-year-old to that of a beloved relative

who has recently passed away, or a character from a book they have read. Humayun Ahmed had at one point been Kajol and at another, Shamsur Rahman! In many of the chapters he refers to himself as Kajol, as do the others around him.

Even though these chapters follow the stages in his life, travels, and personalities, the text speaks of everything and anything that probably came to Ahmed's mind while he was writing. Sometimes, his topics overlap.

Now that I have established the fact that *Amar Chelebela* is for all seasons and can be enjoyed the year round, I would however recommend it for the scorching heat of the Bengali summer—whether reading it for the first time or the 100th. Summers in Bangladesh are incomplete without mangoes, lychees, jackfruits and black plums (*jaam*). Believe it or not, so are the stories in *Amar Chelebela*! While some of them will fill you with laughter, others will bring tears to your eyes, for instance when he writes about his father and his honesty, his eccentricities and finally when he was killed during the war. Humayun Ahmed's reflections of the world he grew up in and the many experiences that shaped him are all filled with passion, wit and the urge to return to childhood and relive life again.

Isn't that what many of us yearn for, sometimes?

Elita Karim is Editor, Arts & Entertainment and Star Youth. She tweets @elitakarim.

## Rizia Rahman, an antidote to apathy

HUMAYRA ALI  
TRANSLATED BY MUHAMMAD  
MUTIUL MUHAIMIN

For lovers of short story collections, Rizia Rahman's *Char Doshoker Golpo* (2011) can be great company on lazy afternoons. Rahman is undoubtedly among the finest writers of literature in Bangladesh, yet her craft goes unnoticed by many from the younger generations today. Seldom has any facet of life or society gone untouched by the light of her smooth and free-flowing language.

First published in 2008, her story "Shonar Horin Chai" depicts the life and struggles of a Bengali Muslim living in the United States. We read about Bengali students living inhumane lives in hopes of being granted immigrant status, their struggles with food and daily life, and being profiled as terrorists simply for having "Muhammad" as part of their names—all of which still feel relevant today.

In 2006, while paying her sister a visit in the States, Rahman meets a Black housekeeper named Donna Walker. From Donna's life story, Rahman is able to relate first hand with the violence perpetrated against African-Americans by White supremacy. The author compares these instances with the situations that domestic workers have to bear in Bangladesh. Small differences creep up in her mind—despite being a minority, Donna works in a healthy environment, is still paid for working overtime, and still drives to work albeit in an old car. The plights of the working class of Bangladesh would be unimaginable to even the poor in America. Even then, Rahman's thoughts on Donna and her husband losing jobs, being accused of theft, and facing ceaseless harassment because of their skin colour resonate with those of us still reeling from George Floyd's death in Minneapolis this year.

In "Shamne Juddho" first published in 1986, Rahman tells us the story of 10-year-old newspaper hawker Amin, who lives with an NGO-worker and their family. Amin reads the newspaper every day to educate himself about the ways of the world. When he is arrested and released on bail with the help of his guardian, Amin delivers a monologue and cites the example of Nelson Mandela, who is also serving time in jail. Is Mandela, then, also a criminal? Amin has seen many Mandelas in the jail he just left behind.

This story was published while Bangladesh was living under an autocracy and yet Rahman manages to convey so much without outrightly addressing politics. Such are her lucidity and finesse as a writer.

Unlike the wars, pandemics, and natural disasters of history, our current crisis prevents humankind from standing beside each other in solidarity. Isolated from each other, we are forced to offer greater strength to ourselves, fight for ourselves. As the world burns in the heat of this unique summer, literature—Rizia Rahman's literature in particular—feels like a tall drink of water that cools the body and the mind. Her words teach us that humankind has indeed lost repeatedly at different points of time, but it hasn't remained stagnant.

Humayra Ali is an author and voracious reader of Bangla literature, who has taught Bangla in classrooms for 30 years. She has taken her writing to @humayra363 on Instagram and Tobuo Jibon by Humayra Ali on Facebook.

Muhammad Mutiul Muhaimin is an aspiring engineer who blogs about social reforms. He writes because he finds it therapeutic. LinkedIn: Mutiul Muhaimin



ILLUSTRATION: ELMA HOSSAIN/  
JUST.ELMO.DRAW

## Bibhutibhushan, an unlikely adventurer

MONEESHA R KALAMDER

For anyone sitting through heat-stricken afternoons on forever-long summer days, reprieve can come in the form of escape into a fictional world, and Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay is a master at offering it. He is a magician with words, luring the reader in from the get-go. While early 20th century Bangla literature focused on domestic life and socio-political struggles, boasting work from luminaries such as Manik Bandyopadhyay (*Putul Nacher Itikatha*, *Padma Nadir Majhi*) and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay (*Srikanta*, *Parineeta*), Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay broke away from the norm and placed some of his protagonists right in the core of untamed nature.

Two of my personal favourites are *Chander Pahar* (1937), often categorised as a young adult novel but perfect for anyone who loves a good adventure-thriller, and *Aranyak* (1939), a story about a metropolitan man falling in love with the wild, discovering innumerable facets of life in the process. The former is set in the beginning of the 20th century, before World War I. The protagonist Shankar, in search of excitement beyond his lacklustre job in West Bengal, ends up as a stationmaster at a remote railway station in Uganda. Through a chance encounter he embarks on a danger-laden journey into the unknown heart of the Richtersveld mountains in search of a fabled diamond mine. What appears to be a nerve-wracking adventure on the surface is a story essentially about resilience and an indomitable spirit, compelling the reader to reflect on their own desires and their pursuit of it.

*Aranyak*, more relaxed in tone and pace, is set in the 1920s. A city man through and through, the protagonist leaves urban life for the forests of Bihar to manage the zamindari estate of a friend. He becomes enticed by the beauty of the wild—the woods, the animals, and the people. The novel then paints the picture of a man becoming one with the forest, and in great irony, ultimately becoming instrumental in its destruction and its way of life. The poetic language and rich descriptions of nature offer an insight into the lives of locals who coexist with their landscape—the poor Brahmins, Gangots, Santals, the rich Rajput overlords, and legends of the gods of the forest who carefully guard their realm. The god Tarbaro protects wild



COLLAGE ILLUSTRATION: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

bison from being hunted in these jungles, and the protagonist laments the absence of the god when bison are trapped in city slaughterhouses. Perhaps the gods lose their powers when removed from their homes.

There is something about the nostalgia these books evoke for a time that no longer exists and neither do the places, in the way they used to. Both these novels also serve as a commentary on our ideas of civilisation and propriety, inherited from our colonisers, questioning the ethics of imposing such ideas on cultures that have survived for thousands of years on their own. Bandyopadhyay's strongest attributes are his vivid descriptions and flowing language. The reader is entirely transported into the world where the events of his stories occur, and there is never a dull moment. During a summer such as this when we must stay confined to the spaces of our homes, we could make use of delving into these classic Bangla masterpieces where our minds can roam free on the desert mountains of Africa or the long-gone forests of Bihar.

Moneesha R Kalamder is an Economics grad and editor-in-chief at Rantages. She reads everything and mostly writes comedy. Reach her at mkalamder9.75@gmail.com

## Summers with Sarat Chandra

TOWRIN ZAMAN

Before my mother bought me a copy of *Sarat Shahitya Samagra* (2003) one fateful summer back in high school, my exposure to Bangla literature had been limited to Feluda and whatever my textbooks offered. But the literature of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay opened a whole new world to me. As an angst ridden teenager, I was enticed by his grim and melodramatic storytelling but soon I began to appreciate the social commentary, the wit, and the subtle humour infused into his writing.

Sarat Chandra's stories dwell upon caste politics, feudal exploitation, religious dogmatism, child marriage, widows' rights, adultery, and more. His writing is rich in pathos; it is neither mild nor light-hearted. Likewise, one doesn't think of summer as a "mild" season. Not on this side of the world. Here in Bangladesh, summer is a season of extremes with a scorching sun and sweltering heat. Perhaps that is why I have come to associate summers with Sarat Chandra's writing.

He never shied away from addressing bigotry in society. Yet unlike contemporaries who also challenged the caste and religious orthodoxy, Sarat Chandra took a more relatable approach to highlighting class inequalities and the dichotomy between the Brahmin and Hindu communities. Equally awe-inspiring were his strong women characters, against whom his weak-willed, orthodox male protagonists almost always paled in comparison.

Just as Sarat Chandra made me cry during *Devdas* (1917), he inspired laughter with *Nishikriti* (1917), an entertaining tale about familial politics. *Srikanta* (1933), a semi-autobiographical novel regarded as his best work, portrayed a bohemian soul who transforms from a morally upright male chauvinist into a self-aware individual after meeting various strong women on his journeys. These stories aren't "breezy", nor the characters mere caricatures. They tend to be as idle as one likes to be on a warm summer day, but the feelings they evoke with their nuance and complexity are no less potent than the aftertaste of the hottest day of summer—difficult to forget.

I can still remember reading *Parineeta* (1914) that first summer I was introduced to Sarat Chandra and being shocked at how cowardly and selfish the male protagonist Shekhar was as compared to his Bollywood adaptation, whom I had watched and loved. This was my first experience with reading a romance hero so un-hero-like. Neither was he an anti-hero. I remember feeling frustrated and enraged. And yet I could not bring myself to hate Shekhar. I discovered for the first time that summer my preference for imperfect and raw characters over flawless ones. It was from *Parineeta* that I became aware of intricacies related to the caste system.

Even the secondary characters in Sarat Chandra's novels have an impactful presence. The domineering Bilash from *Datta* (1918)—a love story between a Hindu and a Brahmin—provoked in me the strongest urge to enter the pages and commit violence. Perhaps the blistering heat of the summer while I was reading the book played a part in heightening my annoyance. But it is the mastery of Sarat Chandra's storytelling that led me, by the end of the story, to an understanding of and muted respect for the character.

Sarat Chandra relied on the humane actions or lack thereof of his characters to create conflict. They invite suffering for themselves with their own cowardice, indecisiveness and obstinacy—all layered complexities—but the ease with which one can empathise with them is testament to the author's prowess.

While the social issues explored in his works are ever-relevant, there is also a sense of nostalgia brought by reading about a bygone era. The emotions his works invoke are timeless—perfect for a summer read.

Towrin Zaman is a research consultant who writes in her spare time.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### The Bengali summer read

Come June, the season of light reading arrives with the promise of filling lazy afternoons freed from school work or, for adults who can't manage a vacation, escape in the form of relaxing books. Summer reading means something different for each of us—unwinding with a frothy romance, channeling the weather's warmth to face a horror or a thriller, or finally make time for that 1,400 page classic that always goes unfinished. But this summer is different; it's one we have hardly experienced as we try to lock ourselves away from a contagious virus. And so it calls for some good ol' and healthy nostalgia. We asked some of our contributors what books they associate with the Bengali summer we are missing out on this year. Their answers took us down labyrinths of memory lanes. We hope you'll enjoy this 'summer issue' of Daily Star Books.

Sarah Anjum Bari  
In-Charge, Daily Star Books





TAJUDDIN AHMAD'S 95TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

# The Art of Being Tajuddin Ahmad



OF MAGIC & MADNESS  
BADIUZZAMAN BAY

N EARLY half a century after the 1971 War of Liberation, it is perhaps difficult to produce or come across startlingly original ideas about Tajuddin Ahmad. But

it is always instructive to study the existing literature on his political career, primarily because of the lessons it provides, but also because it helps us see the history of our independence struggle in a broader context in terms of its relation to other forces and influences that were at play. Tajuddin's active life was a relatively short one, marked by momentous changes both in this region and around the world. To understand Tajuddin is to understand the interplay of these changes in which he was both a keen observer and an active participant.

As history shows us, Tajuddin's career took off at a time when the world was in constant flux. He saw the painful birth of India and Pakistan through an ill-conceived Partition orchestrated by the British. Globally, the imperialists were on the run. Between 1945 and 1960, about three dozen new states in Asia and Africa achieved autonomy or outright independence from their colonial rulers. The creation of so many new countries within this short period coincided with the new Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, which would both influence and be influenced by these developments, altering the composition of the global geopolitical scene and deepening the political complexity of nearly every region in the world. Bangladesh's independence in 1971, of which Tajuddin was one of the chief architects, cannot be seen in isolation from these developments.

Tajuddin's role, until that point, was that of a grassroots organiser and strategist. As general secretary of Awami League and a close confidante of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he would get Bangabandhu's approval for all policy decisions and strategies while Bangabandhu would engage with the public to get them

behind those decisions. They were a perfect team—one carrying the torch of independence and the other, averse to publicity, providing him with backstage support. However, after the brutal crackdown of Pakistan on innocent Bengali civilians on March 25, followed by Bangabandhu's arrest, Tajuddin found himself suddenly alone. He soon realised that it was now up to him to carry that torch forward and lead the strenuous task of organising the lines of defence from the ground up, legitimising the rightful demand of his people for self-determination through forming a government by their elected representatives, and mobilising international support for their cause.

We get a good glimpse of his activities in the next nine months from the authoritative book of Mueyedul Hasan titled "Muldhara: 71". The book details the many challenges he faced after the April 17 oath-taking ceremony of the provisional "Mujibnagar" government (so called because of the name of the place where the ceremony was held). The government-in-exile in Kolkata, the legal basis of which was provided by the Proclamation of Independence issued on April 10—just 15 days into the Pakistani clampdown—was divided into 15 ministries and divisions. Its quick formation, besides the obvious reasons for which it was set up, also helped Awami League avert a leadership crisis in the absence of Bangabandhu. Many Bengali diplomats and members of the Civil Service of Pakistan also defected to the newly established government headed by Tajuddin Ahmad, its prime minister.

Tajuddin and his cabinet colleagues quickly set the administration on the path of achieving a number of short and long-term goals. Foremost among them: training and securing arms for the freedom fighters, building a regular army, advancing the resistance fight through both conventional and irregular warfare, rehabilitating the refugees in India, securing recognition from the international community, building an effective line of communication, freeing Bangabandhu from the Pakistani prison, etc.

Mueyedul Hasan's exhaustive analysis of subsequent developments shows how the war was as much a physical one as a political one. Tajuddin was quick to

realise that for any pushback against the Pakistani occupation to be successful in the long run, it was important to secure international support without which it would be viewed as an anti-Pakistani plot of India. His grasp of geopolitical issues, especially the complex ways in which global powers function, afforded him an insight into their inner workings. Each power that had a stake in the future of this conflict would have its own reason for its intervention or lack thereof. It was also vital to secure unstinting support from all political parties of Bangladesh for which a more inclusive approach of governance would be needed, which was no easy task. There were also internal divisions within

non-communalism. The third reason was a humanitarian one, ignited by the Pakistani brutalities targeting innocent civilians. But there were also risks to consider: any direct military intervention from India could be used by Pakistan to turn its "civil war" into an Indo-Pak war which could pave the way for military intervention from the US and China. The US, ignoring world opinion and the plight of the persecuted Bengalis, was already playing a very active role in Pakistan's favour. In terms of powerful allies, India still had none. So without securing support from the Soviet Union to tip the scales in its favour, it couldn't risk getting involved militarily even if it meant prolonging

borders never really materialised.

Tajuddin followed these developments closely and aided, when necessary, the Indian bid to counterbalance the US threat. His realistic appraisal of the situation was vital to the government's international engagement efforts as well as adopting supportive policies. Despite the many challenges on multiple fronts, limited resources and the constraints of having to work on the soil of another country, the Mujibnagar government was successful in putting together a civil administration which worked with remarkable efficiency given the situation. Tajuddin also had to act decisively to keep the administration nonpartisan. Besides organising the whole military and political response to the emerging situations, he and those involved with the government also successfully ensured effective coordination of various activities and kept the momentum alive both for the trainees and freedom fighters back home. By December, the Pakistani confidence was largely shattered and their military position considerably weakened. Finally, when the Indian army officially entered the war on December 3, victory for the joint forces was only a matter of time.

The independence came through the efforts and sacrifices of countless people both at home and outside. Tajuddin's extraordinary leadership along with the fearless efforts of his administration and comrades was the glue that held them all together and channelled their efforts to secure independence finally.

There are many things to learn from Tajuddin's short yet illustrious career: his organisational acumen, political and diplomatic wisdom, and his quiet work as a nation builder, which suggest a blend of vision and pragmatism inherent to great leaders. But his most glorious moment is indeed his role during the war. In short, the art of being Tajuddin Ahmad in 1971 is the art of navigating a complex landscape of conflicting geopolitical priorities and meeting extraordinary challenges with equally extraordinary courage and foresight, while never losing hope in the potential of his people.

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Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (left) and Tajuddin Ahmad.

the exiled Awami League leadership and resistance to his own authority as prime minister. Addressing all these challenges successfully would require extraordinary political foresight and extensive diplomatic effort.

For India, which gave shelter to millions of refugees from Bangladesh fleeing the war and provided training and military support in different phases, there were ostensibly three reasons for supporting the cause of liberation, according to Mueyedul. First, its continued hostile relations with Pakistan and prior support for the Bengali demand for autonomy. Second, the ideological proximity between Awami League and the ruling Congress Party, especially on issues of parliamentary democracy and

the refugee crisis.

The much-needed commitment of support came on September 28-29, when Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi met with top Soviet leaders in Moscow and both sides released a joint statement expressing their solidarity for the Bengali cause (Moscow had earlier described the US' interference as a move towards "Vietnamisation of East Bengal conflict"). This meeting is regarded as a major turning point in the history of the war as it meant that India could, with the Soviet Union at its side, now act more boldly. Meanwhile, China proved to be an unreliable ally for Pakistan although it had been supplying arms to it since the beginning. The US plan to get China to keep India on a short leash by creating tensions at their shared

PROJECT SYNDICATE

## Trump's Ancient Ballot Lie



DAVID STASAVAGE

AS the United States heads toward its most significant and contentious presidential election in a very long time, there is much talk about voting by mail. Some see this

option as necessary to ensure ballot access for all amid the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly blue-collar workers and minority groups, who have disproportionately high infection rates. But others, including President Donald Trump, vociferously oppose mail-in ballots, pointing to a purported risk of fraud.

Their argument is bogus—and not exactly new. For the last six centuries, those seeking to limit the franchise have sought to achieve their goals by citing the need to maintain the "integrity" of the electoral system.

Consider England in the early fifteenth century. At that time, each English county sent two "knights of the shire" as representatives to parliament. And because there was no formal law governing how these knights (a largely honorific term) would be selected, it fell to each county's sheriff to organise

an election. By custom, all free male inhabitants of a county had the right to participate, while women were excluded. Some of these elections were no doubt rowdy and undisciplined—as democracy often is—but they allowed for much greater (male) participation than would soon be the case.

In 1429, members of the House of Commons petitioned King Henry VI to agree to a new law ostensibly intended

electoral process was in danger.

But the parliamentarians' proposed method of addressing the perceived problem betrayed their true motivation. They called for the county election franchise to be restricted to those who owned land with an annual return of at least 40 shillings, a significant sum at the time.

The root cause of the problem, as the law's supporters saw it, was "the too great and excessive numbers of

40-shilling rule was an anachronism. But then a new twist to the story brought about a feature of voting that we view as sacred today. Some members of parliament advocated not only expanding the franchise, but also making the ballot for elections to the House of Commons secret. Since time immemorial, voting in county elections had taken place in public, enabling people with means to intimidate or bribe others to vote as instructed.

But it would be another 40 years before parliament finally adopted the 1872 Ballot Act. One of the main reasons for the delay in introducing secret balloting was that opponents argued—once again—that it would jeopardise the integrity of the electoral process. Some MPs had proposed a secret ballot as early as 1830, but others argued then that such a measure would result in "eternal suspicion and hypocrisy." In 1862, another opponent of secret ballots said much the same thing, claiming that, "instead of being a check on bribery, it would facilitate it by preventing detection in many cases."

Sadly, such arguments are being echoed today in the US, which has entered a new era of voting restrictions that recalls its past disenfranchisement of African-Americans. In recent years, 25 US states have passed laws that make it more difficult to vote, such as by requiring a photo ID or even proof

of citizenship. States have also limited turnout by reducing the number of polling stations.

The clear effect of these measures is to tilt the playing field against low-income and minority groups. Much like in England 600 years ago, the stated objective—preserving the integrity of the electoral process—is just a convenient smokescreen.

In the US debate over voting by mail—a measure supported by a large majority of American adults—opponents of broad electoral participation are once again raising the spectre of fraud and corruption to pursue narrow partisan goals. Without citing any evidence, they claim that this new voting system is somehow subject to greater irregularities than traditional in-person voting.

But the real fear of Trump and others is that mail-in voting will boost turnout and aid Democratic candidates, even though it is not even certain that such an effect exists in states that already allow it. We can only hope that the advocates of expanded suffrage will eventually resume their winning streak.

David Stasavage is Dean for the Social Sciences at New York University and author of *The Decline and Rise of Democracy: A Global History from Antiquity to Today* (Princeton University Press 2020).

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to ensure that county elections to parliament proceeded peacefully. The petition stated that without this new law, "homicides, riots, assaults, and divisions will most probably arise and occur." In other words, the law's backers claimed, the integrity of the

people" who had been participating in elections. The 40-shilling rule became law in England in 1430, and would not be repealed until parliament passed the Great Reform Act of 1832.

With that act, parliament had finally come around to the idea that the

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



JULY 23, 1952

Egyptian monarchy toppled by coup

On this day in 1952, the Free Officers, a nationalistic military group led by Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, engineered a coup that overthrew King Farouk I of Egypt, ending the monarchy and bringing Nasser to power.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Martian feature
  - 7 Told tales
  - 11 Sermon
  - 12 Old Atlanta arena
  - 13 Like some mushrooms
  - 14 "— Las Vegas"
  - 15 Pet store buys
  - 16 Doled (out)
  - 17 Shoelace problem
  - 18 Esprit de corps
  - 19 Pronto, in memos
  - 21 Huck's pal
  - 22 Southern drink
  - 25 Heir, often
  - 26 Tug-of-war need
- DOWN**
- 1 Look into
  - 2 Flying reptile of movies
  - 3 Baja buddy
  - 4 Like Sherpas
  - 5 Pipe bends
  - 6 Reuben base
  - 7 Romantic sort
  - 8 Parrot
  - 9 Completely enclose
  - 10 Small crown
  - 16 Complete, as business
  - 18 College study
  - 20 Sipping aid
  - 22 Set an earlier time for
  - 23 Straight
  - 24 Beatles classic
  - 25 Cavalry weapons
  - 28 Lugged
  - 30 Like bar beer
  - 31 Play part
  - 32 More ticked off
  - 34 Make sound
  - 36 Recipe unit



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

SALAD RAWER  
ERASE ABIDE  
CAMPS MENDS  
EBB PHIDIT  
DIE AUSSEE  
EATSINTODD  
HURDLER  
TAPE REDCAP  
ERA PEGADO  
ALL ODE SOW  
REAPS NOTRE  
UNCUT DOLER  
PEEPS SHEDS

BEETLE BAILEY



BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES



BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

## GRAPE VINE

### PORI MONI'S new venture



Pori Moni has recently signed up for a government grant film. The film, titled *Lekhok*, received a government grant for the 2019-2020 financial year, but will be renamed as *Mukhosh*. The film will be directed by Iftekhar Shuvo, who has also written the story and screenplay. Pori Moni said, "I liked the story of the film very much, and agreed to be a part of it immediately. I hope the project will go well. The shooting is not set to begin until the end of the year due to the pandemic." Pori Moni is currently awaiting the release of the film *Bishwa Shundori*, which has been directed by Chayanika Chowdhury.

Shreya Shomoyeeta



### First Bangladeshi film in Locarno

Promising Bangladeshi filmmaker in the international short film scene, Mahde Hasan, has yet again become a pride for our country. His sixteen-minute-long short film, *A Boring Film*, is the first film from Bangladesh to compete in the prestigious *Locarno Film Festival*. The film has been selected in the *Pardi di domani International Competition of Locarno Film Festival 2020*. It has been produced by Mahajabin Khan and Muhammad Anwar Hossain. Aside from working for the cinematography, editing and sound, Mahde has also acted in the film. From 2,200 films only 45 short films, from 32 countries, have been selected for the short film category of the *Locarno Film Festival*. The festival will be held online from 5-15 August, 2020. Previously, Mahde's first feature film, *Sand City*, currently in development, was selected for *La Fabrique Cinema* at the *Cannes Film Festival 2019*.



### SYMON SAYS

The Ministry of Information has announced the films for the financial year 2019-2020. One of them is the movie, *Daymukti*, which will be directed by Komol Sarker. The shooting for the film is set to begin after Eid-ul-Azha, and it will star Symon Sadik and Mou Khan, alongside Syed Hasan Imam and Dilara Zaman, among others. Symon says, "The story of the film is mainly based around old age homes, and it was truly touching. I believe that this government financed film will certainly turn out to be something great."

Shreya Shomoyeeta

Talented singers, Armeen Musa and Tashfia Sui Tashfee, have adapted to the changes the pandemic has brought to the music industry. Even though their plans for this year has altered, both of them have found ways to spread their music and be committed to their love for singing. In this interview, the singers shared their works during pandemic and plans for the post pandemic scenario.

## Armeen Musa

**How is your choir practising during the pandemic?**  
We are not practising during the pandemic. We have months and months of practice from the time before the pandemic, so we made two songs while staying at home. The songs we made were *Shadhinota Tomake Niye* by Happy and Lucky Akhand, and *Mon Shudhu Mon*, which was a tribute to the band Souls. We had practised these songs several times before the pandemic, and we learnt how to record the music at home. Then we each recorded our parts and mixed it together. We also made videos of us recording at home.

**Aside from the 'Ghaashphoring Choir', do you have any project the readers should look forward to?**  
The pandemic has really affected a lot of plans I had for this year. I was planning to go on a tour abroad this summer, but the pandemic caused it to get cancelled. I'm a fulltime musician, and I realised that I needed to find an alternative source of earning money as the pandemic is not letting me perform. So, from the second month of quarantine, I started taking online classes for music theory. I also set up a home studio so I can



PHOTO: REZANUL HAQUE

record jingles or voice-overs from home. In the first few months of the pandemic, I had to get used to shifting all my work to home, and now that I am fully adjusted to this setting, I am thinking about releasing an album I have been working on forever. I made this album with international artists from seven or eight countries. It was never my main project, so it was put on hold a lot. It isn't finished yet, but I hope to release it this year.

**Do you have any live show planned when the pandemic is over?**  
I'm not sure if I can still do the tour I was planning to do once all of this is over, but I do plan on doing an online show when I release this album. I have been considering selling tickets for it and doing private shows. But, to do that, I have to make sure that the streaming quality is top-notch, and I also need to have the proper sound equipment for that.

**What are your post-pandemic plans?**  
I haven't thought about something so far ahead, but I think I will do what I wanted to spend this year doing, and that is spreading my music to people around the world.

**How have you been spending your time indoors?**  
I am currently registered for a bunch of classes where they teach Nazrul Sangeet and Rabindra Sangeet. I also have a group of online friends, and we work-out together five days a week. I also sit together with a group of friends who are all writers or poets, and we fix a time every week where we sit and work together. We work on our own projects, and then we show it to each other. But, the thing that consumes my time the most is teaching music theory online. I teach staff notation, and that is something most musicians in Bangladesh don't even know. I think that there are only around twelve people who teach this. My course is designed to enable a musician to express themselves through staff notation. I would say that it's a shorter course designed for musicians.

Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

## CENTRE STAGE

## Tashfia Sui Tashfee

**How are you doing music during quarantine?**  
It's no news that performance arts took a big hit because of the pandemic. However, I try to think positively. I've done some collaborations with some of the most incredible musicians during quarantine and decided to be productive and start working on my originals that I've been planning on, for the longest time. I bought my own small home recording setup because of the pandemic and I've been working from home ever since.

**Are you planning on covering new songs?**  
Maybe. I have plans to sing some of the classic rock songs I grew up listening to. However, at the moment, I've been extremely busy with the original songs I plan to release this year. I'm very excited for those. But, if I get tired of them, I just might do a cover very soon to change the air.

**How did you feel about being featured in 'The Telegraph'?**  
It was a pleasant surprise! I really didn't see it coming. It's amazing to see my growing fanbase in Kolkata, India. It truly makes me happy to see them appreciate my art. It was really nice talking about me and my journey, and about my upcoming collaboration with Ritaprabha Ray.

**How did it feel to collaborate with Ritaprabha Ray? Can you talk about your collaboration?**  
Ritaprabha is a Mumbai-based composer and guitar player who approached me to do a quarantine collaboration. We did *Eto Koshto Keno Bhalobashay* by Hasan. It was such an amazing experience

to work with him. We had an unbelievable musical chemistry. So, despite the fact that he is in Mumbai and I'm in Dhaka, it was no issue and the cover came out great and was very well appreciated. That's why we decided to collaborate with an original song this time. The song is called *Jodi Tumi*. I can't say much about it since it's still work in progress, but I can't wait to release it soon.

**Do you have anything new planned for your music?**

Apart from *Jodi Tumi*, I am currently working on my EP. However, I plan to release the songs one by one as singles. There are also many collaborations going on with Bangladeshi and international artists from India and Singapore. I am also particularly excited about one song with Fuad Almuqtadir in his next project which will be published from *TM Records*.

**Will you continue doing live shows after the pandemic is over?**  
One thing I realised during the pandemic is that you can never take anything for granted. I used to do very limited shows, but I have made a promise to myself that after the pandemic, I will do more live shows and make more music. Anything can change anytime and you should just do what you love to do in life.

And for me, it's music. So, yes, I will definitely do more shows after the pandemic is over. I can't wait for those days to come!

Amina Hossain



## POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some binge worthy movie and series you can spend your time watching while you stay at home social distancing, keeping yourself, as well as others, safe.



### Unsolved Mysteries

*Unsolved Mysteries* is a true-crime docuseries based on the experiences of ordinary people who had to go through the unimaginable in hopes to find answers from the viewers. It was directed by Marcus A. Clarke, Clay Jeter and Jim Goldblum, written by Charles Olivier, produced under the banners of *21 Laps Entertainment* and *Inexplicable Pictures*, and stars Pistol Black, Jane Green and Anne-Sophie Martin, among others. It was first released on July 1, 2020.

### PALASA 1978

*Palasa 1978* is an Indian Telugu-language action film. It has been written and directed by Karuna Kumar, produced by Dhyan Atluri, under the banner of *Suresh Productions*, and stars Rakshith, Nakshatra and Raghu Kunche, among others. The film revolves around the battle between different castes through politics. It was initially released on March 6, 2020.



### ATHLETE A

*Athlete A* is a documentary film on Netflix. It has been directed by Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk, and produced by Serin Marshall, Jen Sey and Julie Parker Benello, under the banner of *Actual Films*. It revolves around a team of reporters and their investigation as they expose Dr. Larry Nassar for sexually assaulting young girls training at USA Gymnastics. It was released on June 24, 2020.

Shreya Shomoyeeta & Amina Hossain

## GUESS THE CELEBRITY

Guess who the celebrity is?  
HINT: I LOVE YOU 3000



ANSWER FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:  
"ANGELINA JOLIE"



AC Milan forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic lets out a roar after scoring one of his two goals during their 2-1 win over Sassuolo on Tuesday. The 38-year-old Swede has scored seven goals and recorded four assists in 15 appearances since joining the Rossoneri on a free transfer from LA Galaxy in January and has helped revive the club's fortunes.

PHOTO: AC MILAN

## Ibra driving Milan resurgence

AFP, Milan

Luis Muriel came off the bench to score the only goal as Atalanta beat Bologna 1-0 in a fiery Serie A clash on Tuesday to move back second behind leaders Juventus.

Muriel struck just after an hour as Atalanta extended their unbeaten run to 15 games to move six points behind Juventus, and two ahead of third-placed Inter Milan.

Swedish star Zlatan Ibrahimovic turned back the clock with a double as AC Milan beat 10-man 2-1 Sassuolo to move fifth ahead of Roma and Napoli and into the Europa League berths.

Atalanta had won six successive games since the league resumed after the coronavirus lockdown before drawing 2-2 with Juventus, and were held 1-1 at Verona last time out.

The Bergamo side have 74 points this season with three games to play,

### SERIE A STANDINGS (TOP FIVE)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
JUVENTUS	34	25	5	4	36	80
ATALANTA	35	22	8	5	51	74
INTER	34	21	9	4	38	72
LAZIO	34	21	6	7	32	69
MILAN	35	17	8	10	11	59

overtaking their previous best haul of 72 during the 2016-17 season.

Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini was banished from the sidelines after a spat with counterpart Sinisa Mihajlovic before the break, with the Bologna boss receiving a yellow card.

It was the second red card in recent weeks for Gasperini who has been showing signs of frayed nerves before his side meet Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last eight next month.

"I didn't deserve to be expelled," fumed Gasperini afterwards. "But let's talk about the match."

"We're looking for consistency

on the pitch, then we'll have 12 days later to choose what kind of work to do to prepare for the Champions League."

Bologna, in tenth, battled after their 5-1 defeat against AC Milan last time out with Musa Barrow missing a double chance against his parent side.

### SERIE A TOP FIVE SCORERS

Cristiano Ronaldo (Juventus)	30
Ciro Immobile (Lazio)	30
Romelu Lukaku (InterMilan)	21
Francesco Caputo (Sassuolo)	19
Joao Pedro (Cagliari)	18

Muriel came off the bench after the break and picked up a cross from fellow Colombian Duvan Zapata to score his 18th goal this season and 11th off the bench.

Juventus can seal the title with a win over 16th-placed Udinese, but it depends on Inter Milan, who are eight points behind the champions,

failing to beat Fiorentina at the San Siro on Wednesday.

Outside the Champions League places, Stefano Pioli's Milan extended their unbeaten run since the return with a seventh win in nine games.

"I was already seeing the team improve before the lockdown, then we grew a lot," said Pioli, who has been given a two-year contract extension until June 2022.

"We're doing good things, but it is not over yet," added Ibrahimovic. "We are still in the running to reach our goal. Fifth place is what we want, but the qualifiers are fine too."

Ibrahimovic nodded in Hakan Calhanoglu's cross after 19 minutes and added a second just before the break.

The 38-year-old, who helped Milan to their last Serie A title back in 2011, savoured scoring more than one goal in a Serie A game for the first time in eight years.

## Time for Tigers to start stirring?

NABID YEASIN



Since the postponement of the Dhaka Premier League (DPL) in mid-March in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, uncertainty is all that has swirled around Bangladesh cricket.

From the postponements of five bilateral series to cricketers being holed up in their homes, everything had come to an unprecedented standstill.

There have however been developments in the past few days with a number of cricketers resuming individual training -- a test run being monitored by the BCB -- following the board's decision to make training facilities available for interested cricketers. The ray of hope for resumption brightened on Monday, when BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury cleared the order of priorities regarding possible upcoming tours and series.

Will Bangladesh be able to return to the field this year? Nothing is yet certain, but going by what the BCB said, a return to cricket now seems more imminent and the players can at least now see a clearer picture, if not having a specific set target in mind while training.

"Actually, we do not have much time if we plan to resume cricket this year. There are a few steps. A few cricketers have already started practising individually. So, the next major step will involve how we can bring all the players or at least the national cricketers back to the field," Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, who worked at the BCB in many capacities before resigning last year, said.

"It may not be possible to immediately start playing cricket, but if we can get players together then they can do fitness work like running and practising batting and bowling by rotation. The next challenge would be creating a secure environment for players who return to training and enabling them to do skills training or play practice matches, maintaining safety measures," said Fahim.

Even though the cricketers had been maintaining fitness on their own or by following the BCB-made workout plans at their homes for the past few months, the biggest concern for players has been their skills training that they missed out on during the enforced break.

Experienced cricket coach Mohammad Salahuddin said the most important thing for the players now is to return to proper training and for the board to ensure a safe environment.

"Players never forget their skills. They may however take some time to regain their rhythm. It has been a long time since everything was halted. The most important thing now is to return to full-fledged training. I believe that the BCB is capable of maintaining everything and of creating a bio-secure environment for at least the national players. And I think there is no point being afraid anymore as players need to adapt to the situation and get back to training. So, there is no point in waiting anymore," said Salahuddin.

Even national selector Habibul Bashar asked the players not to dwell on the negatives and to just return to playing whenever the opportunity of playing a series or tournament arrives.

"It is now just important to start playing. I don't want to ponder on the negatives like not having proper preparation or not playing cricket for a long time. If we get the chance to play then that will be the biggest positive for us. I think we should be positive about it and start playing whenever we get the opportunity," said Bashar.

With the BCB now actively thinking about resuming cricket and given the hurried nature in which developments may occur amid the pandemic, the one certainty amid all the ambiguity is that the players have to start thinking about training as if matches are just around the corner.



## Day seeks a glimpse into booters' psyche

ANISUR RAHMAN

Footballers have been confined to their respective homes for four months since the coronavirus outbreak in mid-March and players, especially those in the national team, have been adhering strictly to the training schedule set by national team coach Jamie Day following the announcement of the resumption of joint qualifiers for 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup.

The booters have been regularly posting videos and photographs to a WhatsApp group closely monitored by Day. Ahead of the start of national camp from August 7 at the Sara Resorts in Gazipur, Day last week asked all national players to fill up a form containing numerous questions, including what they believe their strengths, weaknesses and motivations to be alongside family and other information.

The players submitted their answers by the July 17 deadline as Day was very eager to get information. The 40-year-old discussed how to fill up the forms with his players and requested them to communicate with local coach Masud Parvez Kaiser if anyone had trouble.

"It was interesting for me to answer those questions," Tapu Barman told The Daily Star. "I think the coach will analyse our mental strength, weaknesses and the weakness towards our family because we have to stay away from our family for four months due to the World Cup Qualifiers. Jamie wants to know everything before the start of training so that he can take proper steps player-by-player during the training camp."

The centre-back informed that a proper mindset, tactical knowledge, compassion, control over body and ball, long throws, long passes and headers were his strengths while laziness, physical

fitness, impatience and a short temper were his weakness.

The lad from Narayanganj also mentioned his motivation for playing football, citing self-determination, family inspiration, public expectations, internal impetus and the achievements of many successful footballers.

However, goalkeeper Ashraf Islam Rana provided three answers for every questions. "I think the mental power, self-confidence and hard work are my major strengths while operating with my left foot, judging crosses and desserts are my weaknesses."

Rana's motivation for playing is to become a member of a SAFF Championship-winning team, helping the national team rise up in the FIFA rankings to between 150 and 160 and seeing the country's football become the most popular sport within his playing career.

Like Tapu and Rana, all other players answered the questions and Jamie now has all the necessary information and he can identify the areas he needs to emphasise.

"We spoke to the players so we could assess how they were feeling and what their aspirations are for the future," Jamie told The Daily Star about the questionnaire's purpose. "We can set targets for each player throughout the year which will hopefully help them improve," said Jamie.

Assistant coach Masud Parvez Kaiser explained further: "It is part of team building. It also has a psychological aspect. We believe the players filled it up after thinking a lot. So when they wrote down their strongest as well as weakest points, they must remember to improve their weakest points in the future. This initiative will boost up the players to overcome their respective weaknesses and become stronger," Kaiser said, adding that another reason behind it was to keep the players' focus on football.



## Mbappe commits future to PSG

AFP, Paris



Paris Saint-Germain captain Thiago Silva waves to the adoring crowd prior to his last appearance for the French champions at the Parc des Princes in a friendly match against Celtic on Tuesday. The 35-year-old Brazilian is expected to leave the club soon and end a 12-year journey with Le Parisiens.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Kylian Mbappe said on Tuesday he would remain with French champions Paris Saint-Germain next season "whatever happens" despite constant speculation over his future.

"I'm here. I'm part of the project for a fourth year," Mbappe, 21, told Beln Sport during half-time of PSG's 4-0 win over Celtic in a friendly played in front of around 5,000 fans at the Parc des Princes. "The club's 50-year anniversary is an important one in the eyes of the club, the supporters, of everyone, so I will be here whatever happens."

"I'm going to try and bring back trophies with the team and give the best of myself," added Mbappe.

"Kylian has a contract with us, we're not ready to sell him. He is super important, he's a key player, our player. It's a gift to work with him," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel. "It's super. There's a really nice connection between him and Neymar. It makes it fun for everyone. It's a real strength for PSG. It's great like that."

Mbappe opened the scoring for PSG against the Scottish champions in the first minute after he was played in behind by Neymar. The Brazil added a second with on 25 minutes in PSG's final tune-up ahead of the French Cup final against Saint-Etienne on Friday. Ander Herrera made it 3-0 shortly after half-time and Pablo Sarabia grabbed a fourth with a sweetly-struck volley from Marco Verratti's lofted pass.

## 'The whole spectacle made me uneasy'

Archer's agony over ban and backlash

AGENCIES



Pacer Jofra Archer has been cleared to return to the England camp after his biosecure bubble breach, but admitted he has struggled to find motivation and lashed out at the attention his transgression has received.

Archer was ruled out of the second Test against the West Indies on the morning of the match after it was revealed he had breached England's strict biosecurity protocols by travelling to his home between the first and second Tests.

"We knew we had to go to Manchester via certain points. I didn't. To me, home is home. A safe place. I picked some stuff up, dropped some stuff off. It was no big deal," Archer wrote in his column with UK tabloid The Daily Mail.

Archer spent five days in isolation -- allowed out of his hotel room only for solitary fitness sessions -- but has rejoined the squad after twice testing negative for Covid-19.

"This whole week has been extremely tough



and to spend five days in isolation has given me a lot of thinking time on where I am at.

"To be stuck in a hotel room in Manchester was hard. You know you cannot focus on the game being played on the other side of the bedroom curtains and it was frustrating not being able to make an impact on the field.

"I found I was struggling for motivation in the circumstances when it came to returning to bowling in the nets.

"When I walked outside of my room for the first time since being placed into self-isolation ... I heard the cameras clicking with every single step I took.

"The whole spectacle made me feel uneasy ... I haven't committed a crime and I want to start feeling myself again."

Archer's comments come as England head coach Chris Silverwood ponders a headache for the deciding Test against the West Indies. England levelled the three-Test series 1-1 with a 113-run win at Old Trafford, with the third Test to be played at the same venue starting Saturday.

Silverwood now has a fully fit contingent of fast bowlers to choose from for the deciding Test, with Archer seen as a likely starter, creating a squeeze between Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad, while Mark Wood, Chris Woakes and Sam Curran have all staked claims over the two Tests.

"It's never easy, and you're always going to get push back, but you try to be as honest as possible," Silverwood said.

# Tidal surges hamper life in 6 villages

The coastal areas in Khulna's Koyra upazila remain waterlogged since Amphan hit two months ago

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Even two months after the cyclone Amphan, some six villages in Khulna's Koyra upazila are still under three to four feet of water, preventing villagers from returning to their homes and livelihoods.

Last week, this correspondent visited some of these villages in Uttar Bedkashi union, situated about 12 kilometres from Koyra Sadar union.

The lone road that connects the two unions is totally broken, so an alternative 20km route had to be used.

Showing the water on the inundated road, Abdul Satter, a local van driver, said daily tidal surge pushes saline water through the broken parts of the embankments along the rivers.

In some places, the three to five feet tidal waves spill over the embankments that have eroded over the years to a height of just two feet.

The villages become inundated in chest-deep salt water, which gets trapped and can hardly recede before the next high tide.

Roads and homesteads are slowly eroding, as the soil loses its compactness due to the waterlogging. "This has been going on every day during high and low tide since Amphan."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



A woman eats her meal, sitting on a stool on the flooded floor of her home, while her son eats on the bed. Due to poor drainage, rainwater has seeped inside many homes in Dakshin Rayerbag in the capital, causing immense sufferings to the residents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Brave cop saves lives of 3 kids

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

On Monday morning, police constable Atikur Rahman single-handedly saved three boys from drowning in the Hoja river of Rajshahi's Durgapur upazila.



For setting the 'rare example of humanity and bravery', Rajshahi Superintendent of Police (SP) Md Shahidullah rewarded Atik with a certificate and Tk 30,000 in cash at a simple function at the district SP's office yesterday.

Atik alone volunteered to rescue, while hundreds of people were watching the boys struggle in the strong currents, the SP said.

"We are proud of him; he has brightened our faces. We expect all police members to think like him and volunteer to establish humane societies across the country," the SP said, adding that the district

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# Floodwater inundates more areas

Erosion hits Tangail protection dam

STAR REPORT

Flood water has triggered erosion in some places, while fresh areas have been inundated in few regions intensifying public sufferings.

In Tangail, erosion hit on the Tangail town protection embankment at several spots in Sadar upazila due to huge current on the Pungli river, a branch of Jamuna.

About 20 meters stretch of the important embankment at Pachh Bethoir area under Gala union in Sadar upazila was damaged on Tuesday morning. Cracks were also created at several other places on the embankment.

If the important embankment is collapsed anyhow, the district town and a part of the adjacent Basail upazila will be flooded.

While visiting the spot, this correspondent saw the Water Development Board was trying to check the erosion on the embankment dumping CEO bags.

Imdadul Haque, a sub-divisional engineer of WDB in Tangail, who was supervising the works, told The Daily Star that the embankment was damaged due to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

# Hundred injured in city clashes

July 23, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

PM ADVISED GALLBLADDER OPERATION

A medical investigation reveals that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been suffering from a stone in the gallbladder, according to a health bulletin issued today by the personal physician of the prime minister. To prevent recurrence of the pain owing to the stone, it has been advised that an operation should be undertaken at an early date. The prime minister, whose general health condition is absolutely normal, is quite fit for an operation, adds the bulletin.

BCL INFIGHTING FOLLOWING ANNUAL CONFERENCE About 100 persons are injured in two separate clashes in the city today. The first clash took place at noon in the stadium area and the second one near Curzon Hall at about 6:00pm. Prominent among those who were injured are organising secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Abdur Razzaque MCA, former vice president of Ducusu ASM Abdur Rab and former central secretary of Ducusu Abdul Quddus Makhani. Three journalists, including two press photographers, were assaulted while covering the clash.

Bangladesh Chattr League today brought out a rally from Suhrawardy Uddyan as part of their programme of the three-day annual conference. The rally was passing through Bangabandhu Avenue with full-throated slogans in favour of Mujibbad and against foreign 'isms'. The Rab-Siraj group of Chattr League at that time was holding a discussion at Paltan Maidan. The activists from Paltan pandal raised slogan against Mujibbad and in favour of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



# Malaysia spares 27 Rohingyas from caning

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A Malaysian high court yesterday spared 27 Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar from caning, their lawyer said, setting aside a lower court's sentence following an outcry from human rights activists.

The Rohingya men were among 40 refugees convicted last month by a magistrates court on the northwestern island of Langkawi for entering Malaysia by boat without a valid permit. All 40 were also sentenced to seven months' jail.

Muslim-majority Malaysia has long been a favoured destination for Rohingya seeking a better life after escaping a 2017 military crackdown in Myanmar and, more recently, refugee camps in Bangladesh.

But Malaysia, which

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# Giant meteor shower 'hit Earth and Moon' 800m yrs ago



AFP, Paris

A giant meteor shower bombarded Earth and the Moon 800 million years ago with more than 30 times the force of the asteroid strike that killed the dinosaurs, new research showed Tuesday.

Japanese scientists examined images taken by the Kaguya lunar orbiter and found that an enormous asteroid -- at least 100 kilometres (60 miles) in diameter -- broke up and plunged into the Earth-Moon System, having a profound impact on life on our planet.

The probability of an asteroid that size hitting Earth is roughly once in 100 million years, and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

# Sabrina JKG convener, not chairman

Say detectives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday found JKG Health Care documents which showed that Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury was the convener of the organisation and not its chairman.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police, which is now investigating the case, said they will submit the charge sheet very soon in JKG's Covid-19 test report scam case.

"We did not find any

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## PRAYER TIMING JULY 23

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# 3 killed in 'gunfights' with law enforcers

STAR REPORT

Three suspects were killed in what law enforcers said were gunfights in the capital, Cox's bazar and Bogura early yesterday.

Company Commander Salauddin of Rab-1 said drug peddler Ripon Hawlader, 35, was shot dead during a "shootout" between gang members and officers in the capital's Dakshin Khan area around 1:30am.

Tipped off about the presence of suspects at Asian City Gate-2, Rab men raided the area and got shot at by the suspects.

The officers then retaliated, causing a "gunfight", Salauddin added.

Ripon got shot while the others fled, he said, adding that doctors declared him dead when he was taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

Ripon was accused in at least 16 cases, Salauddin claimed.

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Trucks are parked on the road in front of Jatrabari fish wholesale market in the capital, hampering traffic movement. The drivers park their vehicles there, even though it is not a designated parking area, and the authorities apparently could not care less. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# 'Unprecedented escalation' in US-China row

Beijing fumes as Washington abruptly orders it to close consulate in Houston

AGENCIES

Beijing yesterday reacted strongly after Washington abruptly ordered China to close its consulate in Houston and accused it of ramping up spying operations, dramatically escalating diplomatic tensions between the feuding superpowers.

China quickly vowed to retaliate as the two countries squabble over a slew of issues ranging from trade to the coronavirus pandemic -- and China's policies in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and the South China Sea.

Washington "abruptly demanded" closure of the Houston consulate on Tuesday, China's foreign ministry said, calling the move an "unprecedented escalation." The editor of an official Chinese media outlet said China had been given 72 hours to do so. A source said Beijing was considering shutting the US consulate in Wuhan in retaliation.

"We have directed the closure of PRC Consulate General Houston in order to protect American intellectual property and Americans' private information," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus told reporters during a visit by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Denmark.

She added that under the Vienna Convention, states "have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs" of the receiving state, but there were no further details about the reasons behind the decision.

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