

**BEIJING SAYS  
TROOPS DISENGAGED  
ON CHINA-INDIA  
BORDER**  
SEE PAGE 6

# The Daily Star

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## DHAKA WASA'S LEGACY

# A decade of failure, inefficiency

*Safe water for all remains a far cry; no solution to waterlogging despite spending hundreds of crores of taka*

HELEMUL ALAM

On September 26, 2007, The Daily Star ran a report with a headline "Living with dirty, stinky wasa water", highlighting the innumerable sufferings of Dhaka city dwellers.

Almost 13 years have passed since then and the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has taken up many projects and spent hundreds of crores under a managing director who has been running the show for 11 long years.

But many Dhaka dwellers are still living with dirty and stinky water, facing acute shortage of drinking water, being deprived of access to the sewerage network and encountering the same old waterlogging problems.

Contacted on Sunday, a Dhaka Wasa official working in their call centre said they received complaints about foul-smelling water from Satish Sarkar Road in Ganderia,

English Road and Rahmatpur of Jatrabari. "We also received complaints about leakage from Subash Bose Avenue, Mitford Road and Nawabpur Road in Old Dhaka yesterday [Saturday]," said the official.

Residents of Nakhhalpara, Hemonto Das Road of Sutrapur and South Kutub Khali also complained of getting no water, he added.

There are, however, more areas in the long list of suffering subscribers.

Residents of East Jurain, Donia, Shyampur, West Jurain, North Jurain and Muradpur, parts of Dhupkhola, English Road, Rahmatpur of Jatrabari, parts of Shanir Akhra and some houses in Shewrapara also told The Daily Star that they were getting putrid water from the Wasa supply line.

Mizanur Rahman, a resident of Jurain's Mistir Dokan area, said many of around two lakh residents of East Jurain are facing

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**BANGLADESH  
UPDATE**



2,960

New cases in 24hrs



2,29,185

Total cases



3,000

Deaths



1,27,414

Recoveries

**GLOBAL  
UPDATE**



659,015

Deaths



16,733,760

Total cases



## Keep up progress in agriculture for food security

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Putting emphasis on keeping up Bangladesh's progress in the agriculture sector, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government has been providing all kinds of assistance for ensuring food security amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This is true that coronavirus is pushing us back a lot. Even then, we will have to

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2 YRS AFTER MOVEMENT

## Roads just as risky as before

*New law, taskforce not being able to bring discipline in the sector due to resistance from transport associations*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In the last two years after the road safety movement, the enactment of a tougher road transport act and the formation of a taskforce to curb road crashes have been the most talked about issues in the transport sector.

Several committees were formed and a series of meetings were held to make the law effective and the taskforce functional.

Ministers and high officials made lofty promises about the law on the one hand, while the transport associations doubled down on their efforts to prevent the implementation of the law on the other.

And as the country observes the second anniversary of the unprecedented movement, road users and experts find the law and the

taskforce did not bear fruit as the roads have remained as dangerous as it was.

"Indiscipline in the transport sector is the main reason behind the road crashes. So the system has to be reformed," said Prof Shamsul Hoque, adding that no improvement has been made in bringing discipline to the sector.

The eminent transport expert came up with these remarks when asked to evaluate the current situation of the sector.

Two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College were killed and nine others were injured on July 29, 2018, following a mad race between two buses.

Thousands of students took to the streets seeking justice for the killing and demanding safe roads.

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## No end to their trauma in sight

*Students accused of vandalism during road safety demo suffer as investigation drags on*

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Like any other teenage student, Tarek Aziz would attend classes or hang out with friends on the campus. He would also go to a movie or play cricket or football in his spare time.

But his world turned upside down two years ago.

After the student of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute was accused in nine cases on charges of vandalism and spreading rumour over the 2018 Road Safety Movement, he languished in jail for 10 long months.

After he came out on bail, he had to spend a significant amount of his time and energy for court appearances; he needed to turn up before court for attending hearing at least nine times every month before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Going through this trauma, he now hardly finds it possible to concentrate on studies or live the life as he used to.

Besides, his family has been devastated, arranging money to continue the legal battle. Tarek's father Khorshed

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## 3,000 dead and counting

*Bangladesh now 16th worst hit country in the world*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of deaths from Covid-19 infection in the country reached the grim milestone of 3,000 yesterday, with 35 new deaths.

The depressing milestone coincided with another bad news of becoming the 16th most infected countries of the world in terms of coronavirus positive cases.

Turkey, which has been detecting below 1,000 cases a day in the last couple of days, used to be the 16th most infected countries with 2,27,019 positive cases till Monday.

On Monday, the total number of Covid-19 cases in Bangladesh was 2,26,225. Yesterday, the country detected another 2,960 cases, taking the figure of positive cases so far to 2,29,185, according to worldometers.info.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation in its Covid-19 situation report on Bangladesh published on Monday said the number of tests has been

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**A part of the approach road to Shimulia Ferry Ghat-3 being devoured by the mighty Padma in Mawa of Munshiganj. Ferry services on Shimulia-Kathalbari route was disrupted yesterday as the authorities had to suspend operation of ro-ro ferries following the erosion.**

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Swollen rivers wreak havoc

*Many dams, a major ferry terminal damaged*

STAR REPORT

Floodwater has destroyed embankments in many areas, inundating villages and causing people immense sufferings.

In Faridpur, a 50-metre portion of the 4-kilometre long district town protection dam was washed away by floodwater at Beelgozaria area under Sadar upazila, as of yesterday.

Vast swathes of land and houses were submerged.

Earlier on July 19, floodwaters broke 22-metre of the dam on the same spot, inundating around 50 houses.

Officials of the local Water Development Board (WDB) tried to repair the dam temporarily by dumping sand-filled geo-textile bags.

But a portion of temporary repair was breached yesterday.

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## Hajj begins today

AFP, Makkah

Pilgrims were quarantined in the Muslim holy city of Makkah yesterday ahead of the dramatically downsized hajj as Saudi authorities strive to prevent a coronavirus outbreak during the pilgrimage.

Up to 10,000 people already residing in the kingdom will participate in the annual ritual starting today, according to hajj officials, a tiny fraction of the 2.5 million international pilgrims that attended last year.

Those selected to take part in this year's hajj were subject to temperature checks and placed in quarantine as they began trickling into Makkah at the weekend.

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The Premier Bank Limited

# A decade of failure, inefficiency

FROM PAGE 1  
similar problems and some are not even getting water.

Mizanur is one of a few hundred residents from Jurain, Shyampur, Madhya Badda, Rampura and Teigaon who staged a demonstration in front of the Wasa's Karwan Bazar headquarters on April 23 last year, demanding supply of pure water.

The image of him carrying a jug full of dirty water as a sarcastic gift of 'sherbet' for Wasa managing director Taqsem A Khan for saying "water supplied by Wasa was 100 percent safe" is still fresh in the minds of Dhaka residents.

"Unfortunately, nothing has changed," Mizanur told The Daily Star on Sunday.

Mohammad Kanchan, a resident of West Kafrul, said their water has a bad smell throughout the year, but it turns dirty when it rains.

Sakhawat Hossain, a resident of Satish Sarker Road, echoed Kanchan's words.

"The situation is bad at the moment. But I'm afraid things may turn worse during Eid-ul-Azha, when hundreds of sacrificial animals will be slaughtered. We might get blood-stained water, like [we did] last year," Hossain feared.

Wasa has around 8,000 kilometres of supply line -- around 3,000 km of which consist of derelict 150-year-old pipes -- for around 3.9 lakh connections in its 360 square kilometre service area. It produces 255 crore litres of water daily. Of this, 22 percent is surface water and the rest is extracted from underground with 900 deep tube wells, according to an official of Wasa.

A Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report published on April 17, 2019, said 91 percent of Wasa subscribers had to boil the supply water to make it drinkable and, in the process, burned gas worth Tk 332 crore a year.

The TIB findings also showed that nearly 45 percent of subscribers do not get the desired amount of water, while about 35 percent complain of poor-quality water throughout the year.

Wasa MD Taqsem A Khan had however snubbed the TIB report as 'unfounded'.

While supply of safe water is an issue Wasa is yet to ensure, the key utility service provider has also come under severe criticism for failing to solve the perennial waterlogging problem in the capital during monsoon.

Persistent rain last week that caused various city streets to be submerged and many residential areas inundated with knee to waist-deep water, once again exposed Wasa's poor drainage management system.

According to Wasa officials, more

than Tk 5 crore was spent under different projects to clean and develop Dhaka's 26 canals this year. Besides, around Tk 12 crore more was spent on cleaning and repairing the drainage network.

Dhaka residents, however, have not benefited from those initiatives.

The two city corporation mayors -- Dhaka South's Fazle Noor Tapash and Dhaka North's Atiqul Islam -- on Wednesday came down heavily on Wasa and Bangladesh Water Development Board for their failure to properly clean the canals and the drainage system. During an unannounced visit at some canals and pumping stations along with LGRD minister Tajul Islam, they even demanded that the responsibility be hand over to the city corporations.

Dhaka Wasa maintains 26 canals that stretch for around 80 km, 10-km box culverts, around 385 km stormwater drains and four permanent pumping stations. The two city corporations maintain around 2,200 km of surface drains.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board, on the other hand, are responsible for 52 sluice gates and one pumping station.

According to leading urban planners, although it is Wasa's duty to ensure pure drinking water for all, residents of many parts of Dhaka city are supplied with putrid water despite the price of water having increased 13 times in the last 11 years.

The price per unit (1,000 litres) of water was just Tk 6 in 2009, but now stands at Tk 14.46.

In the last seven fiscal years till 2018-19 Dhaka Wasa has undertaken various projects -- ongoing and completed -- related to the water supply costing approximately Tk 20,500 crore, according to Wasa data.

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said that the main reason behind the foul-smelling and dirty water is Wasa's failure to invest sufficiently in meaningfully improving its supply line.

"Wasa just increased the amount of production to say that they are producing according to city dwellers' demands, but did not take necessary steps to improve the supply network to deliver safe water to its subscribers," said Iqbal Habib.

"In the last decade or so, there has also not been any visual change in sewage treatment facilities, although Wasa is charging sewerage bills every month," said Habib, adding that the sewerage networks of Wasa still only covers 19 percent of the city.

"The waste treatment master plan earmarked in 2016 is yet to be implemented. Of the four waste

treatment plants under the master plan, Wasa could start building only one so far at Dasher Kandi, and even that is taking a long time to be completed," said Habib.

Experts also said that Wasa did not show any interest in investing their own funds in solving the waterlogging problem; instead depended on government and foreign funds.

In the last three years, Wasa spent at least Tk 125 crore, but none from its own coffers, says an official of Wasa, wishing not to be named.

According to Wasa data, ongoing and completed projects relating to sewerage and sanitations had cost around Tk 3,473 crore in the last seven years, while the cost of projects to improve the city's drainage system (both natural and artificial) was around Tk 1,433 crore over the same period.

The experts however also blamed waterlogging problems on the fast depletion of low-lying wetlands, flood flow zones, storm water retention ponds, ditches and canals in the name of development.

Time and again, the authorities have been warned of grim consequence in urban storm water management ,but they paid no heed, the experts said.

But the reality is many of the flood flow zones, retention areas and parts of rivers have time and again been filled up in the name of urbanisation.

Wasa's failures on other fronts

Allegations of widespread corruption and delays in project implementation are the other issues that hampered Wasa from providing the desired service to its clients. It was highlighted in a report of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) submitted to the LGRD ministry on July 18, 2019.

Wasa keeps extending deadlines and increasing the costs of its projects to create room for corruption, said the ACC report.

The ACC said corruption and irregularities also took place in the selection of consultants and contractors, during revenue collection and overtime bill disbursements.

Manual meter reading is also an area where syndicates have been formed to misappropriate money and deny the government its revenue, said the report that identified eight projects and three areas in Dhaka Wasa where corruption takes place, and made a 12-point recommendation to prevent graft.

The parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings, in its meeting on October 20 last year asked the Dhaka Wasa boss to take immediate measures to rid the public organisation of corruption and ensure that people get proper services from it.

The JS body also blasted the Wasa MD for his failure to provide safe drinking water to citizens and deal with the waterlogging problem.

In face of repeated criticism, the DWASA MD assured the parliamentary committee that the problems were being dealt with and there would be safe water for all the city's residents by 2021.

## WASA MD'S ROLE UNDER SCRUTINY

Dhaka Wasa MD Taqsem A Khan drew huge public backlash last year when he said the 'water is 100 percent safe for drinking'.

He also offered an unconditional apology to the HC bench on December 7, 2019 for making an untrue statement about sewerage lines connected to the Buriganga River.

The Wasa MD submitted a report to the HC on December 2 last year saying that there are 67 underground drains and sewerage lines connected to Buriganga river, although he had submitted another report to the court on June 18 the same year saying that there were no such lines connected to the Buriganga.

Besides, TIB on July 20 termed repeated reappointment of Taqsem A Khan 'questionable' and called for a neutral audit of performance.

"After a controversial appointment in 2009, the present Wasa managing director has been serving the post in questionable ways for five consecutive terms for the last 11 years," TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said in a media statement.

"It could be known through media reports and other authentic sources that rules and regulations have been violated on each occasion of renewing his appointment," said Iftekharuzzaman.

The TIB executive director said allegations against the Wasa managing director's reappointment also came to light in TIB's report titled "Dhaka Wasa: Challenges of Good Governance and Way Forward".

Taqsem's current term expires on October 14.

What the Dhaka Wasa MD has to say

On the issue of waterlogging, the Wasa MD blamed reduction of natural reservoirs like rivers, canals, water bodies and flood flow zones in the city.

"Artificial drains are not the solution," Taqsem told The Daily Star on July 23.

When his attention was drawn to the recent remarks of the two Dhaka City Corporation mayors, the Wasa MD said, "I have said many times before that this work should come under one government body instead of seven."

About the TIB report on his holding the post for five consecutive terms, Taqsem said he was ready to hold the position as long as the government desires and finds him productive.

He also said, "The government will be able to answer why they kept me in the post for a long time."

About ACC's corruption report, Taqsem said the allegations of corruption have to be proved first.

"As far as I know, not a single allegation has been proved yet. What does it mean? It means the allegations were not based on facts," he said, adding that his organisation takes immediate action whenever they find any irregularities.

The Wasa MD has often been heard telling reporters that Wasa's production of water supply is now in surplus against demand, but there are some pockets that creates water crisis due to technical problems.

Regarding the failure of providing safe water to city dwellers, Taqsem said Wasa's water is safe at source but is contaminated in some areas due to leakage of old pipelines.

## 3,000 dead

FROM PAGE 1  
observed dropping gradually since July 3.

According to it, the number of tests fell by 5.1 percent in the last one week.

At the regular briefing on Covid-19 situation in Bangladesh, Prof Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the Directorate General of Health Services, said 12,714 samples were tested across the country in 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday.

The previous day, 12,859 samples were tested.

According to the DGHS, in the last 20 weeks since the detection of first coronavirus case in the country, 2,243 people, aged over 50, died from novel coronavirus infection.

Of the 3,000 dead, 2,358 were male and the rest were female.

Thirty-five more people breathed their last in the 24 hours after being infected with coronavirus, said Prof Nasima.

The death rate now stands at 1.31 percent of the confirmed Covid-19 cases, she said at the online briefing yesterday.

Meanwhile, 1,731 Covid-19 patients recovered in the 24 hours.

The number of recoveries is now 1,27,414, and the recovery rate is 55.59 percent.

Some 713 people were put under isolation in the 24 hours, added Prof Nasima.

# Masked men rape girl, rob her home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A group of masked men has looted gold ornaments from a house, beaten up the owner couple and raped their daughter in Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila.

Raju Sarker, officer-in-charge of Rajarhat Police Station, said the incident took place early Monday and a case was filed later that day.

Police, however, could not arrest anyone as of 8:30pm yesterday.

The law enforcers are trying their best to bring the culprits to books, the OC said.

According to the case statement, three masked men entered their house at midnight, tied up the parents and looted gold ornaments worth Tk 2.5 lakh and other valuables. One of the three also raped their ninth grader daughter.

Locals rescued the family and admitted them to Rajarhat Upazila Health Complex on the night. The girl was referred to Kurigram District Sadar Hospital on Monday afternoon, the OC said.

The father also said that they previously received illicit messages over phone from unknown people. He could not identify any of the three criminals.

# Floods, coronavirus hobble two of India's poorest states

REUTERS

Floods caused by heavy monsoon rains in two of India's poorest states have displaced or affected 8 million people and killed 111 since May, authorities said yesterday, at a time when coronavirus cases have swelled there.

The Brahmaputra river in the northeastern state of Assam is flowing above the "danger level" in many places, while heavy rains that began this week in Bihar in the east will last until Wednesday, officials say.

Since the start of the monsoon season on June 1, Assam has received 15% more rainfall than a 50-year average and Bihar 47% more, according to the country's weather department.

The floods in Assam, where at least nine one-horned rhinos have drowned in an inundated national park, have so far affected 5.7 million people, more than 45,000 of whom are still sheltered in makeshift relief centres.

# Swollen rivers wreak havoc



**A part of Balua Flood Control Dam on the Bangalee river is breached in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila affecting 20 villages. PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ**

FROM PAGE 1  
A total of 1,84,833 people have been affected by flood in the district as the Padma river is flowing 119 cm above the danger mark, recorded at the Goalanda ghat point.

Many flood-hit people along with their livestock have taken shelter in safe places.

In Gaibandha, around 1 lakh people of 20 villages under Gobindaganj upazila have been waterlogged since an embankment broke down on July 25.

A 40-metre long portion of the 39-km long Balua Flood Control Dam was breached at Bochadaha on Saturday, while another 30-metre broke of the dam at Balua area on Monday.

Along with houses, a vast area of Aman paddy croplands and sugarcane fields were inundated.

"Different parts of the dam were breached in the last three years as officials of WDB do not work properly," Md Zafirul Islam, a resident of Gobindaganj's Balua village, alleged.

"Our house was located next to the dam. When a portion of the dam

suddenly broke on Monday, our house was submerged instantly," said Abu Sayeed, a resident of Nayapara village under the same upazila.

Many villagers are suffering from a shortage of food and drinking water.

Moklesur Rahman, executive engineer of Gaibandha WDB, said, "Some portions of the dam were breached multiple times in the last three years as the soil here is weak."

In Tangail, the district town protection dam is under threat due to severe current of the Pungli river, a branch of the mighty Jamuna.

Local WDB officials said the Pungli's current becomes stronger at the curves and a number of cracks have appeared along the dam in those places.

"We are trying to protect the dam by dumping geo bags on a temporary basis. We are on vigil round the clock to protect the dam," said Md Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of Tangail's WDB.

In Manikganj, the flood situation has further deteriorated as the Padma, Jamuna, Dhaleswari and Kaliganga rivers were flowing above the danger

mark.

Except for the Jamuna, water of the other three rivers has continued to rise, said local WDB officials yesterday afternoon.

Over six lakh people have been affected by the flood in the district.

In Munshiganj, the swollen Padma washed away the Shimulia ferry terminal and a portion of the approach road, yesterday at noon.

Ferry service in Shimulia-Kathalbari route was disrupted and all the Ro-Ro ferry service was suspended.

"We are trying to make an alternative arrangement. But the river is very rough with severe current," said Khaja Mia, chairman of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), yesterday.

"If we cannot make an alternative arrangement, we will request all vehicles to take the Paturia-Doulatdia route," he added.

An official from the Shimulia ghat said, the ferry terminal was floating in the river as its pillars were eroded by the Padma.

Besides, the connecting road to the terminal, a food store of BIWTC and a mosque were also eroded, he added.

A large number of vehicles were waiting on both sides of the river to cross through the route.

Meanwhile, water of the rivers surrounding the capital are also showing a rising trend, said a bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), yesterday.

The bulletin mentioned that the trend will continue today.

A total of 18 rivers across the country were flowing above danger level yesterday, according to the FFWC.

Over 47 lakhs of people of 153 upazila under 31 districts have been affected by flood, according to the latest report of National Disaster Response Coordination Centre.

Our correspondents from Faridpur, Gaibandha, Tangail and Manikganj contributed to the story.

# Hajj begins today

FROM PAGE 1  
State media showed health workers sanitising their luggage, and some pilgrims reported being given electronic wristbands to allow authorities to monitor their whereabouts.

Workers, clutched brooms and disinfectant, were seen cleaning the area around the Kaaba, the structure at the centre of the Grand Mosque draped in gold-embroidered cloth towards which Muslims around the world pray.

Hajj authorities have cordoned the Kaaba this year, saying pilgrims will not be allowed to touch it, to limit the chances of infection.

They also reported setting up multiple health facilities, mobile clinics

and ambulances to cater to the pilgrims, who will be required to wear masks and observe social distancing.

"There are no security-related concerns in this pilgrimage, but it is to protect pilgrims from the danger of the pandemic," Khalid bin Qarar Al-Harbi, Saudi Arabia's director of public security, told reporters on Monday.

Some 70 percent of the pilgrims are foreigners residing in the kingdom, while the rest will be Saudi citizens.


All worshippers were required to be tested for coronavirus before arriving in Makkah and will also have to quarantine after the pilgrimage as the number of cases in the kingdom nears 270,000 -- one of the largest outbreaks

in the Middle East.

They were given elaborate amenity kits that include sterilised pebbles for a stoning ritual, disinfectants, masks, a prayer rug and the ihram, a seamless white garment worn by pilgrims, according to a hajj ministry programme document.

'INDESCRIBABLE FEELING'  
The foreign press are barred from this year's hajj, usually a huge global media event, as the government tightens access to Makkah.

Saudi authorities initially said only around 1,000 pilgrims residing in the kingdom would be permitted for the hajj but local media reports say as many as 10,000 will be allowed to take part.



**Islamic Bank**  
Bangladesh Limited  
Based on Islamic Shari'ah

Head Office  
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## Notice of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of **Islamic Bank Bangladesh Limited** will be held on **Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 at 11.30 A.M.** through Digital Platform for transacting the following businesses:

### AGENDA

- 1) To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 along with Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
- 2) To approve Dividend for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.
- 3) To appoint Auditor(s) and to fix up their remuneration for the Year 2020.
- 4) To elect / re-elect Directors.
- 5) To approve appointment of Independent Director(s).
- 6) To appoint Professional for the certification on Corporate Governance Code for the Year 2020 and fixation of their remuneration.

All Members are requested to make it convenient to attend the Meeting in time.

By order of the Board of Directors  
Sd/-  
**J Q M Habibullah, FCS**  
DMD & Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka  
28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

### Notes:

- a) The "**Record date**" was on **21<sup>st</sup> July, 2020** i.e. the honourable shareholders whose names were appeared in the CDS (Central Depository System)/Company's Register on the **21<sup>st</sup> July, 2020** are eligible to attend & vote at the Annual General Meeting and be entitled to get dividend for the Year 2019 against their shareholdings.
- b) Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities Exchange Commission's (BSEC) Order No.SEC/SRMIC/04-231/932 dated 24 March 2020, this will be a virtual meeting of the Members, which will be conducted via live webcast by using Digital Platform.  
The members are requested to log in the link "<https://www.islamicbankbd.com/AGM>" for attending the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bank.
- c) Link for joining in AGM through Digital Platform and details login process will be notified to the respective email address. Full log in/participation process for the Digital Platform meeting will also be available in the Bank's website : [www.islamicbankbd.com](http://www.islamicbankbd.com).
- d) A member eligible for attending and voting at the Annual General Meeting may appoint a proxy on his/her behalf. Power of Attorney/Proxy Form must be submitted to the Registered Office or Share & Bond Division (63 Dilkusha C/A, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dhaka) of the Company at least 48 (Forty Eight) hours before the Meeting i.e. **11.30 A.M. on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**. Revenue Stamp of Tk.20/- (Taka Twenty) only shall have to be affixed on the Proxy Form.
- e) As per Bangladesh Securities Exchange Commission (BSEC) Gazette Notification No.BSEC/CMRRC/2006-158/208/admin/81, dated 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, soft copy of Annual Report along with the Attendance Slip, Proxy Form and the Notice will be forwarded to the all members at their respective email addresses available in their Beneficiary Owner (BO) accounts as per CDNL record. Shareholder may collect the printed copy of the Annual Report from the Registered Office or Share & Bond Division (63 Dilkusha C/A, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dhaka) if required in writing beforehand. Soft copy of Annual Report for the Year 2019 shall be available on Bank's website: [www.islamicbankbd.com](http://www.islamicbankbd.com).
- f) Election of Directors will be dealt in terms of Articles of Association of the Company and relevant rules/laws/circulars in force.

**N.B.:** As per BSEC Notification No.SEC/SRMI/2000-953/1950 dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2000 and Circular No. SEC/CMRRC/2009-193/154 dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013, No Gift/Gift Coupon/Gift Box/Food/Food Coupon/Food Box etc. shall be given to the shareholders in the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bank.

[www.islamicbankbd.com](http://www.islamicbankbd.com)

# Flow of cattle still slow at markets

With two days remaining for Eid, farmers, traders lose heart as demand drops

HELEMIJ ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Every year before Eid-ul-Azha, the cattle markets bustle with people; excitement fills the air while haggling commences in full force. The smelly, yet lively haats are the place to be; the animals -- sights to behold.

But it's not the same this year.

With only three days left for Eid, only half the number of cattle has arrived at the market in comparison to previous years, said traders. Fear of not getting a reasonable price and lack of buyers due to the pandemic situation are some of the major reasons, they added.

Also, many cattle farmers and traders who are able to rear their cattle for one more year did not show up at markets amid the circumstances.

These correspondents visited at least six cattle markets yesterday -- Dhupkhola, near Sadeque Hossain Khoka Playground, Gabtoli, Aftabnagar, Kachukhet and Meradia markets -- and found 30 to 50 percent less number of sacrificial animals this year.

Even though 17 cattle markets have been set up under the two city corporations this year, which is 10 less than last year, the numbers are still poor.

The lessees hope that the number of cattle will increase in the remaining couple of days, if there is sufficient number of buyers.

Dr Abdul Zabbar Shikdar, director general of the Department of Livestock, in the first week of this month told The Daily Star that this year, 1.19 crore cattle have been reared targeting Eid-ul-Azha, exceeding last year's demand by 10 lakh.

He said last year 1.18 crore animals were reared but around 1.09 crore were slaughtered during the three-day festival. "But the main challenge is

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A handful of cattle and sporadic crowd -- such has been the situation at Kamalapur cattle market even though Eid is just a couple of days away. This photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Over 1cr sacrificial animals ready for Qurbani: minister

UNB, Dhaka

Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim has said over one crore cattle are ready in the country for Qurbani (sacrifice) during the Eid-ul-Azha this year.

"Sick animals will not be allowed to enter the sacrificial animal market and medical teams will be active in each market," the minister told the news agency in an online interview.

Asked whether the Covid-19 pandemic would reduce the number of sacrifices, the minister said, "We have 1 crore sacrificial animals for this year's Qurbani." Usually, some family sacrifices five to six animals during Eid-ul-Azha, said the minister, adding that they were apprehensive that they will not do that this year.

Meanwhile, low-income families have been struggling to recover the financial loss of Covid-19 pandemic, cyclone Amphan and Bulbul, he said.

"I think some of them will not sacrifice animals if they are incapable of, and middle-income people also may not participate in Qurbani this year," the minister said.

"I guess the number of sacrifices will come down this year in comparison with the previous year," he said.

Asked if the ministry has taken steps

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## More cordial than ever

Says Quader on Bangladesh-India ties as Riva Ganguly pays a courtesy call on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-India relationship is more cordial, friendly and development-centric than any other time, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

"Friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries can ensure mutual development and solve unresolved issues more easily," said Quader.

The minister said this to reporters after Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das paid a courtesy call on him at his secretariat office yesterday, according to a press release.

Quader, also Awami League general secretary, said Bangladesh and India are tested friends and friendship between the two countries are tied with the bloodstained the Liberation War of 1971. The relationship of the two countries is advancing towards a newer level with the course of time, he added.



Riva Ganguly Das pays a courtesy call on Obaidul Quader at his office.

The minister said they have discussed the ongoing projects taken for the improvement of road infrastructure and enhancement capacity of public transport under

Indian line of credit. He extended his thanks to the high commissioner for her cooperation in taking ahead the road infrastructural development projects in Bangladesh.

## Doctor burnt in fire caused by sanitiser succumbs to injury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor, who along with his wife sustained severe burn injuries from a fire reportedly caused by a lit cigarette coming in contact with hand sanitiser, died at a hospital yesterday morning.

Rajib Bhattacharjee (36), a neurosurgeon at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, breathed his last around 8:30am at the intensive care unit of Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief coordinator of the institute, told The Daily Star.

Rajib was put on life support with 87 percent burns since the fire incident that took place at their house in Dhaka's Hatirpool on July 22.

His wife Anushua Bhattacharjee, a doctor at a private medical college, is receiving treatment at the hospital with 20 percent burns.

"We cannot say that she is out of danger yet," Dr Sen said.



Rajib

## Share true history of 1971 among youths

Speaker Shirin Sharmin tells Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accurate history of the country's Liberation War should be shared among youths, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said yesterday.

"Sharing the accurate history among new generations is our responsibility," she said while speaking at the award-giving ceremony of Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak 2019.

The Speaker joined the programme virtually as chief guest, organised by the Liberation War Museum (LWM) at its auditorium.

LWM conferred the award to print and electronic media journalists for reports on the Liberation War.

She said many journalists are writing and presenting news, preparing documentaries on barbarism of the occupation forces as well as the sacrifices of freedom-loving people during the nine-month long war.

"Through all these, many new and unknown information regarding the 1971 Liberation War is coming up..." she said.

On the Bazlur Rahman Padak, she said it is an exceptional award as it is conferred on reports on the Liberation War.

Jury board chairman of the award and former Dhaka University Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique said it is the duty of all to keep the history of the Liberation War alive among the new generation.

LWM trustee member secretary Sara Zaker spoke at the event.

SEE PAGE 4COL 6

## Arrest warrant for Shahed issued over money laundering

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against Regent Group Chairman Shahed Karim, its Managing Director Masud Parvez and two others in a case filed over misappropriating Tk 25.27 lakh from a businessman.

The two other accused are -- Regent Group Project Director Md Saiful Bari and Director Kazi Rabiul Islam.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Habibur Rahman Chowdhury passed the order after Omar Faruk, a managing partner of Doyal Enterprize, filed the case against them with the court yesterday.

The magistrate directed the officer-in-charge of Utrara Paschim Police Station to submit by September 3 the probe report on execution of arrest warrant.

The complainant alleged that Shahed and the three others took construction materials from his enterprise on different dates since 2018, the cost of which stood at Tk 25,27,206.

He requested them to pay the money, but they refused to do so and threatened him with dire consequences if he demanded the money again, the complainant added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Swechchasebak Dal president Shafiul Bari dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Swechchasebak Dal President Shafiul Bari Babu died at a hospital in Dhaka early yesterday.

He was 51, according to family sources.

"He breathed his last at 4am at Evercare Hospital while undergoing treatment for lung infection and breathing problems," Abdul Quader Bhuiyan Jewel, general secretary of the organisation, told The Daily Star.

Babu, a former student leader, was admitted to Anwer Khan Modern

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## A rare lack of urgency to buy launch tickets

People wary of travelling during Eid due to pandemic

SUSHANTA GHOSH

Eid-ul-Azha typically brings throngs of people to the ports, eager to go home before the religious festival. Launches are often overcrowded, and finding last-minute tickets is nearly impossible.

But this year, even with Eid just a couple of days away, there's little rush to get launch tickets.

People are wary about prolonged commutes in public transportation amid the pandemic, and this is clearly reflected at the ticket counters.

Upon visiting the ticket counters of Sundarban and Surovi launch in Barishal, this correspondent found out that ticket sales are low for the days leading up to Eid, while for other days, even one sale is rare.

Due to this, launch owners are yet to pay Eid bonus to their employees.

The Dhaka-Barishal route remains usually busiest during the two Eid occasions every year.

Desperate to reach home, people even opt for "black

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

WORKING IN COX'S BAZAR

## Local NGOs question UN's fund allocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cox's Bazar Civil Society Organisations and NGO Forum (CCNF), a network of more than 50 local and national NGOs, yesterday termed the distribution of CERF (Central Emergency Response Funding) allocation as a pre-decided, top-down matter.

The leaders of CCNF criticised the role of Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) -- a coordinating body of UN and other aid agencies -- for "hardly giving access to local NGOs and local governments in Rohingya response management."

They made the remarks at a virtual press conference on recent distribution of Covid-19 CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund) in Rohingya response.

None of the Cox's Bazar-based NGOs received any fund and UN hardly followed the grand bargain commitment and the recently announced IASC (Inter Agency

Standing Committee) guideline on localisation during Covid-19.

IASC is the highest UN body formed for a coordinated and principled humanitarian response.

Addressing the press conference, Abu Morshed Chowdhury, co-chair of CCNF alleged that UN and IASC has given the local NGOs little time and imposed a lot of conditions to submit project proposals, which barred the local NGOs from applying.

"But, upon discussing with the high officials of UN, it was already understood that it was already decided somewhere in top [management] who will get the fund," said Morshed.

He also said international NGOs should collect fund from their own origin country, instead of raising fund or compete with local NGOs in Bangladesh and Cox's Bazar.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Just 39mm of rain inundates Khulna city

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

A moderate rain inundated around two-third of Khulna city yesterday, causing immense suffering to the dwellers.

According to the Met office, 39mm rainfall was recorded in the city on the day. Amirul Azad, senior meteorological officer, told The Daily Star that the rain started at 12:20pm and ended at 2pm.

Locals and development activists said encroachment of waterbodies in and around the city and poor drainage system caused such waterlogging.

City dwellers alleged that the sufferings of around 1.7 million people living in 45.65 sq km area under 31 wards are persisting due to indifference of the authorities concerned.

According to Khulna City Corporation, total length of the city's drainage network is 651.50km. Of it, 291.23km is concrete, 55km half concrete and 305km earthen.

While visiting many areas -- including Daulatpur, Pabla, Boyra, Rupsha Stand Road, KDA Avenue, Iqbalnagar, Tutpara, Gallamari, Moilapota, Dakbangla, Santhidham Mor, Phulmarket and Press Club -- this correspondent found most of the roads under ankle- to knee-deep water.

Slum dwellers and people in low-lying Bastuhara, South Pabla, Dayana and Boyra areas were the worst sufferers. Many kitchen markets -- including Sheikhpara, Bastuhara and Boikali -- went under water.

Vehicles were found stranded on waterlogged roads at Dakbangla and Shibbari intersections. Many were busy removing water from their homes and shops.

Habibur Rahman, a resident of Bastuhara, expressed his disappointment. "Most of the drains in our area are not properly cleaned," he said.

Imran Sheikh from Boyra residential area told The Daily Star their area got waterlogged just 10 to 15 minutes after the rain began. "Very often, the area is submerged by rainwater," he added.

Anisur Rahman, conservancy officer of KCC, told this newspaper that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Vehicles struggled to move on a waterlogged road after rain in Khulna yesterday. The photo was taken from the city's Royal intersection.

PHOTO: STAR

## 18pc people don't follow any news media: survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even in the era of information, around 18 percent Bangladeshis--both urban and rural--do not follow any news media, according to a latest survey.

Around 43 percent of people said they did not have the time to follow news media, while 12.6 percent said it is a waste of time or untrustworthy, the survey found.

According to the national survey styled "News literacy in Bangladesh", only 9.6 percent said they could not afford to access news media. The findings were revealed in a webinar on Monday.

Dhaka University's Associate Professor of Journalism Md Saiful Alam conducted the survey, with support from Unicef, as part of Promoting News Literacy and Ethical Journalism Project of Management and Resources Development Initiative.

ResInt Bangladesh, an affiliate of ResInt Canada, conducted field-level work for the survey. A total of 1,209 individuals -- 605 males and 604 females -- were interviewed.

Among the respondents, 799 were from metropolitan cities, 250 from urban and 160 from rural areas.

The survey found that television is the major source of news media: 75 percent

SEE PAGE 4



# Monipuri weavers feeling the fury of Covid-19

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The coronavirus pandemic over the past few months has dealt a severe blow to the people of lower income group, especially the artisans in different trades.

The Monipuri weavers of Sylhet region are no different.

The Monipuris are an indigenous community that carries on a uniquely exquisite art of weaving -- their bread and butter that has been passed down for generations. Monipuri saris, shawls, scarves, three-piece cloth for women and bed sheets are a few of the merchandise that are usually high in demand.

Since most of their sales, including that of women's clothing, their best-seller, peak during the two Eids, the Monipuris invest all their energy and savings in making new merchandise ahead of these two festivities.

All of their investment was wiped out last Eid when social distancing rules were being enforced to rein in the virus. Later, the Monipuris had their hopes up once again as the restrictions were eventually withdrawn or relaxed nearly a month before the Eid-ul-Azha -- the second of the largest two festivities celebrated by Muslims.

Unfortunately, with the Eid day just around the corner, the weavers did not see their sales pick up to the extent that would enable them to stand back on their feet and look forward to a better future.

In Sylhet city there are more than 100 large wholesale stores that carry Monipuri woven items. With the largest wholesale market being located in Bandarabazar area, many of the



A weaver using a handloom to make a traditional Monipuri sari in Moulvibazar recently.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

wholesale stores are in Lamabazar, Zindabazar, Tilaghar, Chowhatta and Ambarkhana areas of the city.

Many Monipuris also sell their merchandise directly from their houses in Lamabazar and Mashimpur in Sylhet city and Kamalganj and Sreemangal upazilas in Moulvibazar.

While visiting Monipuri clothing markets in Adampur and Madhabpur areas of Kamalganj and Radhanagar of Sreemangal recently, this correspondent found half of the stores shuttered.

During normal times, these markets are usually swarming with shoppers, with hardly any personal space between

one another. But this time, there were only a few people around and not much noticeable business transactions were going on at the handful of the stores that were open for business.

Monipuri clothing trader Mithun Singha, from Sreemangal's Radhanagar area, said, "I had a wholesale clothing

store in Sreemangal town. I haven't been able to sell any of the clothes in the past few months. But the store rent, electricity bills and other expenses kept piling up. So I had to let go of the store this month. Burdened by the debts over my shoulder, I can't sleep at night now." Weaver Shilpi Devi, a resident of

Adampur in Kamalganj upazila, said the items Monipuri weavers make usually sell for good prices at local markets and they usually keep busy making those round the clock.

"Monipuri saris are more popular with young women including the newly-weds. But lately, sales have been poor due to the coronavirus," she also said.

"Wholesale buyers are not turning up amid the fear of Covid-19. So I'm selling the items at lower prices to any customer I can find," said Ranjita Debi, another weaver in Lamabazar area of Sylhet city.

"Over a thousand Monipuri saris used to sell all throughout the year and quite a good number used to be exported to the UK. But with sales falling almost to none, we are now living on empty pockets."

While speaking with this correspondent, many of the weavers including Anjali Sinha, from Adampur in Kamalganj, said after Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed, they took loans to make new products, targeting the Eid shoppers. But they now fear losing all the investment as sales did not pick up as much as they had hoped for.

Contacted, Barkat Ullah, liaison officer of Bangladesh Handloom Board (BHB) in Kamalganj, said, considering the present scenario, BHB has reduced interest rate on their loan, packaged for Monipuri weavers, to 5 per cent from the previous rate of 10 per cent.

The loan repayment period has also been extended and loan conditions relaxed, with maximum loan amount set to as high as Tk 2 lakh for the Monipuri weavers, he added.

## Busy town road in awful state



The busy road in Alorupa intersection area of Lalmonirhat town is in bad condition, causing immense sufferings to townspeople.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A portion of nine-km-long main road in Lalmonirhat town lies in awful state for long, causing immense sufferings to commuters.

The condition of the two-km-long portion of the busy road is so terrible that people even cannot walk during a little shower. During monsoon, the road has become almost unfit for traffic movement.

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

Townspeople said hundreds of people, including businessmen and government officials, use the road every day, facing serious problems.

But the authorities of Lalmonirhat Roads and Highways Department (RHD) and the

municipality are yet to take any steps to ease sufferings of the town dwellers, they said.

The townspeople further said that the road has become almost unfit for vehicular movement due to lack of proper maintenance. Traders carrying their goods bear the brunt of continuous jerking.

During a visit, this correspondent saw a number of potholes and cracks on the road which has become muddy at some places.

Shamsul Islam, a businessman in Alorupa intersection area of the town, said they have been suffering a lot for long. The number of buyers has decreased due to poor condition of the road. As a result, they are incurring losses day by day.

They informed the authorities

concerned about the bad condition of the road but it is yet to be renovated properly, he said.

The Roads and Highways Department in Lalmonirhat repairs the road occasionally but it does not last long, said Shamsul Islam.

Another resident Abdar Hossain of BDR Road area in the town said not only Alorupa intersection area but the condition of the entire road is terrible. This road is no longer suitable for traffic movement.

He further said the townspeople cannot move smoothly on the road due to ditches. Besides, mud covered the road even during little rain. So, they have to suffer a lot in the rainy season. The suffering is beyond description when they need to take a critical patient to hospital.

Lalmonirhat municipality

Mayor Reazul Islam Rintu said as the road is owned by the Roads and Highways Department, they maintain it. As the road is not repaired properly, it is always broken.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities of Lalmonirhat Roads and Highways Department are yet to take any steps to renovate the road properly, said the mayor.

Contacted, Lalmonirhat RHD Executive Engineer Mahbub Alam said it has become unfit for traffic movement due to lack of drainage system beside the road.

They have already taken a plan to repair the road and improve its drainage system, said the executive engineer.

They will immediately start the repair work to ease people's sufferings, the engineer added.

## Communication cut, villages face flooding as road under floodwater

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A large portion of Sarail-Aruail road in Brahmanbaria's Sarail upazila is now hardly distinguishable from the adjacent haor (a vast waterbody) area as it has gone under knee to thigh-deep floodwater.

Vehicular movement on the road remained suspended since Thursday, much to the trouble of the people of Aruail, Pakshimul and Chunta unions in the upazila.

The road faces the threat of erosion to the haor following onrush of floodwater, locals said.

The 14-kilometre-long road from Sarail Hospital intersection to Aruail Bazar was constructed in 2010, said sources of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Sarail.

During a visit on Saturday, this correspondent found that about one and a half kilometre portion of the road from Bhuishwar Bazar to Kalishimul area has

been inundated, making it difficult to locate as water of the adjacent haor has merged with the flooded road.

"Light vehicles like CNG-run autorickshaws moved through this road amid risk till last Wednesday. Then vehicular movement stopped altogether as water rose above the danger level," said Saiful Islam, chairman of Pakshimul union parishad.

"This road also worked as protection embankment for dwellings of low-lying areas of Aruail, Pakshimul and Chunta unions. Now these areas face flooding as earth and CC blocks of the road are being washed away by the onrush of water," he added.

Contacted, Nilufa Yasmin, acting upazila engineer of Sarail LGED, said, "We have informed our higher authorities of the situation. Officials of Brahmanbaria LGED have already visited the spot. We will arrange putting drop geo-bags there very soon."



Vehicles move with difficulty on the flooded portion of Sarail-Aruail road in Brahmanbaria's Sarail upazila a couple of days ago. With further rise of water, vehicular movement is now fully suspended there.

PHOTO: STAR



Distressed Children and Infants International (DCI) and Rights and Sight for Children (RSC) distributed relief materials among 160 families under the Sun Child Sponsorship Program at Koimari in Nilphamari's Jaldhaka upazila on Monday. Each family received seven kg of rice, one kg of lentils, one kg of edible oil, one kg of potato, one kg of salt, one kg of onion, 250 gram of garlic and two pieces of soap. With donations from people from home and abroad, DCI and RSC will continue such arrangement for hard-pressed people during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, said a press release signed by Md Humayan Kabir, communication officer of RSC.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Office of the Natore Pourashava

Natore

Memo No. Nat: Pour/Engr.Div/UIIP/2020/1744

Date: 28/07/2020

e-Tender Notice No. 05/2019-2020

Open Tendering Method (OTM)

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
1	473378	UIIP-BC/PCOW-223	Construction of Drain By RCC Starting from Alaipur H/O Masum Councilor To Narod River, Ward No. 6, Under Natore Pourashava (Ch. 00-250.00m)	19/08/2020 at 16.00pm	20/08/2020 at 12.00am
2	473395	UIIP-BC/PCOW-224	1. Construction of Road By RCC Starting from (a) Alaipur Main road to Shahin School at-Alaipur, (Ch. 00-220.00m) (b) Main road (Raza Badsha Furniture Shop) To Nurbag Mosque at-Alaipur (Ch. 00-250.00m) (c) Shahin School to Zila Parishad Auditorium at-Alaipur (Ch. 00-160.00m) (d) Medha Koching To Nichabazar at-Alaipur (Ch. 00-200.00m) Ward No. 06, Under Natore Pourashava (e) Sonali Bank Nichabazar Road at-Alaipur (Ch. 00-200.00m) Under Natore Pourashava.		20/08/2020 at 12.15am

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. 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)) (The bill will be paid when fund revived).

Md. Rezaul Islam

Executive Engineer (I/C)

Natore Pourashava

GD-1202

# Nuclear weapons prevent war: Kim

AGENCIES

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called his country's nuclear weapons a solid security guarantee and a "reliable, effective" deterrent that could prevent a second war on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim made the remarks on Monday as he celebrated the 67th anniversary of the end of the 1950-1953 Korean War at a reception for war veterans in Pyongyang, according to a report by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday.

The speech signalled once again that the North Korean leader has no intention of giving up his nuclear arsenal despite the United States's attempts to get him to do so.

Kim said North Korea had developed nuclear weapons to win the "absolute strength" to prevent another war.

"Now we are capable of defending ourselves in the face of any form of high-intensity pressure and military threats from imperialist and hostile forces," he said.

"Thanks to our reliable and effective self-defensive nuclear deterrent, there won't be any war on this land again, and our country's safety and future will be firmly guaranteed forever."

The Korean War, which pitted Soviet and China-backed troops from the north against US-led United Nations forces, killed an estimated two million people and destroyed cities and villages on both sides of the border.

The three-year conflict ended with an armistice and not a peace treaty, leaving North and South technically at war.

Kim entered this year with a promise to bolster his nuclear programme and threatened to unveil a new "strategic" weapon. He also said he would no longer be bound by a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests.



A statue symbolising Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe taking a deep bow to "comfort woman" is pictured at Korea Botanic Garden in Pyeongchang, South Korea, yesterday. The statue has sparked an angry response from Japan, which has warned its neighbour of diplomatic consequences.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## INDIA-CHINA BORDER STAND-OFF

# Troops pullback almost complete

Claims Beijing; Delhi to impose 'quality curbs' on 371 China goods

AGENCIES

Chinese and Indian troops have "completed disengagement" on most parts of the disputed border between their two countries, China's foreign ministry said yesterday, after violent clashes broke out earlier this year.

Tensions soared between the world's two most populous nations in June after the deadliest fighting in decades erupted between Indian and Chinese troops on the Himalayan border.

"The situation on the ground continues to cool down and de-escalate," foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a regular press briefing.

"The frontline border troops of the two countries have already completed disengagement at most places," he told reporters in Beijing.

Wang said the two sides were preparing for a fifth round of talks between military commanders at an unspecified date.

After the clash on June 15, Chinese



and Indian officials met and agreed to take steps to ease the situation.

But the nuclear-armed neighbours have continued to reinforce the border between Ladakh and Tibet. India has deployed thousands more troops and is conducting extra military flights over the mountainous region.

Meanwhile, anti-China sentiment has soared in India since the fight, which sparked street protests and calls for Chinese products to be banned in the nation of 1.3 billion people.

The Indian government has now banned dozens of Chinese apps including the highly popular video-sharing platform TikTok over national

security and privacy concerns.

Meanwhile, India is believed to be mulling import curbs on over 371 categories of goods which are largely imported from China.

According to a report published in The Times of India, items such as toys, steel tubes and bars, electronics, telecom items, heavy machinery, paper, rubber articles and glass will be brought under mandatory Indian Standards (IS) regime by next year.

The measure will put a halt on imports of sub-standard items, according to the report.

Under the initiative, India plans to reduce its non-essential imports and increase exports.

Quoting Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) director general Pramod Kumar Tiwari, the report said most of the 371 items listed are Chinese products. While the idea is to eliminate sub-standard imports, it seems that the move is directed towards importing as less as possible from China.

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC RECOVERY

# China, India's neighbours agree on four-point plan

THE STATESMAN/ANN

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has held the first joint virtual conference with his counterparts from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal during which he proposed a four-point plan to contain the novel coronavirus pandemic, boost economic recovery and resumption of the BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) infrastructure projects.

Addressing the meeting, which is the first involving the four countries, Wang proposed the four-point action plan including consolidating the consensus on unity and fight against the pandemic, avoiding politicisation and stigmatisation of the coronavirus and firmly support the World Health Organization (WHO) in playing its due role to jointly building global health community. The US has accused the WHO of siding with China on the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Wang said when the Chinese vaccine is developed, China will improve the accessibility of vaccines to the three countries and help them strengthen their public health systems.

He also urged the countries to take part in China-led mega projects under BRI in the region to accelerate post-pandemic economic recovery.

"We will actively promote the building of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Trans-Himalayan Connectivity network (THCN), support the extension of the corridor to Afghanistan, and further unleash the dividends of regional connectivity," Wang said.

His remarks assume significance as it came amid the border tensions between India and China.

The ministers of Pakistan, Nepal and Afghanistan "actively supported" the four-point cooperation initiative proposed by Wang, a statement released after the virtual meet said.

## Pandemic to bring surge in child wasting cases: UN

The unprecedented social and economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic will see nearly seven million more children experience stunting as a result of malnutrition, the United Nations said yesterday. Even before COVID-19 there were an estimated 47 million children under five who were moderately or severely wasted, most living in sub-Saharan Africa and southeast Asia. Now as lockdowns and international trade routes disrupt vital aid supplies, the UN warned that the coronavirus pandemic could have an "intergenerational effect" on the health of millions in 118 countries. Wasting occurs when the body is so acutely malnourished that its muscles and fat begin to diminish.

## China halts HK extradition treaties with 3 countries

China yesterday announced the suspension of Hong Kong's extradition treaties with Canada, Australia and Britain in a tit-for-tat move following similar decisions by those countries over a controversial new security law. Western nations have angered Beijing over their responses to the law imposed on Hong Kong which they see as an erosion of the civil liberties and human rights the city has enjoyed since its handover from Britain in 1997. The United States has decided to rescind Hong Kong's special trading privileges while Washington's "Five Eyes" intelligence partners have suspended their extradition treaties with the city, with New Zealand yesterday joining Canada, Britain and Australia.

## Trump moves again to block release of his tax records

President Donald Trump on Monday filed a new challenge to the Manhattan District Attorney's subpoena for his tax returns, weeks after the US Supreme Court said the president was not immune from state criminal probes. In a second amended complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, Trump's lawyers argued that the subpoena was "wildly overbroad" and was issued in "bad faith" and amounts to "harassment." Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance subpoenaed Trump's accounting firm for eight years of his business and personal returns and other documents as part of a criminal investigation involving Trump and the Trump Organization, his family's real estate business.

## Ethics probe: Trudeau to testify

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will give much-anticipated testimony this week over his role in awarding a government contract to a charity that paid members of his family large sums of money, the House of Commons said Monday. Trudeau will testify for an hour on Thursday at 3:00 pm before the House of Commons Finance Committee. Ethics commissioner Mario Dion, an independent officer of parliament, opened an investigation into Trudeau and finance minister Bill Morneau after the former's Liberal government awarded a major contract to WE Charity to manage a student scholarship program worth CAN\$900 million, despite ties between the organization and the two officials' families.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2020

# Trump banks on 'silent majority'

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump mounted a strident defense of his wavering reelection bid with less than 100 days to go in a campaign that has seen him underwater in the polls -- and banking on the "silent majority" he vowed will bring him victory.

The 74-year-old Republican has struggled with setbacks on numerous fronts, facing mounting criticism over his handling of the coronavirus outbreak and the resulting economic pain, and failing to land punches on his opponent, Joe Biden.

In the latest blow to his hopes to be returned to the White House on November 3, polls released Sunday showed his support cratering in three critical battleground states.

"The Trump Campaign has more ENTHUSIASM, according to many, than any campaign in the history of our great Country - Even more than 2016," Trump thundered on Twitter on Sunday.

"Biden has NONE! The Silent Majority will speak on NOVEMBER THIRD!!! Fake Suppression Polls & Fake News will not save the Radical Left."

Trump's 77-year-old Democratic rival Biden, who says he is fighting for "the soul of America," implored voters to make Trump a one-term president.

"In 100 days, we have the chance to set our nation on a new path. One where we finally live up to our highest ideals and everyone has a fair shot at success," he tweeted.



With the coronavirus killing more than 1,000 Americans a day, the president, who is at his best soaking up the adulation of supporters at live events, has been forced to cancel his rallies and ditch the Republican convention in Florida next month.

The pandemic, which has infected 4.2 million Americans and killed almost 150,000, is ravaging the US economy and -- with the outbreak largely under control in Europe

and Asia -- has highlighted the shortcomings of the US response.

The president has also lost support over his handling of historic uprisings against racism and police brutality, angering local communities with incendiary rhetoric and a pledge to "surge" federal agents into numerous major US cities.

With overall approval ratings permanently stuck in the low 40 percent range, he is the first president to seek reelection after impeachment.

Trump is offering a vision of chaos under his opponent, in which Biden's desire to "abolish the American Way of Life" would turn US cities into crime-infested wastelands.

But he has largely failed to expand his fervently loyal base with a pitch that boils down to claiming Biden will have Americans "cowering to radical left-wing mobs."

New polling of registered voters from three swing states released Sunday showed Trump trailing badly.

But the president is keen to remind those who discount him that, with grim polling in 2016, he comfortably beat all comers for the nomination before defeating Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.



This photo taken and released by Langsa City's Islamic sharia agency yesterday shows a sharia law enforcement official caning two women in Langsa, Aceh province. Two Indonesian women have been publicly whipped nearly 100 times each for selling sex workers' services online, an official in the country's conservative Aceh province said yesterday. Aceh is the only region in Muslim-majority Indonesia to impose Islamic sharia law, which allows flogging for a range of offences including prostitution, gambling, adultery, drinking alcohol, and gay sex.

PHOTO: AFP

# 3b animals affected by Australia bushfires: study

AFP, Sydney

Nearly three billion animals were killed or displaced by Australia's unprecedented 2019-20 wildfires in "one of the worst wildlife disasters in modern history", according to a report released yesterday.

The study by scientists from several Australian universities said the wildlife hit included 143 million mammals, 2.46 billion reptiles, 180 million birds and 51 million frogs.

While the report did not say how many animals died because of the fires, the prospects for those that escaped the flames "were probably not great" due to a lack of food, shelter and protection from predators, said Chris Dickman, one of its authors.

The fires ravaged more than 115,000 square kilometres (44,000 square miles)

of drought-stricken bushland and forest across Australia in late 2019 and early 2020, killing more than 30 people and destroying thousands of homes.

It was the broadest and most prolonged bushfire season in modern Australian history, with scientists attributing the severity of the crisis to the impacts of climate change.

An earlier study in January estimated the fires had killed a billion animals in the hardest-hit eastern states of New South Wales and Victoria.

But the survey released yesterday was the first to cover fire zones across the continent.

Results from the survey were still being processed, with a final report due to be released late next month, but the authors said the number of three billion animals affected was unlikely to change.



# Egypt jails TikTok women influencers

AGENCIES

An Egyptian court has sentenced five female social media influencers to two years in jail each on charges of violating public morals.

The verdict against Haneen Hossam, Mowada al-Adham and three others came after they had posted footage on video-sharing app TikTok.

The ruling, which can be appealed, included a fine of 300,000 Egyptian pounds (\$18,750) for each defendant, the source noted.

Haneen Hossam, 20, a Cairo University student, was charged for encouraging young women to meet men through a video app and build friendships with them, receiving a fee according to the number of followers watching these chats.

Mawada al-Adham, a TikTok and Instagram influencer with at least two million followers, was accused of publishing indecent photos and videos on social media. The three other women were charged with helping Hossam and Al-Adham manage their social media accounts, according to the public prosecution.

Several rights activists took to social media to condemn the arrests.

Egypt has cracked down in recent years on female singers and dancers for online content deemed too racy or suggestive.

# US man took coronavirus aid to buy Lamborghini

THE STRAITS TIMES/ANN

A man in Florida who received nearly US\$4 million (\$\$5.5 million) in federal loans intended to help struggling businesses - and spent the money on a new Lamborghini Huracán sports car and other fraudulent purchases - was arrested and charged with three felonies, officials said on Monday.

David T Hines, 29, of Miami, was charged with bank fraud, making a false statement to a lending institution and engaging in transactions in unlawful proceeds, according to prosecutors in the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida. If convicted on all charges, he could face up to 70 years in prison, an official in the prosecutor's office said.

In April, Hines joined scores of other business owners who are seeking financial

help from the federal Paycheck Protection Programme, a loan programme created to help businesses keep their employees during the coronavirus pandemic.

On his applications, Hines said he operated four businesses with 70 employees and had US\$4 million in monthly expenses.

He got US\$1,354,741 in installments, officials said.

What came next, based on a review of Hines' financial records, was a spending spree that included luxury jewellery, expensive clothes, visits to resorts and expenses on dating websites, officials said. He spent tens of thousands on those. The biggest purchase appears to have been made May 18, when Hines bought a blue

Lamborghini for US\$318,497 in North Miami Beach, officials said.





## WINDOW INTO KHULNA’S MULTI-CULTURAL PAST

**K**hulna Divisional Museum, the only museum in Khulna city, is a treasure trove of artifacts of the region's rich history. It houses pieces from archaeological sites of all the districts in the division. Displayed for visitors are Buddhist artifacts from the Bharat Bhayna archaeological site in Jashore, sculptures of Hindu gods and goddesses, metal pottery, coins and manuscripts, as well as scripture and tablets from the Khan Jahan Ali mosque in Bagerhat. The museum covers all historic periods – Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim Sultanate and Mughal dynasty -- of the country.

Photo:  
RASHED SHUMON



The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 29, 2020, SRABAN 14, 1427 BS

# With so few tests, any claim regarding Covid-19 is dangerous

*Govt must expand testing as an urgent priority*

A problem unacknowledged or left unaddressed for long doesn't make it go away. If anything, it leads to bigger problems. For some strange reason, this simple wisdom has eluded our health authorities who continue to turn a blind eye to the need for increasing Covid-19 tests, despite the high price being paid in unaccounted-for deaths and infections. There are a few theories for why this is the case. One that seems increasingly plausible has to do with the political fallout of expanding testing: more tests could mean more infections, a situation that doesn't sit well with an administration seeking validation of its Covid-19 response. We've seen similar reasoning in the US that linked rising infections to improved testing. But this theory is dangerously wrong, as experts point out, since a growing case count is the result of a worsening outbreak—not a by-product of increased testing. And given its poor testing record (now hovering around 10,000-12,000 tests per day) and the high infection rate of 21.56 percent, Bangladesh may well be staring down an explosion silently sweeping the country.

There's no arguing that expanding testing can help explain why test positivity is so high in Bangladesh and where specific interventions are needed in terms of contact tracing, isolation and even lockdown. It can also help us make better strategies to stem the infection. Unfortunately, among the 18 countries that have recorded at least 200,000 cases, Bangladesh has the lowest levels of testing, with only 6,823 tests per one million people. The number of daily Covid-19 tests has declined over the past three weeks. We continue to do the opposite of what we need to do, but that has hardly dissuaded our policymakers from defending their position. On July 27, the health minister claimed, against evidence, that the country's health sector is no longer in the fragile state it used to be. The same day, an additional director general (admin) of the DGHS, citing declining case numbers, said we are now past the coronavirus peak, hence people's lack of interest in testing.

But the truth is far from it. As an investigative report of *The Daily Star* about the lack of Covid-19 cases in Dhaka's slums shows, besides the lack of tests by the authorities, a number of factors are also responsible for the decline in interest, including imposition of testing fees at the government-run facilities, long delays in getting tested and receiving test results, lack of awareness campaigns, and growing distrust of the accuracy of the test results, especially in the wake of several scandals involving fake Covid-19 tests and issuance of forged certificates. The absence of an initiative to expand testing and restore public confidence is actually covering up the real situation, with far-reaching consequences. The government must not allow this to continue. It must bolster its testing drive by raising the daily test number to at least 20,000, as experts have suggested. Anything less will not be enough to curb the spread of a virus that has already devastated our life and economy.

# Pandemic has created social disorder

*Govt programmes must alleviate the despair of the jobless*


AMONG the several deleterious and long lasting consequences of the coronavirus pandemic is the battering countries' economies will take. And no country, big or small, will be unaffected by it. For a country like ours, the informal economy would be the most vulnerable, on which a good part of our middle and low income groups survive and derive sustenance from. Thousands have lost their sources of income; some have been forced to switch to lower paid employment. Many have been left with no options, with only government support to survive on. The problems have been severely exacerbated by a large number of migrant workers returning home with no ostensible source of income.

The pandemic has caused a serious disruption in the entire system and dealt a severe blow to economic life, not without the associated consequences. It is no accident that after a period of lull and fall in crime rates at the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, we notice a spike in petty crimes like theft, robbery and mugging, as reported in this paper yesterday. Police put it down to job losses and the decline in earnings of low-income people during the outbreak.

Indeed, rising crimes is one of the indices of the adverse effects of the pandemic on the economy. It is an inevitability and unless a well thought out, efficient programme is undertaken to provide monetary help to these people, as well as help the informal economy to revive, serious economic and social disorder is a real possibility. Without the government widening its social safety nets and providing monetary help, such as a one-time grant or loans on very easy terms, there will be more and more people becoming desperate and resorting to crime. Thus we are likely to see more of the likes of people like the street hawker of clothes and seasonal fruits, who, having lost his only source of income during this pandemic, resorted to extortion and murder; or the simple three-wheeler driver who started waylaying buses to make up for his loss of income. While criminals must be apprehended and justice must be meted out, it is crucial to alleviate the financial hardships many individuals are facing because of income loss, compelling them to take the wrong path to make ends meet.

# Worsening floods linked to human induced climate chnage

POLITICS OF  
CLIMATE CHANGE



SALEEMUL HUQ

AS Bangladesh is inundated by severe floods not long after being hit by super cyclone Amphan, we are seeing the adverse impacts of human induced climate change in reality. It is therefore time to deal with this loss and damage from climate change more seriously, both at home as well as internationally.

At the international level, over the years, the vulnerable developing countries have been arguing that the international community must deal with the inevitable loss and damage that will be caused due to human induced climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

While there have been some success over these years, such as the setting up of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on loss and damage at the 19th Conference of Parties (COP19) in Warsaw, Poland in 2013, and then the setting up of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage at COP25 in Madrid, Spain last year, we have not been able to establish any financing mechanism beyond insurance.

One big stumbling block in order to achieve this has been the difficulty of attributing climate events such as cyclones and floods to human induced climate change, as these are naturally occurring events.

However, over the last year, the scientists who study this aspect of attributing human induced climate change to climatic events have made a significant breakthrough in their ability to establish, with credibility and speed, the level of intensification of each event due to the existing level of human induced climate change that has already occurred until now.

For example, as Cyclone Amphan was gathering energy in the Bay of Bengal, it became a super cyclone due to the abnormally elevated sea surface temperatures of the Bay, which was quickly attributed to the fact that human induced climate change has already

elevated global mean atmospheric temperature by over one degree Centigrade. Similarly, the hurricane Hanna that has just hit the coast of Texas in the United States is also being attributed to human induced climate change.

Similar attributions are being made for wildfires that have occurred in Australia last year and in California this year, as well as floods around the world, including the ones we are suffering from in Bangladesh

events, but they enhance their severity or intensity (which is what makes them more destructive) due to the elevated temperature of the atmosphere.

So it is now apparent that the year 2020 is clearly the year in which the impact of climate change can be identified in both Cyclone Amphan that hit Bangladesh and India a few months ago, as well as the current flooding which is affecting millions of people as well as crops and property.



Non-economic loss and damage, such as mental health impacts on people as well as the adverse impacts on education, need to be identified and managed.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

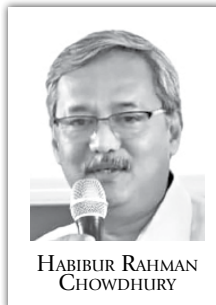
and India right now, as well as in China. The magnitude of floods are measured in their return periods. What used to be a "one in 20 years" flood in Bangladesh—as in, floods of such magnitude used to occur around every 20 years for the many hundreds of years for which we have records—has occurred five times over the last 20 years. Hence, what used to be a one in 20 years magnitude flood in the past is now likely to become a one in five or even four years flood in future.

What this means is that the question of attributing adverse impacts due to human induced climate change is no longer in doubt; it can be done with scientific credibility from now on. It is important to point out, however, that human induced climate change does not cause these events, as they are still naturally occurring

Although Bangladesh has improved its disaster preparedness for both cyclones and floods, and loss of human lives has been minimised, the loss to crops and infrastructure is still very severe and people's livelihoods are still badly affected.

Hence, the time has come for Bangladesh to develop our own National Mechanism on Loss and Damage due to Climate Change which the Ministry of Disaster Management has developed a pilot project for. This project will be a public private partnership action research project to identify the different kinds of climate events, such as floods, cyclones, droughts and salinity intrusion in coastal areas, as well as to develop a mechanism for identifying necessary actions to build back better after the events in order to

# The poor in North Bangladesh are the worst victims of Covid-19 fallout



HABIBUR RAHMAN  
CHOWDHURY

ACCORDING to a World Food Programme projection, up to 265 million people in low and middle income countries will face acute food insecurity by the end of 2020 as a result of the economic impacts of Covid-19, unless immediate action is taken. These figures, in fact, are nearly double compared to the numbers in 2019. Without much doubt, we may assume that many of them will also be in Bangladesh. We may also presume that the people in the north of the country are the most vulnerable to this scenario, as they are already the victims of multiple hazards, such as climate change and structural deprivation, from before.

On March 26, 2020, the government imposed the countrywide lockdown to reduce the spread of coronavirus infection. This has had an unprecedentedly huge impact on the lives of the poor and extreme poor. Both the rural agricultural workers and the urban informal sector labourers have experienced a similar loss of income in their respective employment fields during the pandemic. Information from the grassroots reveals that many families in the north and northwest of Bangladesh are already struggling, and the days ahead are only likely to be worse.

As the spread of coronavirus continues, many economic activities have slowed down or are even at a standstill, and the low-income earners of Bangladesh have faced the most severe consequences as a result. Particularly because of travel restrictions, the mobile agricultural labour force lost their chance to work in other districts during the important paddy harvesting season. As we know, many of the agricultural daily wage labourers from the north and northwest of Bangladesh temporarily migrate to the other parts of the country for work. Before the pandemic, they could work and save up enough for the coming two to three months, until the next crop season. Similarly, the urban poor also lost their employment opportunities in the informal sector, such as construction work, rickshaw pulling, work with hotels and restaurants, work in brickfields and so on.

A quick survey conducted in Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions by a development organisation supporting extreme poverty reduction projects came up with the findings that 73 percent of the extreme poor and poor families in the northwest of

Bangladesh are facing severe food-related distress as a result of inadequate income during the coronavirus pandemic. The perspective survey conducted over phone at the end of June 2020 shows that 53 percent of the families are maintaining their living standards by borrowing money from multiple sources such as relatives, neighbours and microfinance agencies. Some of them are also taking money as advance wages from potential future employers, which in turn will cause

In the above mentioned assessment, it was observed that 63 percent of the agricultural workers had less than 30 days of work during *Boro* harvesting time this year. One such member of an extreme poor household, Maleka Begum (not her real name) of Shahagola union of Atrai in Naogaon district, said that her husband used to work at least 90 days during the *Boro* harvesting period in other years, but this year he could manage to work for 22 days only.



It was observed that 63 percent of the agricultural workers had less than 30 days of work during Boro harvesting time this year.

PHOTO: STAR/MINTU DESHWARA

them to lose income during the peak employment time. Some 37 percent of the families interviewed were forced to sell whatever small assets they had left in the family in order to buy food.

In different parts of the country, the time for harvesting the *Boro* paddy is spread over three months starting from April each year, while in the northwest region, it is done from mid-May until the first week of June. According to Mozibur Rahman, a field-based development worker engaged in livelihood projects for the extreme poor in Kurigram, one agricultural daily wage labourer usually earns around Tk 10,000 during this period by working in different parts of the country. However, he said that this year, "this same day labourer could not earn more than Tk 2,000 to Tk 3,000 due to movement restrictions." If they were able to work in full swing, they could bear the costs of at least three months of food for their families from their savings.

The situation of indigenous people in the northwest is even worse, as they are averse to migrating to faraway places for work. This particular situation has been an add-on to the sufferings that they already face due to lack of empowerment and multiple structural deprivations.

The story of urban and semi-urban informal sector workers is not very different than that of the agricultural labourers. From interactions with families in the northern districts, it can be assumed that about 60 percent of such workers have lost their jobs and opted to go back home. These groups of people invariably belong to extreme poor families. It was witnessed that some of them were engaged in selling groceries as village hawkers and others were competing for the agricultural work available in their respective villages. These families, which tend to have one main wage earner, are also facing severe food insecurities.

be better prepared for future events and impacts. At the same time, non-economic loss and damage, such as mental health impacts on people as well as the adverse impacts on education, need to be identified and managed.

However, it is not enough for us to take actions at home alone if the global temperature keeps going up. The government of Bangladesh needs to step up its international efforts to persuade all countries to enhance their ambitions to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as they agreed in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change at COP21 in 2015. We need to push all countries to fulfil their pledges to keep the global temperature below 1.5 degrees Centigrade.

At the same time, we need to push for a financing mechanism to support developing countries that are suffering from the adverse impacts of human induced climate change. So far, the developed countries have been willing to discuss insurance and set up pilot insurance schemes around the world, including in Bangladesh. However, it is already very evident that while insurance has a role to play, it cannot be applied everywhere and it is especially not useful for poor people who cannot pay the premium.

So the demand from vulnerable developing countries going into COP26, which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland and will be hosted by the UK government in November 2021, must be to agree on a financial mechanism to deal with loss and damage from human induced climate change. As Bangladesh is now the leader of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), which is made up of nearly 50 of the most vulnerable countries, we are in a good position to lead the CVF countries to push for finance for loss and damage to be a major outcome of COP26, while at the same time offering to share our own experiences in developing the National Mechanism on Loss and Damage in Bangladesh.

As Bangladesh has emerged as a global leader in adaptation to climate change, we now have the opportunity to also emerge as a leader in tackling the loss and damage that is a result of human induced climate change.

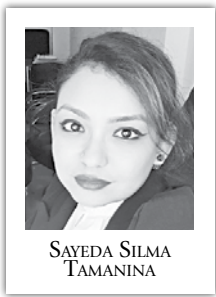
Dr Saleemul Huq is Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh.

If the Covid-19 situation lasts much longer, a large number of low-income people living above the poverty line will fall below it, and many moderate poor households will drop lower down the poverty line. The overarching successes of Bangladesh in relation to poverty reduction will disappear as a result of this stagnancy in economic activities. The government has taken different initiatives to support the vulnerable people, such as food support, open market sale of rice at a lower price, and cash support for the extreme poor.

However, compared to the needs of the vast numbers of vulnerable people, the support received is far from adequate. A clear focus on vulnerable people and significant initiatives for bringing them back into economic activities can help reduce the adverse impacts of the pandemic on the poor. The north and the northwest, an area where most of the extreme poor of the country live, need significant and immediate attention in this regard. On top of that, there must be a substantial improvement in terms of governance, transparency and efficiency in the implementation of government initiatives. This situation also calls for international efforts to support countries with limited possibilities in tackling this huge crisis.

Habibur Rahman Chowdhury is leading an international development organisation in Bangladesh and writes on development issues.

# Losing loved ones during the pandemic: The legal rights of Muslim heirs



SAYEDA SILMA TAMANINA

AS deaths surge daily, we are losing innumerable friends and family during the health crisis created by the global pandemic. As a legal professional, I often have to deal with clients facing legal issues with properties and inheritance. However, due to a significant increase in death rates resulting from Covid-19, more and more people are now facing inheritance related problems. While coping with grief and loss, legal complications and procedures become one of the many burdens that a grieving family often has to deal with.

It is often the case that the deceased leave behind estate or assets that they possessed during their lifetime. The estate comprises of all property that the deceased had owned, whether moveable and/or immovable. When Muslims die, there are four duties that need to be performed with such assets they possessed.

They are—paying funeral and burial expenses, paying debts of the deceased (if any), determining the will of the deceased, if any (which can only be up to one third of the estate), and distributing the remainder of estate and property amongst the relatives or heirs of the deceased. In Bangladesh, legal distribution of property in such circumstances is governed by the principles of *Shariah* law.

Therefore, it is necessary to determine the relatives of the deceased who are entitled to inherit the estate or property along with the proportion of the shares to be inherited by them individually and collectively. Broadly, according to the principles of *Shariah*, spouse, parents, children, grandchildren, siblings, grandparents (paternal), grandmother (maternal), uncles (paternal), nephews/nieces are considered as heirs (*warish*) to a deceased's estate. The ambit of this head is too broad and as a result, even distant kindred are entitled to succeed thereto in the absence of primary heirs. Further, it is important to bear in mind that a son inherits double the share of a daughter in such circumstances. As such, inheritance is considered as an integral part of *Shariah* Law and the heirs and descendants have the right to claim the estate and property of the deceased.

However, inheriting a deceased's property does not happen automatically and the heirs must take certain legal steps in order to ensure legal transfer of the properties. Firstly, it is essential to make an inventory of all assets. Part of the work of making the inventory of assets is finding them all. This task could include collecting a complete set of property ownership documents from land offices; ascertaining bank accounts, shares, stocks, bonds etc; locating vehicle registration documents etc and could require some time.

Next, one of the key documents the heirs have to collect is the *Warishan* Certificate or Legal Heir Certificate. This certificate is essential in order to



PHOTO: COLLECTED

determine the number of legal heirs and the proportion of share of property to be received by each legal heir. Such a certificate plays an essential role during property division/partition; mutation of property; declaratory suits; collecting pensions etc.

Yet another key document needed to establish the authenticity of the heirs and give them the authority to inherit debts, securities and other assets that the deceased may have left behind is the Succession Certificate. Such a certificate is to be obtained from the Court of Joint District Judge as per the

Succession Act, 1925. It is now possible to file for the succession certificate in the virtual court. A succession certificate is usually compulsory to transfer movable properties such as shares, stocks, bonds, funds in bank accounts etc (in the absence of a nominee) or even for the transfer of ownership of vehicles.

Once the said certificates are procured, the legal heirs can next move towards mutation of lands that had been owned by the deceased. The process of mutation is the insertion of the name of the new owner(s) in the

*Khatian* (Record of Rights) to replace the former owner upon transferring the ownership of land(s). To mutate a piece of land, one has to apply to the Assistant Commissioner (Land) office. Executing and registering a Partition Deed at the relevant Sub-Registry office may also be required at this point in order to divide or demarcate the property amongst the legal heirs.

It is generally upon completion of these steps, that the inheritors can successfully transfer the properties in their individual names. It may sometimes be the case that the inheritors agree and desire equal distribution of property. In such circumstances, they ought to legally transfer the portion of properties amongst one another through registered deeds, upon completion of the transfer of properties in their individual names.

Indeed, the law of intestate succession is one of the most complex segments of law associated to one's life and it is almost impossible to point out each and every aspect in a gist. As such, it is imperative to stay patient with the process, but moving forward in a planned manner would make things much smoother and easier. Certain procedures may take slightly more time than usual considering the pandemic situation. However, don't panic and make sure to start the process with the help of an experienced lawyer who will be able to make the whole procedure more comfortable for you.

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# Banning cryptocurrencies: A hurdle in the way of digitalisation?

MD KHADEMUL ISLAM CHOYON AND NAFIZ AHMED

FROM small barter societies to the world-wide acceptability of fiat money (mainly paper money or coin), the evolution of payment methodologies throughout human history has not been anything short of astonishing. One of the newest members of this evolution is bitcoin, which has been defined as an "online communication protocol that facilitates the use of virtual currency, including electronic payments."

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an independent inter-governmental body as well as a global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, defined virtual currency as "a digital representation of value that can be digitally traded and functions as a medium of exchange, and/or a unit of account, and/or a store of value but does not have the status of legal tender." Therefore, virtual currencies may be considered as a private mode of exchange. However, it does not reflect a sovereign guarantee of the value or legal tender status in any manner whatsoever. Virtual currency is distinguished from fiat currency and also distinct from e-money, which is a digital representation of fiat currency used to electronically transfer value denominated in fiat currency.

In the era of digitalisation, a majority of the countries are allowing transactions through virtual currencies. However, not all governments are laying down a bed of roses for the use of virtual currencies (such as bitcoin) in their jurisdictions. In Bangladesh, virtual currencies neither have the status of legal tender nor does it fall within the ambit of the definition of "currency" or "coin" as defined under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1947 (the "Act of 1947") and



PHOTO: COLLECTED

the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972. Interestingly enough, Section 2(b) (ii) of the Act of 1947 kept its door open for introducing new currencies by empowering Bangladesh Bank to declare some physical or non-physical instruments as currency. This means that the Bangladesh Bank has the power to treat the virtual currency as a legal currency by publishing a notification under the provisions of the Act of 1947.

However, instead of declaring the virtual currency as a legal currency, Bangladesh Bank has prohibited the dealing of virtual currencies or cryptocurrencies (such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, Litecoin) by two cautionary notices issued in 2014 and 2017. Collectively, these two cautionary notices connoted that transactions of virtual currencies are not supported by the Act of 1947, the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012, or the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009 and banks are to

refrain from making such transactions. In 2019, in a circular directing banks to take safeguards against illegitimate online payment through international cards, Bangladesh Bank termed the purchase of cryptocurrencies as an illegitimate online payment.

Until recently, a similar sort of prohibition was enforced in India by its central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In 2018, RBI banned cryptocurrencies stating, *inter alia*, all entities regulated by RBI are not to deal in virtual currencies including bitcoin or cryptocurrencies. However, in a historic judgment passed on March 4, 2020, the Supreme Court of India has lifted the ban on cryptocurrencies transaction in India. In the case of Internet And Mobile Association vs. RBI, India's Apex Court held, amongst other issues, that the RBI had failed to provide enough empirical data to demonstrate that virtual currencies

had any adverse impact on the traditional economy and found a total ban on trading in virtual currencies to be disproportionate and excessive. Resultantly, the ban of RBI has been quashed and India has added one more badge on its shoulder of digitalisation and globalisation.

The trend in globalisation is adopting major changes smoothly. Dawdling in this aspect may result in a major setback for a country in the very competitive global market. It is a widely popular notion of jurisprudence that law ought to be dictated by reason, morality and conscience, and changes in laws should be justified on two grounds—reason and the will of the people regulated by the laws. Changing laws on the ground of reasonableness makes the legal system just and effective. One does not have to look very far to find reasonableness behind allowing the transaction of

cryptocurrency.

It has been reported that the Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) said in an event that the time has come to think about cryptocurrencies like bitcoin and other virtual currencies, and he will request Bangladesh Bank to think about virtual payment systems. It was also reported that currently around BDT 10,000 crore is spent annually for shopping online and he expects the BDT 20,000 crore mark to be crossed by 2025.

With the vision of digitalising the country, the government is investing a lot of money and effort into the ICT sector. A remarkable growth in the number of freelancers working in the ICT sector from Bangladesh has been witnessed in recent years. Experts are seeing this as a way of diversifying the modes of bringing in foreign currency into Bangladesh. Since these earnings are in millions, soon foreign investments may be seen in this sector.

Virtual currencies such as bitcoin can very soon become the principal mode of transaction in disbursing remuneration of online labour. In such a situation, if virtual currency transactions are prohibited in Bangladesh, the freelancers may fall behind in acquiring their online earnings. Also, in the era of globalisation, virtual currencies can become a great means of liberalising the economy and display the government's role as a facilitator, which helps to create an enabling environment for foreign investment in Bangladesh. The consequence of this will be an increase of confidence on the part of foreign investors regarding the ease of doing business in Bangladesh.

Md Khademul Islam Choyon and Nafiz Ahmed are an Advocate and apprentice lawyer, respectively.

*In the era of digitalisation, a majority of the countries are allowing transactions through virtual currencies. However, not all governments are laying down a bed of roses for the use of virtual currencies (such as bitcoin) in their jurisdictions.*

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**JULY 29, 1958**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration established

*Criticised for allowing the Soviet Union to launch the first man-made satellite to orbit Earth (Sputnik 1, on October 4, 1957), US President Dwight D Eisenhower signed legislation this day in 1958 that created NASA.*

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Sea dogs

6 Bathroom fixture

11 Turn away

12 Bitter humor

13 Yard plus a bit

14 Search deeply

15 Kick out of office

17 Horse healer

18 Freud topic

19 Gaskets' kin

22 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"

23 Writer Marcel

24 Rascal

25 Eggy dish

27 Wine choice

30 Spy's asset

31 Running bird

22 Take in

33 Cook's collection

35 Copter part

38 Plain to see

39 Island greeting

40 Jessica of "Frances"

41 Juan of Argentina

42 Door sign

DOWN

1 Composer Barber

2 Pay back

3 Admits

4 Grove growth

5 Nonbinding vote

6 Bridge action

7 Verb for you

8 Cracks

9 Overturn

10 Russian refusals

16 Goals

20 Penguins' place

21 Shade

24 Stephen of "The Crying Game"

25 "My Favorite Year" star

26 Trusted teacher

27 New

28 Come into view

29 Cowboy's coat

30 Scuffle

34 Infamous czar

36 Cry of discovery

37 Sought a seat

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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

## Bangabandhu’s

FROM PAGE 12  
Heavy rains coupled with flash floods from Siliguri have seriously affected Tetulia and Panchagarh thana of Dinajpur. According to the Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur a large number of mud houses have collapsed and most of the 30,000 affected people are taking shelter on elevated land.  
*SOURCES: July 30, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.*

## No indication

FROM PAGE 12  
experiencing symptoms, the isolation of cases and quarantining of contacts. The global health body’s warning came as governments across the world imposed new restrictions yesterday in a bid to cool coronavirus hotspots after new infections shot up in some countries, sparking fears of a second wave.

Iran suffered its worst day yet of the pandemic, reporting 235 new deaths yesterday, a record toll for a single day in the Middle East’s hardest-hit country.

“The situation is worrying,” health ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said.

“Tehran, the most populous province, has turned red for the first time since the first peak of the virus.”

Authorities have made masks mandatory in enclosed public spaces and allowed the hardest-hit provinces, including Tehran, to re-impose restrictions that had been progressively lifted since April to reopen Iran’s sanctions-hit economy.

**CHINA SURGE**  
Chinese authorities scrambled to halt the possibility of a second wave of infections after a new cluster in the northwest port city of Dalian spread to other provinces.

China had largely brought the virus under control since it first emerged in the country late last year, through a series of strict lockdowns and travel restrictions.

But in recent months a number of small outbreaks have given cause for concern, with China reporting 68 new infections yesterday -- the highest daily number since April.

Of those, 57 were in the northwest region of Xinjiang, where an outbreak has seen millions of residents tested and strict lockdowns in the regional capital Urumqi.

Health authorities said the Dalian cluster had now spread to nine cities in five regions across the country, including as far away as the southeast coastal province of Fujian.

Beijing has tightened measures in the affected region, introducing mass testing in Dalian and heightened scrutiny of travellers arriving in the city, reports AFP.

## Ease approval

FROM PAGE 12  
General of Health Services [DGHS] decides whether a Covid-19 patient will be able to get admitted to a hospital. Such instance of centralisation cannot be found anywhere else in the world. It creates scope for corruption.”

Explaining why most of the private hospitals don’t have DGHS approval, Zafrullah said, “In fact, the Ganoshasthaya Nagar Hospital and Ganoshasthaya Dialyses Centres too do not have DGHS approval.

“It is almost impossible to follow the rules made by the health ministry for getting approval to private hospitals, laboratories and diagnostic centres. The health ministry even fixes the number of toilets and nurses having diplomas.”

Besides, every hospital needs to get separate approvals for laboratories and departments, including x-ray, dental and blood transfusion units, he pointed out.

Since 2018, the licence fees for these departments have been increased 30-50 times, reads the letter.

The registration fees for a private hospital with a laboratory and a diagnostic centre should not be more than Tk 1 lakh. “The rules for approval to hospitals need to be eased,” he said.

“You [the PM] want a poverty-free and healthy Bangladesh, and want to tackle the rapidly spreading novel coronavirus. It is not possible to materialise without universal health coverage.”

About duties on medical equipment, he said the price of an electronic brachytherapy for cancer treatment is around \$1 million. But in addition to 1 percent import duty, 5 percent advance tax, 5 percent advance income tax and 15 percent vat have to be paid for it, which is unacceptable.

“There are discriminatory import duties on different medical equipment. Import duty on ultrasonic devices is 1 percent but it’s 5 percent on cardiac monitors.”

There should be only 1 percent import duty on medical equipment and no other taxes, Zafrullah said.

He called upon the health ministry to ensure that pharmaceutical companies follow the rules and regulations properly.

At the end of the letter, Zafrullah requested Hasina to work together with all the politicians in the country to overcome the present crisis.

# Health ministry calls meeting

FROM PAGE 12  
the city over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates and operating without renewing licences timely.

Besides, the scams of two private facilities -- Regent Hospital and JKG Health Care -- over faking the Covid-19 tests added fuel to the fire. The handling of the situation by the Directorate General of Health Services also came into question after the scandals.

The government has already started restructuring the health services by replacing top officials, including the embattled director general of the DGHS, to ensure better coordination. Moreover, around 30 doctors of DGHS were also transferred.

On July 21, the health ministry sought from the DGHS a complete list of private hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centres that did not renew their licences timely.

According to media reports, two thirds of the country’s over 15,000 private clinics and diagnostic centres have been running without any valid licence since 2018 facing almost no consequences.

The DGHS did nothing but send

notices to these facilities and make public announcements in newspapers, officials admitted.

**MEETING ISSUES**  
The ministry’s letter mentioned that raids at different private hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centres over irregularities in Covid-19 treatment following media reports in recent time are the first issue of the meeting.

The other issues include media reports about irregularities over Covid-19 testing; operations of different private hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centers without licence renewal; overcharging for treatment and inhuman behaviour with patient’s attendants.

Contacted, Prof Dr Maniruzzaman Bhuiyan, president of Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Owners’ Association, told The Daily Star yesterday that they were yet to get the invitation letter for the meeting.

Asked about the allegations, he said, “We are embarrassed over such incidents that are tarnishing our reputation.”

He, however, said none of the

hospitals raided by the law enforcers recently were their members.

“We have sent letters to our members to refrain from such malpractices,” said Prof Maniruzzaman.

The association has 10,000 members.

Asked about the allegation of overcharging, he said treatment costs have increased during the pandemic as they have to pay more to their doctors and staffers.

“But we’ve asked our members not to charge patients irrationally.”

He said many private hospitals do not have renewed licences for “many reasons.”

The government has increased the renewal fees for a 10-bed hospital from Tk 5,000 to Tk 50,000 one year ago. “Is it possible for a small hospital to give the money,” Prof Maniruzzaman questioned.

Besides, trade licences of hospitals in residential areas were not renewed after 2018, and for not having the renewed trade licences, many hospitals can not apply for renewing their licences, he said.

“We will talk to the health minister about the issue,” he added.

## New dimension in the judiciary

FROM PAGE 12  
another two-week vacation began on July 24.

**NEW CHAPTER**  
The lower courts across the country heard and disposed of a total 1,36,399 bail petitions and granted bail to a total of 67,229 accused, including 755 children, in the 50 working days between May 12 and July 23, according to a statement by SC spokesperson Md Saifur Rahman.

Between May 12 and July 23, 508 detained on criminal charges were sent to three juvenile development centres -- leading to a total of 870 children staying there, added the statement.

The SC statement also said the subordinate courts concerned have disposed of surrender-related petitions of the accused in 4,310 criminal cases -- granting bail to 11,796 accused and sending 938 accused to jails -- between July 19 and July 23.

More than 300 courts have passed

bail orders after holding virtual hearings of the petitions.

The introduction of virtual court proceedings is a new chapter in the history of the country’s judiciary, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star on May 10.

During a virtual hearing on a writ petition on May 12, the High Court extended thanks to President Md Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, and the law minister for launching virtual court functions.

Virtual court functions are the first step in establishing an e-judiciary in the country, observed Justice Obaidul Hassan, a judge of a High Court bench.

The High Court Division has held hearings on several bail petitions and some writ petitions filed as public interest litigation, and also issued several important directives through the virtual court.

Lawyers have to file petitions seeking necessary directives by emailing the courts concerned. They do not need to swear any affidavit for moving the petitions before the courts other than making an undertaking that the information they mentioned in the petitions are true and explaining the need for their urgent hearings, according to the practice directives issued by the chief justice.

On May 10, the chief justice issued 20 practice directives on virtual court functions in line with the Usage of Information and Communications Technology by Court Ordinance 2020.

According to the practice directives, the lawyers concerned have to print the petitions, scan them and send the documents to the courts and opposite parties before the hearing. After receiving the petitions, the judges of the courts concerned fix dates for hearings on the matters and they are then included in the cause list as per

## No end to their trauma in sight

FROM PAGE 1  
Alam, an expatriate in Oman, has already spent more than Tk 2 lakh to pay lawyers and meet other court-related expenses.

“I need to spend at least Tk 500 every time I go to the court in Old Dhaka from our Tejgunipara home for travelling, food and other expenses,” Tarek, now 21, told The Daily Star recently.

“We’re too tired ... it all happened after I was framed by police. The cases are not only hampering my studies but also are throwing my future into uncertainty,” he said.

He expressed frustration as investigation in any of the nine cases -- seven for vandalism and two for spreading rumour -- has been completed yet.

Tarek is not the only student suffering this way for taking to the street demanding safe roads two years ago.

With investigation in most cases, filed following the unprecedented road safety demonstration in 2018, tangled up, the future of many other students seem bleak.

Investigation officers are not sure when the probes would be over, adding to the frustration of the students and their family members.

After two students of the capital’s Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College were killed by a speeding bus on Airport Road on this day in 2018,

protests spread like wildfire across the capital and elsewhere in the country.

During and after the protest, more than 100 people, mostly students of private universities and colleges, were rounded up in around 60 cases in the capital alone over “causing violence and spreading rumours”, according to Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The cases were filed against several thousand unidentified students and young people for assaulting police, damaging government properties and obstructing law enforcers from discharging duties.

The accused included 22 private university students who were arrested during the demonstrations in July and August that year. Although they were released on bail later, they had to appear before court almost every month before the Covid-19 outbreak.

Most courts in the country are now holding virtual hearing to avoid coronavirus transmission.

The FIRs of cases filed by police in the city’s Badda and Bhatara mentioned the names of 32 accused, including the 22 students. Some of the accused students, however, said they did not even join the demonstration.

The rest of the students were picked up from Kotwali, Dhanmondi, Paltan, Shahbagh, Uttara, Ramna and New Market areas between August 4 and 6 that year.

Besides, 22 cases were filed under the then section 57 of the ICT act

## Roads just as risky as before

FROM PAGE 1  
Following the demonstration, lawmakers hastily passed the Road Transport Act-2018, the Prime Minister’s Office issued a 17-point directive, and police observed multiple “traffic weeks” to bring discipline to roads.

A Dhaka court in December last year handed down life sentences to two drivers and a helper of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan in connection with the incident, saying, “The callousness of drivers and helpers in the transport sector is causing many deaths which must be stopped.”

But the numbers of road crashes and fatalities increased last year compared to the previous year.

According to police data, 4,138 people were killed in 4,147 road accidents last year. The previous year, 2,609 road crashes claimed 2,635 lives. The data was prepared based on cases filed with different police stations across the country.

However, the figures are significantly lower than those of other road-safety organisations.

The rising trend of road crashes remained almost the same until late March when the government suspended operations of public transport to contain the spread of Covid-19. Public transport resumed operations on June 1.

**TWO MAJOR INITIATIVES YET TO BEAR FRUIT**

The parliament passed the RTA in September 2018, but the government did not make the law effective till November last year.

When the government took initiative to enforce the law, transport associations called strikes demanding that the government does not penalise drivers of commercial vehicles even if they violate some key sections of the act until June this year.

In the face of their demand, the government decided not to penalise those who drive heavy vehicles with licences meant for light or medium vehicles until June this year and later extended the relaxation for another year.

It also waived the late fees for not renewing driving licences and fitness documents of vehicles till December this year.

Meanwhile, a committee led by former Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan was formed last year to give recommendations for curbing road crashes and bringing discipline to the sector.

The committee in April last year gave 111 recommendations and a taskforce led by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan was formed in October last year to implement those.

The taskforce held its only meeting in November to include three more members in it. It assigned four secretaries to recommend and plan how the recommendations could be

implemented. No further movement of the taskforce was visible.

**WHAT AN EXPERT SAYS?**  
Prof Shamsul Hoque, also a member of the taskforce, said although the authority had taken some initiatives following the movement, but did not take steps to reform the sector.

“Bus routes rationalisation and introduction of bus franchise system are needed in Dhaka city to bring discipline to the public transport system. But these were not done,” he said.

Rather, more buses were given route permits and the number of motorcycles is increasing in an unregulated way, which are further complicating the situation.

As per the planned bus franchise system, all buses operating in the city will be brought under six companies and by route rationalisation, and all the bus routes in the capital and adjacent areas would be brought under 22 major routes.

He said “ad-hoc” basis steps were taken after any major incident, but no steps were taken to strengthen the capacity of BRTA and Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA).

“Such ad-hoc initiatives have no continuation, and therefore, no sustainability,” he added.

“It takes time and power to make a reform. The government had the opportunity but unfortunately, it did not take it,” he added.

## Ex-PM Najib sentenced

FROM PAGE 12  
Court Judge Mohamad Nazlan Mohamad Ghazali sentenced Najib to 12 years and a fine of 210 million ringgit (\$49 million) on a charge of abuse of power.

Najib, 67, also received 10 years in jail on each of three charges of criminal breach of trust and three charges of money laundering for illegally receiving nearly \$10 million from SRC International, a former unit of the state fund.

“After considering all evidence in this trial, I find that the prosecution has successfully proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt,” Mohamad Nazlan said.

He ordered the jail terms to run concurrently.

The judge allowed a request by Najib’s lawyers to delay the jail sentence and the financial penalty, but asked Najib to post additional bail and report to a police station twice a month.

Najib had pleaded not guilty, and said he would appeal the verdict in Malaysia’s Federal Court if convicted. The verdict could potentially be

partially or fully overturned by the higher court on appeal, though that could take years.

The nearly \$10 million in the SRC case is a fraction of the funds Najib is alleged to have misappropriated from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), the state fund.

Prosecutors say more than \$1 billion of 1MDB funds made its way into Najib’s personal accounts, over which he faces a total of 42 criminal charges. Najib had led the country for almost a decade before losing the 2018 election.

US and Malaysian authorities say a total of 4.5 billion is believed to have been stolen from 1MDB, a fund Najib founded to promote economic development, and used by his associates to buy art, a superyacht and fund the “Wolf of Wall Street” movie.

**PINK DIAMONDS**

Prosecutors have also said \$27 million was used to buy a pink diamond necklace for Najib’s wife, Rosmah Mansor, and some of the money went into war chests for Najib’s election campaigns.

## Four drug

FROM PAGE 12  
four of them lying on the spot.

The injured were rushed to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, the police officer added.

Police claimed to have recovered 50,000 yaba tablets, two firearms, and eight bullets from the spot.

The bodies were sent to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.

Police filed three cases in connection with the incident.

OC Pradip said the peddlers smuggled in the drugs from Myanmar.

## Indian

FROM PAGE 12  
orbit, a SPACE India spokeswoman said.

Radhika Lakhani, the other student, said she was working hard on her education. “I don’t even have a TV at home, so that I can concentrate on my studies.”

Asteroids and comets pose a potential threat to Earth, and scientists discover thousands of them each year. In 2013, an asteroid heavier than the Eiffel Tower exploded over central Russia, leaving more than 1,000 people injured from its shockwave.

## Keep up

FROM PAGE 1  
keep up the progress in the agriculture sector so that our people don’t suffer, at least from food shortage. We will have to pay attention to it,” she said.

The PM was speaking at the weekly meeting of the Executive Meeting of the National Economic Council (Ecneec).

The meeting was held virtually, with the premier, also the Ecneec chairperson, in the chair. The prime minister and Planning Minister Abdul Mannan joined the meeting from the Gono Bhaban through videoconferencing, while other Ecneec members were connected from NEC Bhaban.

Describing the government’s assistance to the agriculture sector, Hasina said, “We’ve been providing all kinds of assistance so that our food security is not affected.”

She said the government has reduced the prices of fertilisers, and has been distributing quality seeds and other agricultural inputs. The government also provided some 2 crore agriculture cards to avail of agricultural inputs and created scope for farmers to open a bank account depositing Tk 10. Now more than one crore farmers have such bank accounts.

The PM said the price of DAP fertiliser was Tk 90 per kg during the tenure of the previous BNP government, but her government reduced the prices in several phases and now the farmers are getting the fertiliser for Tk 12 per kg.

“If we can keep food in our house, we may not have so serious problems on other fronts. We will be able to overcome [the coronavirus crisis].”

Hasina said leaders and activists of Awami League and its associate bodies -- Chhatra League, Jubo League, Krishak League and Swetchhasebak League -- stood beside the farmers by joining their paddy harvesting amid the Covid-19. “Joining the harvesting work, many leaders and activists even got infected with coronavirus and some of them also died.”

She said standing beside people is their duty.

Talking about the 2030 sustainable development agenda, the premier said the government would continue pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve the targets which are particularly effective for Bangladesh.

“We will have to achieve SDGs as well, particularly its 17 goals effective for our country. We don’t need to deal with all.”

Hasina said the goals which are effective for Bangladesh have already been incorporated in the 8th Five Year Plan and the government has been working on achieving those. “We’ll be able to achieve that [SDGs],” she said.



England pacer Stuart Broad proudly holds up the cherry as his teammates applaud his 500th Test scalp, that of West Indies opener Kraigg Brathwaite, on the fifth day of the third Test at Old Trafford yesterday. The 34-year-old later accounted for Jermaine Blackwood, the last man to fall, to claim match figures of 10-67 as the hosts won the match by 269 runs and clinched the series 2-1.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## ‘Incredible to watch, an inspiration for everybody’

AGENCIES

England fast bowler Stuart Broad took his 500th Test wicket on Tuesday when he trapped West Indies batsman Kraigg Brathwaite leg before wicket on the last day of the third and final Test at Old Trafford.

Broad is the second England bowler after James Anderson and the seventh in the overall list of highest wicket takers, which is led by Sri Lankan legend Muttiah Muralitharan with 800 scalps, followed by Shane Warne (708), Anil Kumble (619), Anderson (589), Glenn McGrath (563) and Courtney Walsh (519).

“The way Stuart has bowled in the last two games has been absolutely phenomenal. He’s a

credit to himself, the work he’s put in over the last couple of years. Incredible to watch, an inspiration not just for younger members of the team but for me,” said Anderson.

After he was dropped from the Southampton game at the start of this month, a miffed Broad said: “I’ve been frustrated, angry, gutted –

Stuart Broad became the seventh bowler and second Englishman after James Anderson to get 500 Test wickets, reaching the landmark in his 140th Test.

because it’s quite a hard decision to understand. I’ve probably bowled the best I’ve ever bowled in the last couple of years. I felt like it was my shirt, having been in the team

Stuart Broad ended with 10 wickets as England bowled the West Indies out for 129, winning the third Test by 269 runs and clinching the series 2-1. Chris Woakes chipped in with five second-innings wickets.

through the Ashes and going to South Africa and winning there.”

“The way he dealt with [being left out], he looked like he had a real point to prove and he has proved that. I’m always amazed by how he gets in a spell and just blows people away. I don’t think either of us is that fussed about the wickets tally. We love bowling together in Test matches... we enjoy winning games for England. There’s a very good chance he’ll end up with more wickets than me,” Anderson added.

Former skipper Michael Atherton said that Broad had shown that he still has “fire in the belly”, asserting that the “champion sportsman” has the potential to claim 600 Test wickets.

“The mark of a champion sportsman is not when you get knocked down, but how you bounce back and we’ve seen that in this series with Stuart Broad,” Atherton wrote in a column for Sky Sports. “When you get left out, that’s when you find out a little bit more about yourself. Some players, when they get to that stage and get left out, they might just say, ‘Well, I’ve done enough with my career.’

“But clearly Stuart Broad, with that fire in the belly he showed, has got more to come and he doesn’t just want to get 500 wickets - he wants to get up to 600 as well,” Atherton added.

## More cricketers likely for second phase of individual training

SPORTS REPORTER



The first phase of the individual training sessions, arranged by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) after repeated requests from cricketers, ended yesterday with players seeming to gain in confidence despite the coronavirus pandemic.

The individual training sessions had started with ten cricketers on July 19 and were scheduled to conclude on July 26. By the end of that time, 13 cricketers were working on their fitness and skills at four venues across the country, including the home of cricket in Mirpur. The sessions were then extended by two days following requests from cricketers.

The arrangement is being considered the BCB’s first step towards resumption of cricket, which was halted in the country in mid-March due to the pandemic.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan was among those who joined the sessions at Khulna’s Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium from the start alongside Mahedi Hasan and Mehedi Hasan Miraz.

“The arrangement was very good and it was a good opportunity in itself that we got to go to the field after a long break. Of course, enthusiasm was not at the level that it would be at if we had practised with a team, but considering the situation, it was the best that could be arranged. I am happy to have been able to come to the field and shake the rust off. We are not expecting everything to get back to normal right away but this can be a first step to resumption,” Nurul told media yesterday.

2020 was supposed to be a busy year for the Tigers, but the pandemic has led to five of their bilateral series being postponed and major events like the Asia Cup T20 and ICC World T20 being cancelled.

As far as domestic cricket is concerned, the Dhaka Premier League was suspended after the first round, which has started to hurt local players who rely on the domestic circuit for their livelihood.

Nurul believes offering individual practice sessions encouraged many cricketers to take to the field and that there would be a rise in numbers after the Eid-ul-

Adha holiday.

“We were told that this setup might be there even after the Eid vacation. That way we can hope that the game will slowly also return to its place. At the start, the situation seemed very critical and everything seemed uncertain. But as you can see now, life is getting back to normal. People are courageous enough to fight the situation that we are in, going out and doing their regular business. So, this is actually building hope [in cricketers] that we will get to see the game back on the field in a few months,” said Nurul.

“I have heard more cricketers will join this arrangement after the Eid vacation; this shows the intention of the cricketers to slowly get back to normal. And other countries slowly returning to the game is also encouraging. Although there might be a difference in terms of dealing with the situation and measures, these are still encouraging,” he added.



## Sarfaraz back in squad for England Tests

REUTERS

Former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and fast bowler Wahab Riaz have made the cut in Pakistan’s 20-man squad for the three-test series against England starting next week, the PCB has said.

Pakistan are scheduled to play three Tests and three T20Is in August-September in a bio-secure environment in England.

The PCB had named a 29-man combined squad for the matches.

Wicketkeeper Sarfaraz was sacked as captain from all formats last year and his last test was against South Africa in January 2019. Mohammad Rizwan has been the first-choice glovesman since.

Wahab, whose last test appearance was in October 2018, decided last year he was taking an indefinite break from the format.

## PREMIER HOCKEY LEAGUE

# Uncertainty to remain even after pandemic

ANISUR RAHMAN



After the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) elections in April 2019, there were high hopes that the new leadership would get the Premier Hockey League (PHL) back on track but those fond hopes have proved to be unfounded so far, and the coronavirus pandemic has plunged the league into further uncertainty.

After being elected to the post of BHF general secretary, with backing from the Dhaka clubs, Mominul Haque Shaheed promised to stage the PHL -- last held in 2018 -- in October but fled the country after his alleged involvement in the casino scandal of ‘Motijheel Club Para’ last September. Shaheed was supposed to give financial assistance to five to seven clubs, and so his continued absence has dealt a big blow.

BHF officials have since been engaged in less important activities at the expense of the PHL -- the lone income source for players, who have been experiencing hardships in the midst of the pandemic.

The game’s governing body initially focused on preparations for the U-21 team for the now-suspended Junior Asia



Cup in Dhaka and holding the school hockey tournament. The federation has finally started shifting focus to the Premier Hockey League for post-pandemic times, but that depends on the will of participating clubs, some of which always seek more time and delay the process, citing financial inability.

“Actually, there is no benefit in running tournaments other than Premier Hockey League. We, a group of officials, told the BHF president [Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Semiatat] that our first task should be to stage the

league when hockey activities resume and the president also wants that,” said BHF Vice-president Zaki Ahmed Ripon, who is also the secretary of Abahani’s hockey committee.

Ripon added that he does not want to stage any other tournament as the chairman of BHF’s tournament committee.

Since Shaheed’s departure in September, the BHF took nearly five months to form the league committee, which then asked clubs to send representatives but in the wake of the

pandemic could not even sit together for a single meeting.

BHF Vice-president Abdur Rashid Shikdar, a close ally of Shaheed, believes some clubs and the federation itself were affected by Shaheed’s absence but insisted that every stakeholder must now come forward to stage the PHL.

“It will be tough to hold the premier league if the clubs don’t want to participate. All stakeholders, including the clubs, sponsors and players must come forward and make some personal efforts to get the premier league running,” said Shikdar, also the president of Usha KC, which was relegated to the first division after failing to form a squad in the last edition.

“In the post-pandemic period, sponsors won’t be able to donate like they did before because of the coronavirus pandemic. The clubs won’t be able to take part in the league without donations from sponsors or individuals. So, I request sponsors and individual patrons to come forward with whatever amount they can donate and the clubs should also come forward with whatever amount they manage. Finally, the players have to agree to receive amounts that are less than they

received in the last edition,” explained Shikdar.

BHF Treasurer and Bangladesh Sporting Club General Secretary Hazi Mohammad Humayun said that his club also want the league to take place but they need financial assistance from the government.

“We will also take part in the league if every club participates, but we don’t know how to manage funds in the current scenario. If the government gives small clubs like Bangladesh SC financial incentives to form squads, it will help us to take part in the premier league,” said Humayun.

Asked whether the federation could provide financial assistance to the premier league clubs, Abdur Rashid Shikdar said, “The federation is not financially solvent, but it helped clubs in second and first division leagues.”

Now rolling the premier hockey league on the turf solely depends on the willingness of the clubs, who the title contenders can easily cut their expenditure by banning the foreign players this time and everything will be cleared once the league committee starts with the club representatives to learn their view regarding the league.



While Kylian Mbappe was relaxing in a pool after an ankle injury ruled him out for three weeks, fellow PSG superstar Neymar was in his usual jovial mood at a training session ahead of Friday’s French Cup final, which precedes their Champions League quarterfinal tie against Atalanta on August 12 in Lisbon.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM



## ‘It was like meeting the Pope’

Klopp says of breakfast with Sir Alex Ferguson after winning award

AGENCIES



Liverpool boss Juergen Klopp was named League Managers’ Association (LMA) manager of the year on Monday after guiding the Merseyside club to their first top-flight title in 30 years.

Klopp’s Liverpool side won the Premier League title with seven games to spare and finished the season 18 points clear at the top of the table.

The German coach pipped Leeds United boss Marcelo Bielsa, Wycombe Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth and last year’s winner Chris Wilder of Sheffield United to the Alex Ferguson Trophy -- named after the former Manchester United manager.

“I’m absolutely delighted to be named the winner ... for this wonderful Sir Alex



Ferguson Trophy, named after a man that I admire so much,” Klopp said. “I know it’s not 100 per cent appropriate as a Liverpool manager but I admire him. I remember he was the first British manager I met.

“We had breakfast. I’m not sure how

much he remembers but I remember because for me this moment was like meeting the Pope. It was absolutely great and from that first season we clicked. I didn’t think at this moment I would have a trophy in my hands named after him.”

“Jurgen, fantastic,” Ferguson said on Sky Sports. “We speak about Leeds spending 16 years in the Championship, but Liverpool 30 years since winning that league, incredible. You thoroughly deserved it. The performance level of your team was outstanding. Your personality runs right throughout the whole club. It was a marvellous performance.

“I’ll forgive you for waking me up at 3.30am to tell me you have won the league! Thank you, but anyway, you thoroughly deserved it. Well done.”



## VIRTUAL COURT New dimension in the judiciary

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A laptop and a smartphone with internet access.

With these, Jamiul Hoque Faisal, a young advocate of the Supreme Court, was able to move a petition, place arguments before the High Court on May 17, and successfully bail out his client in a case filed under the controversial Digital Security Act.

From his home in the haor area of Kishoreganj, Faisal participated in court proceedings through videoconferencing.

Since March 18, Faisal had been staying at his village in the district's Nikli upazila, around 100km from Dhaka.

He was not able to return to the capital for two months because of the pandemic-induced shutdown that ended on May 31.

The regular activities of courts across the country, including the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court, remained closed since the last week of March. The SC had announced a two-week annual vacation on March 13.

Beginning on May 11, in line with an ordinance issued by President Md Abdul Hamid on May 9, virtual courts were introduced in order to deal with urgent cases after a gap of a month and a half.

The courts began to hold hearings of the cases and pass orders over the videoconferencing, without needing the physical presence of lawyers, the accused, and witnesses in one place.

Talking to this newspaper yesterday, Faisal said he moved three cases virtually before he returned to Dhaka on May 31.

He is still taking part in virtual proceedings while the court is functioning through videoconferencing after

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A child plays with the rain drops to his heart's content as it was bucketing in the capital yesterday. Adults prefer to remain indoors amid the pandemic, but it is a bit difficult for children to do so, when it rains like this. The photo was taken on Mohammadpur Ring Road.

PHOTO:  
RASHED SHUMON

## Four 'drug peddlers' killed in 'infighting'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Cox's Bazar

Four drug peddlers were killed in a gunfight between two groups of dealers in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday, said police.

The dead were Nasir Uddin, 23, of Kharangkhal village, Mohammad Anwar 24, of Purba Maheshkhali Para, Mohammad Ismail, 25, of Satgharia Para, and Anwar Hossain, 22, of Amtoli village in the upazila.

On information, a police team rushed to Nayapara Kharangkhal area where two groups of drug peddlers were involved in the gunfight over yaba trade around 4:00am, said Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Model Police Station.

Sensing the law enforcers' presence, the criminals opened fired to flee the spot, the OC said, adding that in self-defence, police fired back and found

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## Ease approval procedures for pvt hospitals

Zafrullah urges PM in open letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ganoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury has urged the prime minister to take steps to ease the approval procedures for private hospitals and also the rules for blood transfusion to make plasma treatment available to all.

In an open letter to Sheikh Hasina, he has called for eliminating the "discriminatory" duties on imported medical equipment and raw materials for medicines.

"I'm writing this letter as I've failed to meet you. I hope someone at the Prime Minister's Office will bring this to your attention and I'll get an acknowledgement letter. Dear prime minister, I, as a citizen, can expect that," he said at the beginning of the 15-page letter.

Nowhere in the world a patient has to take permission from the health ministry or any government office to get admitted to a hospital. Rather, it is the doctors who decide that -- be it a Covid-19 patient or a general one, he mentioned.

"... but in Bangladesh, the Directorate

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

### Bangabandhu's letter to Indira

July 29, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU WILL UNDERGO SURGERY TOMORROW

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be operated upon to remove a gallbladder stone tomorrow at London Clinic. The prime minister is keeping perfect health today. Sir Edward Muir, the Queen's surgeon, will perform the operation. He will be assisted by Sir Francis Avery Jones and Bangabandhu's personal physician Dr Nurul Islam. AR MALLICK CALLS ON INDIRA GANDHI

A personal letter from Bangabandhu to Indira Gandhi is handed over to the Indian prime minister today by Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Dr AR Mallick. He also conveys to Indira a verbal message from the Bangladesh prime minister. Contents of the letter or the message are not disclosed.

36,334 BANGALEES REMOVED FROM SERVICE BY PAK GOVT A total of 36,334 Bangalees on the payroll of the Central Government of Pakistan have been removed from their posts. Their services were dispensed with as they opted for Bangladesh. This figure does not include the personnel of the defence service.

RANGPUR, DINAJPUR IN THE GRIP OF FLOOD Rangpur is in the grip of flood. A sharp rise in the water levels of the River Teesta and Brahmaputra was recorded since yesterday. Standing crops such as jute and Aman paddy in the char and low-lying areas on the banks of the Teesta and Brahmaputra have gone under flood water.

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## Health ministry calls meeting with private medical bodies

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The health ministry has decided to hold a meeting with the leaders of private medical associations in the wake of allegations against different private hospitals over Covid-19 test and treatment.

Its Health Service Division yesterday wrote to the presidents and the general secretaries of several associations to attend the "views-exchange meeting" on August 9.

Abdul Mannan, secretary of the division, will preside over the meeting on "Prevention of Covid-19, ensuring health service and how to provide more humanitarian assistance to people in this time", said a letter, signed by a senior assistant secretary.

The development comes days after the law enforcement agencies raided several hospitals in the capital and outside

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## Indian schoolgirls discover earth-bound 'asteroid'



REUTERS, Ahmedabad

Two teenage girls from India have discovered an Earth-bound asteroid by poring through images from a University of Hawaii telescope, an Indian space education institute said on Monday.

The asteroid is presently near Mars and its orbit is expected to cross that of Earth in about one million years' time, said SPACE India, a private institute where the two 14-year-old girls received training.

"I look forward to... when we will get a chance to name the asteroid," said Vaidehi Vekariya, who added that she wants to become an astronaut when she is older.

The asteroid, currently called HLV2514, may be officially christened only after Nasa confirms its

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## MALAYSIA 1MDB SCANDAL Ex-PM Najib sentenced to 12 years

Court allows delayed sentence

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's former leader, Najib Razak, was found guilty of corruption and sentenced to 12 years in jail yesterday in the first trial over a multi-billion-dollar scandal at state fund 1MDB that stretched to the Gulf states and Hollywood.

In a case widely seen as a test of the nation's resolve to stamp out corruption and which could have big political implications, High

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### PRAYER TIMING JULY 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:50 8:15  
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ**  
রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

**ডেঙ্গু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া প্রতিরোধে জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা রাজউকের আওতাধীন এলাকার সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বর্ষা মৌসুমে এডিস মশার বংশ বিস্তারের মৌসুম। ফুলের টব, টায়ার, ভাবের খোসা, প্লাস্টিকের খালি বোতল, নির্মিত/নির্মাণাধীন ভবনের ছাদে জমে থাকা পানি ইত্যাদি কারণে এডিস মশার বংশ বিস্তার ঘটে। ডেঙ্গু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া রোগের প্রাদুর্ভাব রোধকল্পে

- ১। কোরবানী ঈদে গ্রামের উদ্দেশ্যে যাওয়ার প্রাক্কালে এসির আউটলেটে জমে থাকা পানি, ফ্রিজের নিচে জমা থাকা পানি এবং বাসার অন্যান্য অংশে জমে থাকা পানি অপসারণ নিশ্চিত করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
- ২। আসন্ন ঈদ উল আযহায় কোরবানীকৃত পশুর রক্ত ও বর্জ্য দ্রুত অপসারণ করে মশার বংশ বিস্তার রোধ করুন।
- ৩। নির্মাণাধীন ভবনের কিউরিং চলাকালীন সময়ে পানি জমিয়ে না রেখে ৩ (তিন) দিন পরপর পানি পরিবর্তন করুন।
- ৪। নির্মিত/নির্মাণাধীন ভবন এবং এর আশেপাশের চৌবাচ্চার পানি পরিবর্তন করুন।
- ৫। সরকারি ব্যবস্থাপনায়/ভেডেলপার/সমবায়/মালিক কর্তৃক নির্মিত/নির্মাণাধীন ভবনের ভিতরে ও বাহিরে সব সময় পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন।

সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষ পরিদর্শনকালে ব্যত্যয়/ব্যতিক্রম পরিলক্ষিত হলে আইন অনুযায়ী ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

প্রকৌশলী মোঃ মোবারক হোসেন  
পরিচালক (উন্নয়ন নিয়ন্ত্রণ-১) (চঃ দাঃ)  
রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা

জিডি-১২০৩

## No indication virus seasonal

Says WHO; Moderna, Pfizer eye year-end vaccine launches

AGENCIES

The spread of coronavirus does not appear to be impacted by seasonality, the World Health Organization said yesterday, warning against false beliefs that summer is safer.

"Season does not seem to be affecting the transmission of this virus," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told reporters in a virtual briefing.

She pointed out that some of the hardest-hit countries are currently in the midst of different season.

While it is summer in the United States, which with nearly 148,000 deaths and close to 4.3 million cases is the hardest-hit country, the second most affected country Brazil, which counts more than 87,000 deaths, is in winter.

And yet, she said, there "seems to be this fixed idea about this virus being seasonal", and that Covid-19 will come in waves.

This is because people are mistakenly viewing the pandemic through "a flu lense, because that is the way the flu behaves."

"What we all need to get our heads around is this is a new virus... and even though it is a respiratory virus and even though respiratory viruses in the past did tend to do these different seasonal waves, this one is behaving differently," Harris said.

Instead of expecting the virus to behave like other viruses that are more familiar, she said people should look at what is actually known about how to stop transmission of Covid-19.

What works, she said, is physical distancing, hand washing, wearing a mask where appropriate, always covering up sneezes and coughs, staying home when

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বিএলআরআই কর্তৃক উদ্ভাবিত পদ্ধতিতে হুইপুষ্টকৃত গবাদি প্রাণী কোরবানি করি, নিরাপদ মাংস নিশ্চিত করি

**গৃহপালিত প্রাণীর মাধ্যমে করোনা ভাইরাস সংক্রমণ হয় না**

**সুস্থ গবাদি প্রাণী চেনার উপায় -**

- নাকের উপরের কালো/লাল অংশ বা ম্যাজেল ভেজা ভেজা ও চকচকে থাকবে
- পিঠের উপরের কুঁজ সোজা, মোটা ও টানটান থাকবে
- কান ঝাড়া থাকবে ও লেজ নড়া চড়া করবে
- সাধারণ চাঞ্চল্যভাব ও কিছুক্ষণ পর পর জাবর কাটবে
- পিঠের চামড়া টানটান থাকবে, পশম মসৃণ ও উজ্জল দেখাবে
- চামড়া টান দিয়ে ছেড়ে দিলে দ্রুত পূর্বের জায়গায় ফেরৎ আসবে
- আব্দুল দিয়ে ২০ সেকেন্ড চাপ দিয়ে ধরে থাকলে সুস্থ প্রাণীর চামড়ায় কোন গর্তের সৃষ্টি হবে না
- মুখের সামনে ঘাস জাতীয় খাবার ধরলে নিজে নিজেই জিহ্বা দিয়ে টেনে নিবে

প্রাণী বাদ্যে এন্টিবায়োটিকে "না" বলুন, নিরাপদ প্রাণীজ আমিষ উৎপাদন নিশ্চিত করুন

**স্বাস্থ্য বিধি মেনে প্রাণী ক্রয়-বিক্রয় করুন**

মৎস্য ও প্রাণিসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়  
**বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট**  
সভার, ঢাকা-১৩৪১  
ই-মেইল: [infoblr@gmail.com](mailto:infoblr@gmail.com), ওয়েবসাইট: [www.blri.gov.bd](http://www.blri.gov.bd)