

SRABAN 22, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

BANGLADESH 2,654 New cases in 24hrs Total cases













A murder in cold blood

Slain Major (retd) Sinha's sister says in statement to magistrate; police asked to register it as regular case; Rab tasked with probing the incident

STAR REPORT

9:25pm Around Friday, Inspector Liaqat Ali of Baharchhara Police Investigation Centre and Sub-inspector Nandadulal Raxit of Teknaf Police Station stopped Maj (retd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan's car at Shamlapur police checkpost on Marine Drive in Teknaf.

In that car were Sinha and one of his associates Shahedul Islam Shifat. After Sinha revealed his identity to the policemen, the cops flung open the passenger door of the vehicle and dragged

As Shifat also told them who they were, the two policemen became furious. At this, Sinha came out with hands up and yet again said he was a former major of Bangladesh Army.

"I have seen many majors like you. I'll now show you how the game is played," Inspector Liaqat yelled at Sinha.



While continuing to abuse Sinha and Shifat, Liagat made a phone call to Pradeep Kumar Shaha, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station. At one point, the inspector told the OC, "Alright. [I] am going to finish this scoundrel."

Before Sinha could realise anything, Liaqat fired several shots at him in cold blood.

This is how Sinha's elder sister Sharmen Shahria Ferdush narrated the sequence of events that led to the death of her brother, in a case filed with Teknaf Senior Judicial Magistrate Court around 11:30am

She accused nine people, including Liagat, Pradeep and Nandadulal. Liagat is the number one and Pradeep is the number two accused. The case mentioned 10 witnesses.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Tamanna Farha directed Teknaf Police Station to



A view shows damages at the site of Tuesday's blast in Beirut's port area, Lebanon, yesterday. The death toll from the huge blast has risen to at least 113, Lebanon's Health Minister Hamad Hassan said. At least 4,000 people were also wounded, while dozens of people were still missing as rescue efforts continued, he told reporters.

PHOTO: **REUTERS**

Teknaf, the valley of 'gunfight'

Marine Drive is a 'favourite spot'

Zyma Islam

At least 87 people have been killed in 48 incidents of "gunfights" involving Teknaf police alone between August 1, 2018

and August 1, 2020. An analysis of reports ublished by The Daily Star during this period shows

Pradip Kumar took over as officer-in-charge of Teknaf Model Police Station on October 19, 2018.

A total of 107 incidents of "shootouts" in Cox's Bazar, including 48 in Teknaf, were recorded by this newspaper during the same two-year period. At least 184 people, including 65 Rohingyas, were killed in those incidents.

police, Border Guard SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Apart from Teknaf

Death of ex-major 'isolated incident'

Says army chief; IGP says 'crossfire' is an NGO term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The killing of ex-major Sinha Md Rashed Khan is an isolated incident and it will not cause a rift in the relationship between the army and police, said Chief of Army Benazir Ahmed yesterday.



Staff General Aziz Ahmed and Inspector General of Police

General Aziz and Benazir made the remarks at a joint briefing at Cox's Bazar Army Rest House

Sinha was shot at a police check-post on Marine Drive road in Teknaf upazila of the district on Friday.

A reporter at yesterday's briefing pointed out that "crossfires" took place frequently on Marine Drive road. Benazir then said he would not use the word crossfire. NGOs use the word, he added, they bring money from abroad talking about different issues. There are many things they can say to justify that, and crossfire is one of

them, he said. About the investigation into Sinha's killing, he said, "We can assure you that the government-formed probe body will conduct the investigation impartially."

The relationship between army and police has been good for almost 50 years as both forces have confidence in SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

ask parliament to enact or amend any law, said the Supreme Court in the full text of a verdict regarding Aziz Ahmed Benazir Ahmed river grabbing and

> It said the HC Division had exceeded its jurisdiction while delivering a verdict on the recovery of the land of the

HC can't ask

JS to enact or

amend law

Says top court in

verdict in a river

The High Court does not

have the jurisdiction to

grabbing case

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Turag from two companies. The High Court Division may pass necessary directions to the authorities concerned to protect the biodiversity, ecological balance and environment of Bangladesh. But, the High Court cannot direct the parliament to enact or amend a law or declare any principle to be part

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

BEIRUT EXPLOSION

Four Bangladeshis among the dead

80 others including 21 navy personnel injured; death toll tops 100

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

At least four Bangladeshis have been killed and around 100 others, including Bangladesh Navy officials, have been injured in a deadly warehouse explosion in Lebanon's capital Beirut on Tuesday. Bangladesh embassy in Lebanon's Head of Chancery Abdullah Al

Mamun confirmed this to The Daily Star at 8:00pm yesterday Two of the dead were identified as Mehedi Hasan from Brahmanbaria,

and Mizan from Madaripur. Both of them were working as cleaners in an area close to the warehouse where the explosion took place. Mamun said they had both been working in Lebanon legally for the

last several years. The other two were identified as Rezaul and Rasel Miah, both from Brahmanbaria.

The blast, which was possibly caused due to huge amounts of explosives being stored together, killed around 100 people and injured around 4,000. The tragedy struck while the country is still suffering from months of

political and economic crises and a global pandemic. Of the injured Bangladeshis, 21 are from Bangladesh Navy ship "Bijoy"

which was deployed under peacekeeping mission United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Maritime Task Force.

One Navy official was injured severely in the explosion, said a press release by Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR).

All the injured navy officials were undergoing treatment at the SEE PAGE 2 COL 3 MORE ON PAGE 6



more Japanese investment

Talks to Abe over phone on pandemic assistance, Japan-funded projects

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought more investment from Japan to further bolster economic ties as well as put emphasis on further strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two friendly nations.

The PM was talking to her Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe over phone yesterday afternoon.

the nearly 25-minute During conversation that began around 1:05pm, the two leaders discussed issues related to SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

> BANGLADESH GETS FIRST TRANCHE OF \$1B JAPANESE LOAN - PAGE 12

Several cities, large towns see spike in Covid cases

Says WHO report on Bangladesh; 33 die, 2,654 infected in a day STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some large towns and cities have been witnessing a spike in Covid-19 cases.

The World Health Organization in its latest situation report divided the country in five segments according to the severity of the outbreak, below 250 per million people being the lowest and 2,000 per

million the highest. Bhola, Bagerhat, Jashore, Kushtia, Pabna, Natore, Sirajganj, Chapainawabganj, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Sherpur, and Netrakona districts are in the segment with the lowest number of

The number of people per million infected with the coronavirus gives a glimpse of the severity, officials said.

The highest rate is in Dhaka where about 14,824 people per

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



People arrive in the capital after spending the Eid in their hometowns. Train and bus terminals were crowded over the last couple of days with people returning to work after the holidays. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

Fun trip turns into tragedy

17 drown as boat sinks in Netrakona haor

STAR REPORT

At least 17 people drowned as a boat capsized in Gobindasree Haor in Madan upazila of Netrokona

Forty-eight people were on the boat and enjoying a post-Eid get-together programme before the accident took place around 12:00 noon, said police.

The victims are teachers, students and guardians of Kunapara Markajul Sunna Madrasa in Sadar upazila of Mymensingh, said AKM Manirul Islam, additional superintendent of Mymensingh police.

Shamsul Islam, sub-inspector of Madan Police Station, said 17 bodies were recovered as of 4:30 pm. The divers of fire service conducted the rescue operation there.

Freedom fighter Idris Ali lost his eldest son in the boat capsize. The 85-year-old was wailing, "Even yesterday I was telling my son that he might have had to say my Janaza prayers soon as I was not doing well."

The people who died in the incident are Hafez Maulana Md Mahfuzur Rahman, 35, principal (Mohtamim), his two sons Masqur Hasan, 11, and Mahbub Hasan, 17, both madrsa students; Mahfuz's niece Lubana Akter, 12, and Julfa Akter, 9; Maulana Zakir Hossain, 25, Mujahid, 16, and Hafez Jubayer, 25; Hafez Maulana Hamidul Islam, 35, Saiful islam Ratan, 30, Jahidul Islam, 20, Shafiqul Islam, 40, Shahidul Islam, 35, and Ichha Mia, 40.

All of them hailed from Konapara and its adjacent villages in Char Sirta union of Mymensingh Sadar upazila. Meanwhile, the death toll in two other boat capsize incidents in Manikganj and Habiganj rose to eight.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Politician Murder

German neo-Nazi on trial admits to killing

AFP, Frankfurt am Main

A German neo-Nazi on trial over the murder of pro-refugee politician Walter Luebcke yesterday admitted to the killing that has shocked the nation and highlighted the growing threat of right-wing extremism.

"I fired the shot," Stephan Ernst, 46, told the court of the killing in a statement read out by his defence.

Federal prosecutors have said Ernst was motivated by "racism and xenophobia" when he allegedly shot Luebcke in the head on June 1, 2019. Luebcke's killing is believed to be Germany's first far-right political

assassination since World War II.

Apologising to the victim's family, Ernst said he had carried out a "cowardly and cruel" act.

Fun trip turns into tragedy

In Manikganj, the divers of fire service recovered bodies of two children from Mandatta Beel in Daulatpur Upazila of Manikganj yesterday morning, 18 hours after a boat capsized there. Previously, three bodies were

recovered from the spot.

of Daulatpur Police Station, said no bodies as soon as the news broke out.

one else remained missing in the boat capsize incident after the two children's bodies were recovered.

In Habiganj, the death toll rose to three in the boat capsized incident in Rahmatpur Panchkari Haor. The dead are of the same family.

Baniachang Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge Masud Rana said police recovered the

A murder in cold blood

record the case. She also ordered the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to investigate the incident and submit a report on the progress of investigation within seven days.

Sinha, who served in the Special Security Force (SSF) and took voluntary retirement from the army two years ago, was killed in police firing at the checkpost, triggering an uproar across the country.

Thirty-six-year-old Sinha had been making travel documentaries for a YouTube channel called "Just Go". He had been staying at Nilima Resort in Himchhari of Cox's Bazar along with Shifat and two other students of a private university for around a month to film a travel documentary.

On the fateful night, he was returning to Cox's Bazar from Teknaf along with Shifat in his car after a shoot.

But the police claimed in the FIR that Sinha had aimed his pistol at them after obstructing a search of his vehicle and they shot back in self-defence. They also claimed that they seized drugs from the

Two cases have been initiated over the incident. But the police account raised many questions, prompting the government to form a committee to investigate the incident.

"PREMEDIATED MURDER"

In the case, Sharmen alleged that it was a premeditated murder and inspector Liagat shot his brother in cold blood after being instigated and instructed by Pradeep over the phone.

The case statement said Sinha fell to the ground in a pool of blood and when he attempted to stand up to flee for his life, accused Safanur Kabir and Constable Mostofa pinned him down on the ground again.

Liaqat then fired one more bullet at Sinha to make sure he is dead, said the case document.

After a while, OC Pradeep appeared at the scene. He kicked Sinha's face and body to find out whether he was dead. Pradeep also tried to mutilate Sinha's

face by rubbing his boots on it, the statement said. The plaintiff of the case alleged that the accused policemen then drove

away the eye-witnesses and locals by

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27/07/2020 to 12/08/2020

Sadar Hospital at 11:45pm and the duty doctor declared him dead, the statement said.

The statement said to hush up the killing, a false and baseless allegation that Sinha tried to fire at police was made up by the cops and two separate cases were filed against Sinha and Shifat. Even after such a cruel murder, the accused were out to hatch conspiracy with their seniors to divert the incident to a different direction, it added.

After coming out of the courtroom, Sharmen said, "I demand justice for my brother's killing. My brother was a

Lawyer Md Mostafa, who represented her in court, said they expect to get

WHERE IS OC PRADEEP?

The officer-in-charge left his police station on Tuesday saying he was sick, said Cox's Bazar Superintendent of Police ABM Masud Hossain.

A high official of district police said that Pradeep would be withdrawn

A recent video message from the OC has been doing the rounds on social media where he says yaba traders from every neighborhood in Teknaf would be arrested. Those who cannot be found; their houses, shops and vehicles would be "uprooted".

"Those homes will be ghostly attacked. Some houses will ghostly catch fire. Some vehicles may catch fire ghostly," he adds.

The OC also said they would declare Teknaf as a drug free zone by December

The video message had created a stir in Cox's Bazar with many questioning how a responsible law enforcement officer could publicly threaten to attack and set fire to houses, shops and other establishments

Many locals said houses and boats of drug traffickers were being attacked, vandalised or set on fire after "all efforts" by law enforcers to eradicate drugs have

According to police sources, more than 100 houses were attacked before the country was hit by Covid-19 in March and people in the area are in panic following the OC's public announcement.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holding the copy of a new book titled Shaheed Sheikh Kamal Alomukhi Ek Pran while addressing a discussion from the Gono Bhaban yesterday, the 71st birthday of Kamal.

Four Bangladeshis among the dead and that most others were given primary flights for us at the soonest," he said.

American University of Beirut Medical Centre, while others were taken to Hamoud Hospital by air ambulance following primary treatment under the supervision of UNIFIL. They are

currently out of danger, said the ISPR. The Bangladesh Navy warship Bijoy", which had been participating in UN Peacekeeping Missions since 2010, remains deployed in the Mediterranean as a member of Multinational Maritime Taskforce to establish peace.

The ISPR said the ship works to prevent illegal arms and ammunition from entering Lebanese land, monitors suspicious ships and aircrafts, rescues ships in trouble and provides training to the Lebanese Navy.

The damages sustained by the Bangladesh Navy ship is being assessed. Bangladesh Navy Headquarters are in constant communication with the ship, UNIFIL headquarters and Bangladesh Embassy in Lebanon.

Jahangir Major General Mustahidur Rahman, Bangladesh ambassador to Beirut, visited the ship following the incident.

"Within half an hour, we rushed to the ship. We are looking after them [the injured officials] and the other Bangladeshis," said Abdullah

He said the embassy has information that about 10 Bangladeshi migrants were under treatment at two hospitals

each other. It will not deteriorate

because of this incident, he added,

some quarters are trying to fish in

troubled water, but they will not

held two meetings with high-ups.

both sides are snocked over the

the directive of the prime minister

and the team started its investigation

for the incident, then the force will

careful in future so that no such

incident repeats, he further said.

"A joint team has been formed at

"If any person is found responsible

Police and army will be very

"We unequivocally want to say

death of Major (retd) Sinha.

over the incident," he said.

not take his responsibility.

General Aziz said the two forces

Death of ex-major

treatment and released. All of those injured did not need hospitalisation, he

"We are asking all to contact us if they need medical assistance," Mamun

Babu Saha, a Bangladeshi working in Lebanon for over a decade, said the explosion has rocked the already vulnerable migrants in Lebanon, home to some 160,000 Bangladeshis.

Many Bangladeshis there have been facing joblessness because of months of political unrest and economic downturn. Those with jobs were facing troubles due to the high prices of dollars, which has raised the living cost, while their savings have gone down.

"Meanwhile, ` the coronavirus pandemic has forced most of the Bangladeshis to remain indoors," he told this correspondent by phone With the situation worsening due to

the explosion, the migrants are feeling that it would be difficult for them to stay, he added. Another migrant Rana Ahmed said

he lives around 10km away from the

people, including 'So many Bangladeshis, were injured. It's a very difficult time here for all of us. We have been trying to go home for many months, but failed because of flight suspension. I would request the Bangladesh government to arrange

that nothing that may cause rift in

the relationship of the two forces

Security Force (SSF), was shot by

police at Baharchhara police check

on the social media and Transparency

International Bangladesh (TIB)

in a statement yesterday said that

there was no alternative to ensuring

accountability by conducting credible

by the Bangladesh Army and

case papers of Bangladesh Police.

After an acceptable investigation,

countrymen should be informed

whether police fired bullets in

contradictions

investigations

investigations into the killing.

are

primary

It triggered widespread criticisms

Sinha, who served in the Special

will happen."

"There

between

Meanwhile, Lebanese rescue workers dug through the mangled wreckage of the buildings yesterday, looking for survivors after the massive warehouse explosion sent a devastating blast wave across Beirut.

Officials said the toll was expected to rise after the blast at port warehouses that stored highly explosive material. Officials estimated that up to 300,000 Beirut residents will be left homeless. The blast was the most powerful ever to rip through Beirut, a city still scarred by civil war three decades ago.

It sent a mushroom cloud into

the sky and rattled windows on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, about 100 miles (160 km) away. President Michel Aoun said

2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, used in fertilisers and bombs, had been stored for six years at the port without safety measures. He told the nation the government was determined to investigate and expose what happened as soon as possible, to hold the responsible and the negligent accountable, and to sanction them with the most severe punishment.

An official source familiar with preliminary investigations blamed the incident on "inaction and negligence", saying nothing was done by committees and judges to order the removal of hazardous material.

defence..." TIB said.

killings should stop.

drive began in 2018.

during the incident.

gunfight killing".

incident

considered an isolated one, said

the rights body and added that the

anti-constitutional and extrajudicial

"gunfights" with law enforcers in

Cox's Bazar since the anti-narcotic

of three university students who

were with the retired army officer

fair and impartial investigations and

justice for every "extrajudicial or

provide legal assistance to the three

As of July 30, 287 people died in

It also called for legal protection

Ain o Salish Kendra demanded

It also announced that it will

cannot

He could've given a lot to society had he been alive

Says Hasina at a discussion marking 71st birth anniversary of Sheikh Kamal

UNB, Dhaka

Describing Sheikh Kamal as a versatile person, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vesterday said he could have contributed a lot to society had he been alive today.

"This multifaceted talent in one person is really rare ... had Kamal been alive now, he could have given many things to this society. He could have contributed [more] to all sectors of the country He had contributed, too," she said

The premier was addressing a virtual discussion marking the 71st birth anniversary of Kamal, the eldest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina joined the programme, organised by youth and sports ministry, from the Gono Bhaban. It was telecast live from Jatiya Krira Parishad Bhaban.

The PM said Kamal was two years younger than her, but he was mature in the case of knowledge, wisdom and many other things. "His talents were multifaceted. He was a sports organiser on one hand and he had potentials in the cultural arena on the other."

She said Kamal had set up "Spondon Shilpi Gosthi" and contributed towards founding Dhaka Theatre. "He used to act, sing songs and play the Sitar."

Kamal had great passion for Abahani and he made it stronger, she said.

Hasina recalled when she and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana were set to go to Germany on June 30, 1975 after Kamal's marriage, he asked her to bring Adidas boots for the players of his football team.

Hasina, in her emotion-choked oice, said her brother Kamal never sought anything for him.

Talking about his contributions to politics, the PM said his role in politics was also enormous. She said Kamal, a valiant freedom

ighter, had played an active and bold role in every movement and struggle after the Six-Point Programme, particularly the 1969 Mass Upsurge after the arrest of the Father of the Nation in the "Agartola conspiracy" case.

The premier said Kamal had actively

participated in the Liberation War after naving proper training.

She said it was a strange matter that the birthdays of Kamal and her mother Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib are on the 5th and 8th of August respectively and in this very month she lost most of her family members.

Mentioning that her brothers Kamal and Jamal were commissioned officers of Bangladesh Army, Hasina said they along with other family members were killed brutally by those with whom he

PM's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Raĥman and State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid spoke at the function, presided over by State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel.

Hasina seeks

FROM PAGE 1

the Covid-19 pandemic, bilateral economic cooperation, and the projects being implemented with Japanese assistance, said PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim.

million (equivalent to 35 billion yen) to Bangladesh as loan for combating coronavirus in Bangladesh. The PM's press secretary said Abe

Japan has pledged to provide \$329

informed Hasina that their parliament already approved the loan.

Hasina apprised Abe of the current Rohingya situation. In reply, the Japanese PM said he would talk to the Myanmar leadership to solve the Rohingya crisis, the press secretary said.

She thanked Abe for providing protective equipment like PPE, masks, and goggles to Bangladesh to contain coronavirus transmission.

Hasina hoped that the 2020 Summer Olympics, which was scheduled to be held this year in Tokyo but postponed due to the pandemic, would be held in 2021 in Japan on time.

Several cities

FROM PAGE 1

million were infected. The second highest rate is in Chattogram with 1,609 infected per million.

At yesterday's briefing, Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the Directorate General of Health Services, said 11,160 samples were tested in 83 labs across the country in the 24 hours since August l morning.

Of them, 2,654 tested positive for coronavirus, which is 23.78 percent of the samples tested.

According to data, 20.35 percent of all tests done so far turned out to be positive. The total number of positive cases in

the country now stands at 2,46,674 and the officially acknowledged death toll at

In the said 24 hours, 33 people died from coronavirus, Prof Nasima added. Among the 33 reported dead yesterday, 25 were male. Two were aged between 31 and 40 years; four between

41 and 50; eight between 51 and 60; 10 between 61 and 70; six between 71 and 80; one between 81 and 90; and two between 91 and 100, she said. At least 1,890 Covid-19 patients

recovered in the said 24 hours taking the total number of recoveries to 1,41,750. A total of 758 people were put in

isolation during the period, she added.

Teknaf, the valley of 'gunfight'

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Degree!!!

Bangladesh battalions-2 and 34, Rab-15, Rab-7, Cox's Bazar Model Police Station and Ukhiya Police Station were involved in those "shootouts". The Rapid Action Battalion, which has been

tasked with the investigation of Maj (retd) Sinha Rashed Khan's killing, was involved in 21 incidents of "shootout" between August 2018 to 2020 as per the coverage of this newspaper. At least 38 people were killed in those incidents At least 52 people were killed in "gunfights" with

the BGB. No law enforcer was killed in any of these incidents. As per what the statements put out by the BGB to this newspaper, a majority of these incidences happened when alleged criminals were crossing the border or the Naf river with drugs. Marine Drive, the 80-kilometre long road linking

Cox's Bazar with Teknaf, is one spot where at least nine incidents of "shootout" happened, with most of them occurring in Shamlapur area. Maj (retd) Sinha Rashed Khan was also killed in an incident there. But there are other areas where "gunfights"

commonly occurred. The areas include Baharchhara Nayapara, Whykhong, Hnila union, Dargapara and Jadimura Hill. In most of the cases, the law enforcers claimed

that those killed in "shootouts" were drug traders. Besides, there were "robbers" and "murderers" also. The Daily Star could not independently verify the claims in most of the cases. There were two major story lines for all the

"gunfights". One is that those killed would be

meeting at a spot, the law enforcers would reach there, and they would come under attack from "criminals". A "shootout" would ensue and one or more of the alleged criminals would be killed.

The other story is that an alleged criminal is arrested, and the law enforcers take him to a spot to recover drugs or arms. The alleged criminal's gang members would be lying in wait. A "shootout" would follow, and only the person leading the law enforcers to the spot would be killed. No cases against the law enforcers were reported

to have been filed by the families of the deceased in connection with any of the "gunfight" incidents covered by this newspaper. The last "shootout" incident on Marine Drive

happened at 4:00am on June 24 this year. Imam Hossen, a 30-year-old resident of Hnila union, who the Teknaf police claimed to be a drug peddler, was killed in a "gunfight" with police. Law enforcers claimed to have recovered a gun, three bullets and 20,000 yaba pills from the spot. The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the law enforcers' claims. On March 11 this year, two Rohingya men were

killed in a "gunfight" with Rab-15 on Marine Drive. The deceased are Saiful Islam, 38, and Nur Kamal, 34. The company commander of Rab-15, Shahed

Mahtab, had told this newspaper that they had a tip-off that a group of "robbers" were preparing to commit a robbery at 1:00am, so they raided the spot. The robbers opened fire, forcing the Rab men to fire

1MDB scandal fugitives hiding in China

Say Malaysian police

AFP, KUALA LUMPUR

The alleged 1MDB mastermind and other suspects in the scandal are believed to be hiding out in China, Malaysia's police chief said yesterday, urging authorities there to help hunt down the fugitives.

Billions of dollars were stolen from sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad and bankrolled a global spending spree, with looted cash

Former Malaysian leader Najib Razak lost power in 2018 over his involvement in the fraud and was last week convicted in a 1MDB-linked trial, but several other suspects remain at large.

used to buy everything from pricey art to real estate.

The most prominent is Low Taek Jho, a bespectacled, chubby financier known for partying with Hollywood A-listers and accused of being the scandal's mastermind.

Prof. Md. Shafiqul Islam Principal (Acting)

Smokers need not apply

Prof. Dr. Kazi Fayz Ahamed Director, MBA Program

Offer easy loans to create entrepreneurs

Agri minister urges banks

Agriculture Minister Dr Md Abdur Razzaque yesterday urged banks to come forward with easy loans to help create entrepreneurs in both agriculture and non-

The minister came up with the call at the inaugural programme of the 958th branch of Agrani Bank in Dhanbari upazila of Tangail from his official residence.

He said the importance of agriculture in the country's economy is immense. The overall development of the country and sustainable poverty alleviation will be possible through the development of agriculture.

"And to do this, we need to create entrepreneurs in both agriculture and non-agriculture sectors and cooperate with them in the development of rural economy," said the minister.

He said there are many opportunities to create small entrepreneurs at the local level in agricultural processing, manufacturing and repairing of retail agricultural machinery in the country. For this, banks need to come forward with the attitude of creating entrepreneurs in these sectors, he



A seller shows off the fish-in-demand, currently attracting large crowds to the bazaar. This market at Mirpur's Pirerbagh was crowded yesterday, with people looking to buy hilsa at cheaper prices. A fish weighing about 1.5kg was being sold for around Tk 700-800.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

FAKE COVID-19 CERTIFICATES BY JKG

Charges pressed against Sabrina, seven others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday pressed charges against eight people, including JKG Health Care Chairman Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury, in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates.

The other accused are: Sabrina's husband JKG Chief Executive Officer Ariful Chowdhury, Executive Officer Shafiqul Islam, graphic designer Humayun Kabir Himu and four other employees - Himu's wife Tanzina Patwary, Jebunnesa Rima, Sayeed Chowdhury and Biplob Das.

The IO dropped the name of Mamunur Rashid as his involvement with the incident was not proved.

Of the accused, Shafiqul, Humayun and Tanzina gave confessional statements before magistrates on different dates narrating their involvement in issuing fake Covid-19 certificates.

Md Liakot Ali, an inspector of the Detective Branch (DB) of police and also the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

In the charge sheet, the IO said the charges brought against them of issuing fake Covid-19 certificates were primarily proven and they should be brought under trial for their alleged involvement with the incident.

On June 23, Kamal Hossain, who was given a fake Covid-19 certificate from JKG Health Care, filed the case against Humayun, his wife Tanzina and several unknown people with Tejgaon Police Station in this regard. Police arrested the couple the same day and they confessed to their

involvement in issuing fake Covid-19 certificates. Following their confessional statements, police arrested seven others including Dr Sabrina and her husband on different dates.

Another accused Shafiqul Islam gave a confessional statement before a Dhaka magistrate.

DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

Rokeya univ teacher granted bail by HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Sirajum Munira, a suspended teacher from Begum Rokeya University Rangpur (BRUR), in a case under the Digital Security Act. The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul

Ahasan granted the ad-interim bail after virtually hearing a petition. Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star that there is no

legal bar for her client to get released from Rangpur jail, following the HC order. Law enforcers arrested Sirajum Munira, a teacher of BRUR's Bangla department, on June 14 in a case filed under the Digital Security Act on charges of posting derogatory updates on her Facebook profile, defaming

leader and lawmaker Mohammad Nasim. Members of Tazhat police station of Rangpur Metropolitan Police reportedly arrested Sirajum Munira from her residence in Rangpur city at midnight on that same

the recently-deceased veteran Awami League

KILLING OF EX-ARMY MAJOR SINHA

Three youths caught up in accusations

Just before heading to Cox's Bazar a month ago, Shipra Debnath, a student of Stamford University in Dhaka, told her brother Suvojit Debnath: "I will direct a documentary."

However, this aspiring young filmmaker's dreams were shattered on July 31 after Teknaf police shot dead an ex-army major Sinha Mohammad Reshed Khan, who was

producer of their travel documentary.
All three crew members -- Shipra, Shahedul Islam Sifat and Tahsin Rifat Nur -students of Stamford University's Film and Media Studies department -- are aspiring filmmakers, said their family members, teachers and friends.

Shipra and Sifat, third-year students, are in jail now. Police handed over Rifat, a finalyear student, to his guardians' custody.

The three students and Sinha were staying at Nilima Resort in Himchhari area of Marine Drive Road to film the documentary.

Ramu Police arrested Shipra from the resort in a narcotics case on early August 1, claiming they recovered bottles of liquor

Her terrified family said the allegations against Shipra are untrue and fabricated.

Shipra's brother Suvojit believes her sister is a victim of police action. "They tried to create a plot in which they can cover up their misdeeds and select the most-known technique, involving drugs," Suvojit said.

The brother added that he was able to talk to Shipra after police picked her up from the resort on that night. Till then, she had no idea what was happening as police did not inform them.

Later, police released Rifat, but arrested Shipra in a narcotics case.

Suvojit said his parents are now sick and living at their village home.

Another arrestee Sifat was arrested in two cases -- one on murder charges of his coworker Sinha and the other for narcotics. His uncle Masum Billah termed the cases

"Police wrote in the FIR that ex-major Sinha was killed by their guns and bullets. But they charged Sifat under section 302. It is self-contradictory," Masum said.

Masum told this correspondent that he was able to talk to Sifat after the incident.

"Sifat informed me over phone that they were carrying camera, tripod, hard disk, laptop, ... Police are providing no information about the seized items."

"However, police in the case statement mentioned that they recovered 250 grammes of cannabis and 50 yaba pills. The digits of the recovered items itself show that it is fictional," he claimed. Masum, who is now in Cox's Bazar,

alleged that police are not helping them with any information. Hailing from Barguna, Sifat had been

living at Masum's place in Dhaka. Advocate ZI Khan Panna, chairman

of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), which is offering legal assistance to the accused students, told The Daily Star, "The families are not even being able to protest publicly for their release because the state is involved

The rights organisation in a statement yesterday called on authorities to not harass the young students.

'It's a clear violation of int'l standards of freedom of expression'

Article 19 on India's J&K policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UK-based human rights organisation Article 19 has expressed deep concern over what it termed "the ongoing blanket of communication restriction, harassment and intimidation of journalists" and "the shrinking press freedom" in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is a clear violation of international freedom of expression standards in the country," said the organisation's South Asia Regional Director Faruq Faisel in a statement yesterday, marking one year since India abrogated the Article 370 and 35A of its constitution that provided some autonomy to the Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir.

A year has gone by with activists, journalists, and local and international organisations pleading to the Indian government to restore some normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, but it has fallen to deaf ears, the rights body said.

Article 19 said the Indian government has used the pandemic to impose further lockdowns in the region. It is tightening the grip over the region to curb any sort of

Lighter vessel capsizes at Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A lighter vessel carrying 950 tonnes of raw sugar capsized at Bay of Bengal near Bhasanchar yesterday morning. One of its 12 crew members, identified

as Gias Uddin, remained missing while Sources at Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) said rescue

vessels of Bangladesh Navy were in search of the missing crew member. The vessel -- MV AL Noor-1 -- after

loading the imported raw sugar from a mother vessel at the outer anchorage of Chattogram port was heading for Narsingdi, said BIWTA Deputy Director Mohammad Salim. It started sinking around six nautical

miles from Bhasanchar around 9:30am when water entered its engine room after a crack developed at the bottom from strong water currents. Staff of lighter vessels MV Akij Logistics-27 and MV Success-33 rushed to the ship and managed to rescue

Tajul Islam, master of MV Akij Logistics-27, told The Daily Star that they rushed there upon hearing a radio message from the sinking vessel. They were able to rescue the crewmen after three hours of effort in the rough water, he

CHILD LABOUR CONVENTION

MJF lauds ILO on universal ratification

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday congratulated International Labour Organisation (ILO) for achieving universal ratification on the child labour convention, thus giving all children legal protection against the worst forms of child labour.

In a statement, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, "We are delighted to learn that with the formal deposition of ratification instrument by Kingdom of Tongo on August 4, ILO achieved universal endorsement of child labour convention adopted by all 187 member states. As a front-runner in Bangladesh in making meaningful changes in the lives of children by withdrawing them from all forms of child labour, MJF joins the global celebration of this historic feat of ILO.' "MJF and a number of child rights organisations assisted the Bangladesh

government to formulate National Child Labour Elimination Policy in 2010. With the universal ratification now in place, we all must create an atmosphere where child labour is unacceptable. Parents, society, NGOs and the government are duty-bound to work for bringing an end to child labour," she added. The MJF executive director also regretted that the country has lost an

entire generation to modern slavery. "We must not allow losing another generation, therefore, this universal ratification should usher in the time for universal accountability," she added. Referring to the declaration of International Year for the Elimination

of Child Labour by the UN, MJF urged the government for prioritising children in all policies to achieve relevant SDG targets.

MJF also emphasised the need for effective coordination between the government and different non-government organisations, and also among different ministries working on children's issues, to eliminate child labour in the country.



Riding a crane-lifted work box, a Dhaka North City Corporation staff uses a hacksaw to sever a glut of wires hung from electric pillars around the Dhanmondi area. City authorities have launched a drive to cut off illegal connections by service providers operating in the area. This photo was taken yesterday.



A city corporation worker sprays insecticide around Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the capital to keep Aedes mosquitoes in check. Both DNCC and DSCC have taken measures to tackle dengue, as the vectorborne disease exhausted the country's healthcare system last year.

Two killed by road crash in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two people were killed and five persons injured in a road accident on Thakurgaon-Dhaka highway at Jagannathpur in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Tuesday night.

The deceased were identified as Masiran Nesa (105), wife of late Abdur Rashid of Dalua village under Birganj upazila in Dinajpur; and Rahman (25), son of Mohammad Hanif of Chakhaldi village, Thakurgaon, said police.

The accident occurred at around 9:30pm when a Dhaka-bound bus collided head-on with a battery-run auto-rickshaw, Thakurgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Tanvirul Islam told The Daily Star.

All the victims were in the autorickshaw, said the OC, adding that Masiran died on the spot.

On information, police and fire fighters rushed to the spot and took the injured -identified as Nasima Khatun (40), Amena Khatun (80), Anwara Begum (60), Sajeeb (30) and Gopal (25) from Chakhaldi village -- to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

Police seized the bus but its driver and his helper managed to flee the scene. Highway police filed a case with Maidandighi Highway Police Station in

this connection, OC said.

TK 2,000CR MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

Petition filed to show 3 AL leaders arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday submitted a petition to show three Awami League leaders of Faridpur town unit arrested in a Tk 2,000 crore money laundering case.

The accused are -- Nazmul Islam Khandakar (61), president of AL Faridpur town unit, Billal Hossain (54), former treasurer of Faridpur Sramik League, and Arifur Rahman (40), general secretary of town unit Jubo League. They were arrested from different places in the town last week.

Uttam Kumar Biswas, assistant superintendent of police of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and also the case's investigation officer, submitted the petition to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamunur Rashid fixed August 19 to hear the petition in presence of the accused.

The same court fixed August 12 to hear another petition submitted on July 30 to show arrested three others accused -- Mahfuzur Rahman Mamun, Faridpur town AL joint general secretary, Md Moniruzzaman, Faridpur Pourasava extended ward 25 AL general secretary, and Sumon Saha, an AL activist -- in the same case.

All six accused were arrested on the basis of confessional statements of two brothers, who were arrested earlier.

On July 24, Sajjad Hossain alias Barkat, former AL general secretary of the unit, and his brother Imtiaz Hasan alias Rubel, former president of Faridpur Press Club, gave confessional statements before a magistrate narrating their involvement in laundering money.

SM Miraj Al Mahmud, a CID inspector, lodged the case against the two brothers under the money laundering act with Kafrul Police Station on June 26.

It's a clear

FROM PAGE 3 dissent and the State is using frequent intimidation and harassment as a tool to stifle Kashmiri journalists, the statement said.

"Many journalists in Jammu and Kashmir have been arrested, detained, and interrogated for reporting under the lockdown, without any legitimate reason given by the authorities," it added.

Additionally, the Indian government has now implemented a New Media Policy 2020 for Jammu and Kashmir, which further increases the government's control over journalists and press in the region.

Article 19 said this policy gives Jammu and Kashmir's Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) the de facto right to exercise pre- and post-publication control over all journalism in the territory for the next five years.

"This is of great concern, considering that a year has gone by with no stop to the violence and ease of the restrictions put on Jammu and Kashmir and this new policy essentially giving the government a leeway to prosecute and discredit any journalist who stand to critique the State," said Faruq Faisel.

Global FROM PAGE 12

Trump said the coronavirus outbreak is as under control as it can get in the **United States**

"They are dying, that's true," Trump said in an interview with the Axios news website. "It is what it is. But that doesn't mean we aren't doing everything we can. It's under control as much as you can control it. This is a horrible plague."

Erosion hits 10 districts

day. Now, my family of seven has become homeless.

In Manikganj, over 500 houses and various establishments have already been washed away by flood water. A total of 7,645 square metres in six upazilas have gone under water.

In Brahmanbaria, around 50 houses, around four square kilometres of land, one kitchen market, one mosque and five rice mills have been devoured by the river in the last month.

Pradip Chandra Das, a school teacher of Panishwar village under Sarail upazila, said, 'We are struggling to prevent river erosion. Many of this area have lost their homes."

In Sunamganj, as flood water recedes, many riverside areas are facing extreme

Most of the rivers have become shallow over decades and water recedes slowly, causing erosion, said Md Sabibur Rahman,

executive engineer of WDB in Sunamganj. In Tangail, 780 houses were lost to erosion at six upazilas over the last month. Besides, two educational institutions at Kalihati and Nagarpur upazilas and one religious institution also went into the

rivers, according to official data. The erosion by Pungli river, a branch of the Jamuna, also hit the Tangail town protection embankment had at several

In Sirajganj, over 200 houses, a mosque and a huge amount of livestock was lost to flood at Songacha area under Sadar upazila, said locals.

Most of the people could not move their houses, livestock and other valuables as erosion was quick.

"I saw my house and poultry firm of 500 chickens going under water in the span of one and a half hours," said Aminul Islam, a

Bangabandhu

as water is receding.

also appeals to people to observe austerity in their day-to-day lives. EROSION THREATENS CHANDPUR

Four salt factories have been eaten up by the Meghna erosion in Chandpur. Puran Bazar is also facing threat of total extinction from erosion. The overall flood situation in the

northern part of the country is improving

RELIEF TALKS WITH INDIA

resident of Pachthakuri village.

safer places.

The sudden erosion was due to the huge

In Nilphamari, the river devoured 215

houses and around 200 acres of cultivable

land in the last five days. Over 500 people

displaced by river erosion have moved to

Aroz Ali, 65, of Char Kharibari shoal,

under Dimla upazila, said, "Around 32

houses of our village went under water

in the last few days as the Teesta started

schools and cropland went under water

Tangail, Manikganj, Brahmanbaria, Nilphamari, Bogura, Pabna and Sylhet

3 schoolgirls raped

According to the police official, one of

the three victims went out of her home

following family feud on the day. On

information, rest of the two offered her

company and they went to the town's Tiger

Following their movement, a man asked

On information, the duo came to the

Later, the victims lodged a complaint

with police with the help of their family

members. The law enforcers then arrested

the duo early yesterday and produced them

them about their issue and offered them

accommodation for the night. He then

spot and took the girls to a house in Khulshi

area. There, they raped the girls overnight

Pass area together around 8:30pm.

and fled the scene in the morning.

In Gaibandha, many houses, temples,

Our Correspondents from Lalmonirhat,

receding with a circular current.'

during the recent floods.

contributed to the story.

called the two accused.

before the court.

pressure of water, said Md Shafikul Islam,

executive engineer of Sirajganj WDB.

The three-day conference between Bangladesh and India on refugee rehabilitation and relief requirements concludes today. The Indian team is led by Relief and Labour Minister RK Khadilkar while the Bangladeshi side is headed by Relief and Rehabilitation Minister AHM Kamaruzzaman.

SOURCES: August 7, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.



NRB Bank Ltd celebrated its seventh anniversary at the bank's corporate head office in the capital on Tuesday. Due to the pandemic, the bank's management decided to celebrate using digital platforms. NRB Bank Managing Director and CEO Mamoon Mahmood Shah and Deputy Managing Director Md Khurshed Alam were present

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any or all of the following tender, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below:

- Civil, Electrical & Networking works at present premises of our Dholaipar Branch,
- 2. Civil, Electrical & Networking works at present premises of our Dania Branch, Dhaka.
- 3. Supply, installation & commissioning of Air cooler at our (i) Ashulia Branch, Dhaka, (ii) Jashore Branch with IBW, Jashore, (iii) Bondar Bazar Branch, Sylhet, (iv) Panchagarh Branch, Panchagarh, (v) Nandina Bazar Branch, Jamalpur, (vi) Mymensingh Main Branch with IBW, Mymensingh, (vii) Dumuria Uposhakha under Kayerbazar Branch, Khulna, (viii) Madhupur Uposhakha under Bhaighat Branch, Tangail & (ix) Bauphal Uposhakha under Kalaiya Bandar Branch, Patuakhali.

Please visit our web site, https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp for details. Interested Parties may purchase the Tender document by 18 August 2020 duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer by 19 August 2020 at 11.00 AM.

> Dilip Kumar Paul General Manager



Establishment Division Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka. FROM PAGE 12

Tagore

Academy, Shishu Academy and different government and non-government institutions and cultural organisations have set up programmes on a limited

The wait

FROM PAGE 12 centuries is ending," Modi said in a speech, after taking off a white mask that he wore as a novel coronavirus precaution.

"See the amazing power of Lord Ram. Buildings were destroyed, there was a lot of effort to eradicate his existence, but Ram remains in our mind even today.'

জমি বিক্ৰয়

৫ কাঠার দক্ষিন কর্ণার প্লট নং ১২, রোড-৪১৫, সেক্টর-৮, পূর্বাচল আইকন টাওয়ার ও বানিজ্য মেলার কাছাকাছি। ০১৭১৫-০৩৯২২৬



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids using "Two-envelope system" from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

 RFP/BAN/2020/006: For conducting a scoping study for establishment of an education management information systems (MIS) at the Directorate General of Medical Education (DGME), Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of Bangladesh.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: 17:00hrs, 16 August 2020

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO- Country Office for Bangladesh, United House, 10 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

Dhaka gets first tranche

And the agreement signed yesterday between ERD Secretary Fatima Yasmin and Japanese Ambassador Ito Naoki and JICA Country Chief Hayakawa Yuho were for the first tranche of the loan, he said.

"Like the others, Japan do not sign agreements for the entire loan amount at once. They do it in phases.

The remaining portion of the loan would be given in two phases soon, he said requesting anonymity as he is not authorised to speak with the media.

The first tranche, which is of \$320 million (35 billion yen), would be used to fund the government's stimulus packages amounting to Tk 103,117 crore, which is about 3.7 percent of the country's GDP, announced to shake off the ill effects of the

"This is timely support for Bangladesh amid the COVID crisis," the Economic Relations Division said in a press release yesterday.

The funds will contribute to the health and economic recovery, which will eventually contribute to promoting the country's social and economic stabilisation

KL to deport

end of August, said The Star report.

in an Al Jazeera documentary.

Without Borders (RSF).

for Independent Journalism.

abuses to light".

Rayhan has since apologised.

Rayhan is alleged to have made false allegations on

Malaysia's treatment of illegal immigrants in its fight

against the Covid-19 pandemic when he was interviewed

He was arrested on July 24 by a team of immigration

Rights groups and global journalists' platforms

condemned Malaysia's moves to arrest and deport

Rayhan for criticising the government's treatment of

migrant workers on a news show, saying such moves

underscored the country's backsliding on press freedom

arrest "clearly shows that the current authorities in

Malaysia don't tolerate any independent reporting and

consequently have very little respect for press freedom,

said Daniel Bastard, Asia Pacific director for Reporters

Rights groups said Rayhan's arrest will also make the

millions of migrant workers in Malaysia all the more

reluctant to speak to the press about alleged abuses, raising the risk that they will fester, according to the VoA

"Now the implication is that most other migrant

workers will be completely afraid of speaking out," said

Wathshlah Naidu, executive director of Malaysia's Centre

Matthew Bugher, Asia programme director for

freedom of expression advocates Article 19, said the

arrest will further "stifle the media's ability to bring..

Combined with the pressure on Al-Jazeera, Rayhan's

in recent months. Voice of America reported vesterday.

officers from the Putrajaya office and has been remanded.

FROM PAGE 12

and development efforts, it added.

The interest on the loan would be 0.01 percent and the repayment period 15 years including a four-year grace period, according to the ERD press release.

The loan would not have any impact on the financing of the projects JICA have already committed, the ERD official said.

Japan is the single largest bilateral development partner of Bangladesh, providing financial support for the country's socioeconomic development. Until June, Japan has provided \$14.23 billion in official development assistance.

The Fareast nation will provide another \$1.7 billion to Bangladesh under the 41st ODA package for seven ongoing projects.

The projects include the construction of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib railway bridge that would go over the Jamuna river, the Matarbari ultra supercritical coal-fired power plant and the Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit.

The loan agreement is expected to be signed next week, another ERD official told The Daily Star yesterday wishing not to be

AI helps

FROM PAGE 12

RadVid-19 seeks to fill immigration department was informed that the earliest that gap, and help doctors flight available from Kuala Lumpur to Dhaka was at the decide the right course of

treatment for their patients. It analyses chest X-rays and CT scans to find spots on patients' lungs that are likely markers of infection by the new

Kamaluddin observed

Death anniv of

CITY DESK

The 8th death anniversary Advocate Alhaj Kamaluddin

Ahmed Khan, former member of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Association, was observed

on August 1, says a press release. His relatives, friends and well-wishers were asked to

pray for salvation of his soul. Kamaluddin, of Anis A Khan, former managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd, was a philanthropist.

born in He was Chattogram on February 19, 1927. He passed BA from Chittagong College in 1947 and obtained the LLB degree in 1962 from Chittagong Law College.

He was awarded "The Governor of Bengal Medal" in 1942 for his service in Assam during the Second World War. He also served as port commissioner of Chittagong Port and as Honorary Chief Warden of Civil Defence, Chittagong.

He founded Patharghata Girls High School.



of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement

Deadline for application: 20 August 2020

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications of qualified and experienced candidates for the following position to be filled under the "Community-based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/055/LDF)" funded project. The incumbents will be recruited as National Project Personnel

National Community Management Specialist (Fishery & Livelihood)

To apply, visit the FAO employment website at jobs at FAO and complete the on-line application. Only applications received through online portal will be considered. Interested and qualified candidates will find the post descriptions from **Bdjobs.com** also.

All recruitment to FAO posts are made on a competitive and transparent besis. Candidates are encouraged to apply directly to FAO and follow the instructions on the above-mentioned website. Please note that no intermediary is allowed to expedite or facilitate such process. All those who represent themselves as such are fraudulent and should be reported

Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



[স্ব-অর্থায়নে পরিচালিত, রাজনীতি ও ধূমপানমুক্ত] রোড-২, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫, কোন: ৫৮৬১০২৯৪, ৯৬৭৪১১৫



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	মানবিক	প্রভাতি (বাংলা ভার্সন) দিবা (বাংলা ভার্সন)	জিপিএ ৩,৫০ (বিজ্ঞান ও ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা বিভাগ থেকে মানবিক বিভাগে জিপিএ ৩,৫০ আবেদনের জন্য ন্যুনতম জিপিএ ৩,৫০ থাকতে হবে)

- Online-এর মাধ্যমে ঢাকা সিটি কলেজকে পছন্দের তালিকার এক নদরে রেখে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনের সময় থানা 'ধানমডি' নির্বাচন করতে হবে।
- Online-এ আবেদনের গুয়েবসাইট : www.xiclassadmission.gov.bd
- Online-এ ১৫০ টাকা আকোন ফি জমা দিয়ে একজন শিকার্থীকৈ কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচ)টি কলেজে পছন্দক্রম অনুসারে আবেদন করতে হবে। তবে সর্বোচ্চ ১০ (দশ)টি কলেজে পছন্দক্রম অনুসারে আবেদন করতে পারবে
- আবেদনকারীপণ নিমুবর্ণিত Payment Operator-এর মাধ্যমে আবেদন Fee প্রদান করতে পারবে

Payment Operators :

1. Nagad 2. Sonali Bank 3. Teletalk 4. bKash 5. Sure Cash 6. Rocket

● Online-এ আফেনের তরিখ	০৯,০৮,২০২০ (রবিবার) থেকে ২০,০৮,২০২০ (বৃহস্পতিবার) পর্যন্ত (১৫,০৮,২০২০ জাতীয় শোক দিবলে অনলাইন সার্ভিস ও কল সেন্টার বন্ধ থাকবে)				
 ১ম পর্বায়ে নির্বাচিত শিক্ষার্বীদের ফল প্রকাশ 	২৫.০৮,২০২০ (মঙ্গলবার) রাভ ০৮:০০টায়				
 শিক্ষার্থীর selection নিশ্চয়ন (শিক্ষার্থী নিশ্চয়ন না করলে ১ম পর্যায়ের সিলেকশন এবং আবেদন বাতিল হবে) 	২৬,০৮,২০২০ (বুধবার) থেকে ৩০,০৮,২০২০ (রবিবার) রাভ ০৮:০০টা পর্যস্ত				
ছিত্তীয় পর্যায়ের আবেদন গ্রহণ	৩১,০৮,২০২০ (সোমবার) থেকে ০২,০৯,২০২০ (বুধবার) রাভ ০৮:০০টা পর্যস্ত				
পছদক্রম অনুযায়ী ১ম মাইয়েশন ফল প্রকাশ	০৪,০৯,২০২০ (ডক্ৰবার) রাভ ০৮:০০ টার				
 দ্বিতীয় পর্যায়ের আবেদনের ফল প্রকাশ 	০৪,০৯,২০২০ (খন্নবার) রাভ ০৮:০০ টায়				
 দিত্তীয় পর্যায়ের selection নিশ্বয়ন (শিক্ষার্থী নিশ্বয়ন না করলে দিতীয় পর্যায়ের সিলেকশন ও আবেদন বাতিল হবে। 	০৫.০৯.২০২০ (শনিবার) থেকে ০৬.০৯.২০২০ (রবিবার বিকাল ০৫:০০টা পর্যস্ত				
কৃতীয় পর্যাত্তর আবেদন গ্রহণ	০৭,০৯,২০২০ (সোমবার) থেকে ০৮,০৯,২০২০ (মঙ্গলবার)				
পছন্দক্রম অনুযায়ী ২য় মাইগ্রেশনের ফল প্রকাশ	১০,০৯,২০২০ (বৃহস্পতিবার) রাত ০৮:০০টায়				
 তৃতীয় পর্যায়ের আবেদনের ফল প্রকাশ 	১০.০৯.২০২০ (বৃহস্পতিবার) রাত ০৮:০০টায়				
 ভৃত্তীয় পর্যায়ের selection নিশ্চয়ন (শিক্ষার্থী নিশ্চয়ন না করলে ভৃত্তীয় পর্যায়ের দিলেকশন ও আবেদন বাতিল হবে) 	১১,০৯,২০২০ (ডক্রবার) থেকে ১২,০৯,২০২০ (শনিবার রাভ ০৮:০০টা পর্যন্ত)				
কলেজভিত্তিক চূড়ান্ত ফল প্রকাশ	১৩,০৯,২০২০ (রবিবার সকাল ০৮:০০টায়)				
● ভর্তি	১৩.০৯.২০২০ (রবিবার) থেকে ১৫.০৯.২০২০ (মঙ্গলবার) : ভর্তি জনলাইনে হবে				

শিক্ষার্থীকে Registration Fee বাবদ ২০০/- টাকা Online-এ জমা দিয়ে ঢাকা পিটি কলেজে ভর্তির প্রাথমিক নিশ্চয়ন করতে হবে

ভর্তি ও কলেজ সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য :

- প্রভাতি শাখা ছাত্রী এবং দিবা শাখা ছাত্রদের জন্য
- ছাত্রীদের ক্লাস সকাল ০৭:৩০ মিনিট থেকে এবং ছাত্রদের ক্লাস দুপুর ১২:৩০ মিনিট থেকে বক্ত হয়
- সকল শ্রেদিকক শীতাতপ নিয়ন্তিত
- আবেদন করার পদ্ধতি ও ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞারিত তথা বোর্ড ও কলেজের ওয়েবসাইট, কলেজ অফিস ও নেটিশ বোর্ড থেকে জানা যাবে
- প্রয়োজনে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে কলেজের Help Desk থেকে Online-এ আকোনের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বিক সহযোগিতা করা হবে

	গ্রুপ ও শিক্ষার্থীর সংখ্যা	বাংলা মাধ্যম	ইংরেজি ভার্সন
আসন সংখ্যা		ছাত্ৰী:৬০০, ছাত্ৰ:১০০০ ছাত্ৰী:৭০০, ছাত্ৰ:৭০০	
41-11-10		ছাত্রী: ৭৫, ছাত্র: ৮৭	

প্রফেসর ভা, সৈয়দ মোদাচ্ছের আলী চেয়ারম্যান, গভর্নিং বডি

প্রফেসর মো. আনোয়ার হোসেন অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom) Bangladesh Railway 16, Abdul Gani Road, Rail Bhaban, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tender of WD3 Package Under Construction of Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line Project (International)

	Port R	ail Li	ne	: Proje	ct (Interi	national)		
1.	Ministry/Divi	sion	:	Ministry of Ra	ilways.			
2.	Agency		:	Bangladesh R	Railway.			
3.	Procuring er	ntity name	;	Rail Line Pro Dhaka.	oject, Bangladesi	of Khulna-Mongla Port h Railway, Kamalapur,		
					801711505313 railway.gov.bd			
4. 5.	Procuring er Procuring	ntity code entity	:	Not used at p Dhaka.	resent.			
	district							
6.	Invitation for :			Package No. WD3: Construction of Non-interlocked color light Signaling System for all stations (09) including construction of Telecommunication System with optical fiber.				
7.	Invitation F No.	References	:	54.01.0000.501.16.015.17-1394				
	Date NFORMATIO		:	30.07.2020				
9.	Procurement OING INFORM		:	firms or Contr		rnational) (within Indian		
10.	Budget and fund		:	GOB and Indi	GOB and Indian Line of Credit (LOC).			
11. DADT	Developmer		:	Government of	of India through Ex	dm Bank of India.		
12.	Project/prog		:	5560				
	code							
13.	Project nam Tender Pack		:	WD-3.	of Khulna-Mongla	Port Rail Line.		
15.	Tender	package	:	Package No.	WD3:			
10	name			Construction System for a Telecommuni	of Non-interlocke	ed color light Signaling acluding construction of a optical fiber.		
16. 17.	Tender publi Tender doc		:	30.07.2020	luring office hour).			
	selling date			,				
18.	Tender clo and time	sing date	:	Date 23.09.2020		me p to 12.00 hrs BST		
19.	Tender ope	ning date	;	23.09.2020 Date		p to 12.00 nrs BS1 me		
	and time			23.09.2020		2.30 hrs BST		
20.	Name & add		offic		Chief Piecel	nd Telecommunication		
	Selling of tender document (principal)			Engineer (CS Bhaban, 16, / Telephone: 88	TT)/(Telecom), B Abdul Gani Road, 8029562365	angladesh Railway, Rail		
	Selling of (others)	document	:	Construction of Khulna- Bangladesh Railway,				
	Receiving document	of tender		e-mail: gmp@railway.gov.bd : Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommur Engineer (CSTE)/(Telecom), Bangladesh Railwa Bhaban, Dhaka-1000. Telephone: 88029562365 Email: cstet@railway.gov.bd, dstethq@railway.g				
	Opening of tender document			Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (CSTE)/(Telecom), Bangladesh Railway, Rail Bhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000. Telephone: 88029562365 E-mail: cstet@railway.gov.bd. dstethg@railway.gov.bd				
INFO	RMATION FO	R TENDER	ER					
21	Eligibility of tenderer			Tenderers only from India. The tenderer of India shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience as prime contractor in the supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Non-Interlocked and/or Interlocked Colour Light Signalling System and optical fiber based Telecommunication network with IP transmission network based voice and data for Railway use or any other purposes in India and/or outside India.				
22.	Brief desc works and s		:	Design, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and related services of non-interlocked color light Signaling System at all stations (Nine stations) and optical fiber based Telecommunication System in connection with construction of railway line from Khulna to Mongla Port.				
23.	Brief desc related servi		:	Design, ins maintenance	tallation, testing of Signaling a	nd Telecommunication		
24.	Price of	tender	:	BDT 10,000	providing training, 1.00 (ten thous			
25	document (1 Package No.		ation	refundable). of package	Location	Completion time in months		
	WD-3	Constructi	on	of Non-	Khulna to	Eight (08) months		
		interlocked	1	color light	Mongla Port	g (vv) months		
		Signaling stations		stem for all				
		constructions) including of				
		Telecomm	unic	cation System				
26	with optical fibe Tender security amount			BDT 50,00,000.00 in favour of Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer				
EMPL 27.	OYER DETA			Ahmed Istiaqu	Kamalapur, Dha	angladesh Railway, ika.		
28.	Name of official : inviting application Designation of official :			Divisional Si	gnal and Teleco	mmunication Engineer		
	inviting application			(DSTE)/(Tele Bhaban, Dhai	com), HQ Bang ka.	gladesh Railway, Rail		
29.	Address of inviting appli	of official ication	Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (CSTE)/(Telecom), Bangladesh Railway, Rail Bhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000. Telephone: +88029562365 Email: cstet@railway.gov.bd, dstethg@railway.gov.bd					
30.	official	etails of inviting	:	Mobile: +8801				
31.	application The procuri	na entity re	ger	ves the right t	o relect all the s	applications or hold the		
W 11	- me provouit	- a mineral in		and title to	spoot on tile 6	Transmission of Hora Hill		

Ahmed Istiaque Johur

DSTE (Telecom) HQ

Bangladesh Railway

Rail Bhaban, Dhaka

application proceedings.

GD-1220



A worker sorts pineapple harvested from the field of Nazrul Islam at Moterbazar under Mohishmara union in Tangail's Madhupur upazila. Below, Nazrul, who cultivates the fruit without using any hormone, holds a Jaldugi variety of ripe pineapple at his orchard.

Famous Madhupur pineapples getting back taste and flavour

A section of growers returning to its hormone-free cultivation

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

When the famous Madhupur pineapple started losing its reputation amid use of excessive hormones for increasing the size and early ripening of the popular fruit, several growers returned to its production in natural ways, bringing back its original taste and

One of them, Nazrul Islam of Moterbazar area under Mohishmara union

cultivated 'Honey Queen' (locally called Jaldugi) pineapples on three acres and 'Giant Q' (locally called Calendar) varieties on one acre of his lands this season.

Awal Mahmud, director of Nirapod Khadya Andolon, a private organisation in the district town, bought around 60,000 Joldugi and 10,000 Calendar variety of pineapple from Nazrul with advance payment.

They are taking away the pineapples from the orchard every week on trucks and selling these to wholesalers at different places including Dhaka and Tangail.

Mirza Shajahan, quality controller of the organisation, said the hormone-free pineapples, which are juicy and tasty, have got this year, being inspired by Sanwar pineapple produced without using added.



so much popularity that the stock is sold out within a short time.

Demand of pineapple is also high this year as people want to take the nutrotious fruit during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, he A pair of Joldugi is selling at

Tk 50 to Tk 60 while Calender, a larger variety, at Tk 70 to Tk 80, he Asma Khan, a housewife of of hormone-free

bought 10 Joldugi pineapples from them at Tk 250. It is really tasty and have good

flavour, she added. Pineapple grower Nazrul, Tangail, said he started cultivating pineapple five years ago but he hormones in his fruits. produced the fruits without using

in adjacent Garobazar area.

"I have spent around Tk 3 lakh for the cultivation and hope to sell the produces for Tk 10 lakh. I shall cultivate the fruit on a larger area the next season," he said.

he has been producing pineapples without using hormones since 2015 and following him several others in the upazila also started doing so.

"Local growers use hormones to make pineapples larger and ripen it faster for getting early market and sell the popular fruit for higher prices. The representatives of the hormone producing companies and a section of agriculture officers also encourage them to use the hormones in the fruits," he said. Now with the resumption

pineapple Victoria Road in the town, said she cultivation by some growers, reputation of the famous Madhupur pineapple along with its real taste and flavour is returning, he said.

Like many others, Shamsul who does a government job in Haque, a large-scale pineapple grower of Aushnara area uses

Asked why he uses any hormones for the first time hormones, Shamsul said the

Hossain, another pineapple grower hormone is small in size and looks dark green but the buyers like large vellow colour fruits

"The wholesalers prefer the fruits ripened with hormone as it lasts about double time than the fruits that ripen naturally. Contacted, Sanwar Hossain said Moreover, I can take specific amount of the fruit to the market by ripening it with hormones. Otherwise, the fruits ripens on the orchard at a time and I incur loss for not getting sufficient buyers," he added.

> Madmudul Hasan, upazila agriculture officer in Madhupur, said around two lakh tonnes of pineapple is produced on around 6,500 hectares of land in Madhupur upazila every year.

> It is also cultivated on over 3,000 hectares of land at adjacent Ghatail upazila in Tangail and Fulbaria upazila in Mymensingh.

> "The hormones that the local pineapple growers use are not so harmful. However, use of the hormones has been reduced a lot, he said.

"The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation is looking for a land in Madhupur for setting up a food processing factory based on pineapple and other fruits produce here," he

Woman found dead in Iashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police recovered of a hanging body housewife from her inlaw's house in Jashore's Manirampur upazila on Tuesday night.

The deceased, Sharmin Khatun, 20, mother of a girl child, was wife of Raju Ahmed of Madhupur village in the upazila.

Victim's father Abdus Salam, however, claimed that his daughter was murdered in a pre-planned way as there had a feud between him and his sonin-law Raju for the last couple of months. Police recovered the body and sent it to Jashore General Hospital for autopsy.

HC can't ask JS to enact

of the law," the Appellate Division of the SC said in the verdict.

Following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the HC on February 3 last year declared the Turag a "legal person" and a "living entity" and also directed the authorities concerned to free the river from all kinds of encroachments.

The HC issued a 17-point directive to save the country's rivers and waterbodies from grabbers and pollution.

directed the It Election Commission to disqualify people responsible for river grabbing and pollution from running for public office. It declared the principle of compensations made by the river polluters as a part of the law.

The HC also said the grabbers and polluters would not be able to get bank loans. The HC in its verdict asked the

government to recover the land of the

Jute Mills Ltd of Hameem Group and Hossain Dyeing and Printing Mills Ltd of Anwar Group.

Challenging the HC verdict, jute mills and the dyeing company appealed with the SC. The top court rejected the appeals on February 4 this year.

However, the SC held an additional hearing on February 17 and passed a short judgement the same day.

The SC recently released the full text of the verdict after four judges concerned of the apex court, led by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, signed it.

In the verdict, the Appellate Division said the HC cannot give such directives in accordance with the law.

However, the three directives of the HC mentioned could be its opinions or suggestions in such matter of public interest, the SC said in the full text of the verdict.

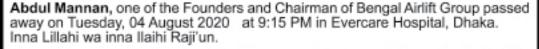
The Appellate Division observed, companies.

Turag under the possession of Nishut "The government must be very cautious about deciding the matter and the government shall not under any circumstances lease or sell any land within the boundary of the river Turag, including its foreshore areas or for that matter, any other river of Bangladesh to protect the biodiversity, ecological balance and environment of Bangladesh".

"The government or authorities concerned must bear in mind that at the time of survey it shall always start survey from CS [cadastral survey] map and then go to RS [revisional survey map and not the other way round," the apex court said.

Lawyer Manzill Murshid, who moved the writ petition before the HC and placed arguments before the Appellate Division on behalf of the writ petitioner Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, told The Daily Star yesterday that the government, following the SC verdict, could recover the land in possession of the

OBITUARY



He was 78 years old and was suffering from several health complications for the last few

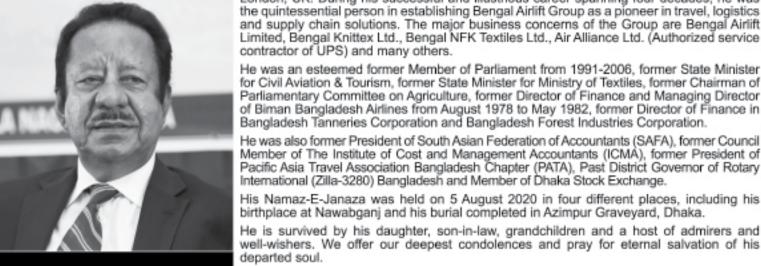
He was Fellow & Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (FCMA), London, UK. During his successful and illustrious career spanning four decades, he was the quintessential person in establishing Bengal Airlift Group as a pioneer in travel, logistics and supply chain solutions. The major business concerns of the Group are Bengal Airlift Limited, Bengal Knittex Ltd., Bengal NFK Textiles Ltd., Air Alliance Ltd. (Authorized service contractor of UPS) and many others.

He was an esteemed former Member of Parliament from 1991-2006, former State Minister for Civil Aviation & Tourism, former State Minister for Ministry of Textiles, former Chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, former Director of Finance and Managing Director of Birnan Bangladesh Airlines from August 1978 to May 1982, former Director of Finance in Bangladesh Tanneries Corporation and Bangladesh Forest Industries Corporation.

He was also former President of South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), former Council Member of The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA), former President of Pacific Asia Travel Association Bangladesh Chapter (PATA), Past District Governor of Rotary International (Zilla-3280) Bangladesh and Member of Dhaka Stock Exchange.

birthplace at Nawabganj and his burial completed in Azimpur Graveyard, Dhaka.

He is survived by his daughter, son-in-law, grandchildren and a host of admirers and well-wishers. We offer our deepest condolences and pray for eternal salvation of his departed soul.



WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

An initial large explosion in the port area of Beirut took place around 6:00 pm, resulting in a fire, several small blasts and then a colossal explosion that flattened the harbour front and surrounding buildings. Seismologists measured the event, which blew out windows at the city's international airport nine kilometres (more than five miles) away, as the equivalent of a 3.3-magnitude earthquake.

WHY SUCH A BIG BLAST?

Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab said 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, an agricultural fertiliser, stored in a portside warehouse had blown up. Ammonium nitrate is an odourless crystalline substance that has been the cause of numerous industrial explosions over the decades. When combined with fuel oils, it creates a potent explosive widely used in the construction industry, but also by insurgent groups such as the Taliban for improvised explosive devices. Lebanon's General Security chief Abbas Ibrahim said the material had been confiscated years earlier and stored in the warehouse, located close to Beirut's shopping and nightlife districts.

WAS IT DELIBERATE?

There has been no indication from Lebanese officials that the explosions were caused deliberately. US President Donald Trump said late Tuesday that US generals had told him the explosions appeared to have been caused by a "bomb of some kind." But a Pentagon spokesman, when asked about the president's remarks, told AFP that "we don't have anything for you" and "you will have to reach out to the White House for clarification.

HOW MANY CASUALTIES?

The blasts killed more than 100 people and injured over 4,000, the Lebanese Red Cross said. Injuries were recorded right across the city, with glass blown out of buildings in multiple districts. Lebanon's national defence council has declared Beirut a disaster zone.

Twin triumphs for Hindu nationalists

Work starts for Ayodhya temple as Kashmir marks first anniv of lost autonomy

AFP, Ayodhya

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took centre stage yesterday at a ceremony laying the foundations for a temple at a flashpoint holy site exactly a year after imposing direct rule on Muslim-majority Kashmir -- twin triumphs for his Hindu nationalist government.

The site at Ayodhya, and divided Kashmir, have been two of the most divisive communal issues of the past 30 years in India, and Modi has attempted to draw a line under both.

For his fans, both steps confirm Modi -- elected to a second-straight term in a landslide last year -- as a decisive, visionary and heroic leader, and India's most important in decades.

His critics see him as remoulding the officially secular country of 1.3 billion as a Hindu nation at the expense of India's 200 million Muslims, and taking it an authoritarian direction.

"Modi has certainly been India's most transformative leader in recent memory," Micheal Kugelman, from the Wilson Center, told AFP, making him "wildly popular, but also highly controversial and quite divisive".

The holy city of Ayodhya in northern India has long been a religious tinderbox, providing the spark for some of its worst sectarian violence.

In 1992, a Hindu mob destroyed a

believed had been built on the birthplace of Ram, an important deity. This triggered religious riots that killed 2,000 people,

most of them Muslims. A lengthy legal battle ensued, but in November -- in a major victory for Modi's BJP party -- India's top court awarded the site to Hindus, allowing a temple "touching the sky" to be built.



Yesterday's elaborate religious ceremony was shown live on television. Small

celebrations also took place across India. A masked Modi, 69, shared the stage with the head of the RSS, the militaristic hardline Hindu group that is parent to the BJP and which Modi joined as a young

"(Modi) is going to make his position permanently in history purely on the strength of this temple," his biographer Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay told AFP.

Further cementing Modi's place in

centuries-old mosque there that they his country's annals is Kashmir, divided between India and Pakistan since 1947 and the spark for two wars and the source of much bloodshed.

The BJP had long seen the special status enjoyed by the part of Kashmir controlled by India as a historical wrong, and on August 5 last year, Modi abolished it.

An accompanying security operation turned the region into a fortress for weeks, with all telecommunications cut and thousands taken into custody.

People from outside Kashmir are now being granted the right to buy land for the first time. This has ignited fears that Modi wants to change Kashmir's demographic makeup with an Israel-style "settler" project.

Fearing protests ahead of the anniversary, on Tuesday thousands of Indian troops imposed a tight curfew in Kashmir. The streets were all but deserted the following

Other actions have also alarmed Modi's critics and delighted his fans.

Last year, a new law made it easier for millions of illegal immigrants from three neighbouring countries to get citizenship but not if they are Muslims.

More may be in the pipeline, including a mooted nationwide register obliging people to prove they are Indian, and a uniform civil code doing away with Islamic rules in areas such as marriage.

'Clearly, it's full speed ahead with the Hindu nationalist agenda," Kugelman said.

Covid-19 cases in youth triples in 5 months: WHO

Young people who are hitting nightclubs and beaches are leading a rise in fresh coronavirus cases across the world, with the proportion of those aged 15 to 24 who are infected rising three-fold in about five months, the World Health Organization said. An analysis by the WHO of 6 million infections between Feb. 24 and July 12 found that the share of people aged 15-24 years rose to 15% from 4.5%. Among those aged 5-14 years, about 4.6% were infected, up from 0.8%, between Feb. 24 and July 12, the WHO said, at a time when testing has risen and public health experts are concerned that reopening of schools may lead to a surge in cases.

Third of Afghans estimated to have contracted virus

Nearly a third of Afghanistan's population -- or 10 million people -- has been infected with the coronavirus, according to health ministry estimates published yesterday. The figure comes from a survey based on antibody tests on around 9,500 people across the country, with technical support from the World Health Organization, health minister Ahmad Jawad Osmani said at a press briefing. The survey estimated that 31.5 percent of the population had contracted the virus.

Four killed as Tropical Storm Isaias pounds US Northeast

Tropical Storm Isaias killed at least four people on Tuesday as it made its way up the US Atlantic Coast, including two deaths at a North Carolina trailer park that was struck by a tornado spun off by hurricane-force winds. The storm knocked out power to more than 2.8 million homes and businesses from New York to North Carolina, according to electric companies.

US jails man who bought Lamborghini with virus loan



Instead of speeding off in a \$200,000 Lamborghini Urus, a Texas man got a slower ride to jail Tuesday after US authorities arrested him for using \$1.6 million in government pandemic aid to go on a spending spree. Lee Price III, 29, made global headlines in July after he spent the loan money on luxury items and cars. He was charged with fraud after he secured two loans under the Paycheck Protection Program to pay employees he did not have, the Justice Department said in a statement. Instead he spent the funds on lavish goods like a sports car and a Rolex watch, as well as real estate, an F-350 pickup truck, and thousands of dollars at Houston strip clubs, the statement said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

MAERSK

India slams Pak for J&K map

Pak PM brands India an 'oppressor' on Kashmir 'annexation' anniv

India has described as "political absurdity" a map released by Pakistan that includes Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and parts of western Gujarat.

New Delhi tore into the map, which it called a "ridiculous assertion without any global credibility" and emerged on the first anniversary of the decision to scrap special status for J&K under Article 370.

The map was released Tuesday evening by Pakistan Prime Minister

"We have seen a so-called "political map" of Pakistan that has been released by Prime Minister Imran Khan. This is an exercise in political absurdity, laying untenable claims to territories in the Indian state of Gujarat and our Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and of Ladakh," the government said.

assertions "These ridiculous

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have neither legal validity nor international credibility. In fact, this new effort only confirms the reality of Pakistan's obsession with territorial aggrandisement supported by crossborder terrorism," its response added.

Earlier on Tuesday, Imran Khan unveiled the map that, he claimed, negated India's "illegal action of August last year" - a reference to the withdrawal of special privileges to J&K under Article 370. He claimed the map had been endorsed by Pakistan's cabinet, was backed by its political leadership and would be used in schools.

Kashmir, a disputed Himalayan territory, has been split since 1947 between India and Pakistan, both of which claim it in full and have fought wars over it.

Yesterday, Imran Khan branded India an "oppressor and aggressor" yesterday, a year after New Delhi nposed direct rule on Indianadministered Kashmir.

"India stands exposed before the world, yet again, as an oppressor and aggressor," Khan said in a statement. "Its so-called secular and democratic

credentials stand fully discredited," he added, calling India's action last year a "crime against humanity".

Khan accused India of trying to turn Kashmir's Muslim majority into a minority by ending restrictions on outsiders buying up property "in blatant violation of... UN Security Council Resolutions and international laws".

US plan for 'highest level' Taiwan visit angers China

The United States yesterday announced its highest-level visit to Taiwan since it switched diplomatic recognition to China in 1979, a move Beijing blasted as a threat to "peace and stability".

The visit, headed by health chief Alex Azar, comes as relations between the world's two biggest powers plunge to historic lows.

"This marks... the first Cabinet member to visit in six years, and the highest level visit by a US Cabinet official since 1979," said Washington's de facto embassy, the American Institute in Taiwan, with no date yet given

Washington remains the leading arms supplier to the island but has historically been cautious in holding official contacts with it. Beijing views Taiwan as its own territory -- vowing to one day seize it --

and bristles at any moves by other countries to recognise or communicate "China firmly opposes official exchanges between the US and Taiwan,"

Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said as he called for the visit to be cancelled. "We urge the US to abide by the one-China principle... to avoid seriously endangering Sino-US relations, as well as peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.'

China has ramped up diplomatic, economic and military pressure on Taiwan ever since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who rejects Beijing's view that the island in part of "one China".

A police officer wearing a protective mask is seen as people wait in a line to cast their vote, outside a polling station in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday. Sri Lanka voted yesterday for a new parliament as the ruling Rajapaksa brothers seek a fresh mandate to cement their grip on power. PHOTO: REUTERS

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়

নারায়ণগঞ্চ জেলা কারাগার

CBI to probe Bollywood star's death

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's federal investigative the death of a Bollywood actor, its top prosecutor said yesterday, the latest twist to a murky case that was reported as a suicide and has dominated Indian social media for over a month.

Sushant Singh Rajput, 34, was found dead at his residence in Mumbai on June 14 which police termed an "accidental death". Local media said he was found hanging from the ceiling and described his death as a suicide.

Yesterday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Indian Supreme court that the federal government had approved a request from the government of Bihar, Rajput's home state, to turn the inquiry over to the federal investigation agency (CBI).

CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC IN PERU Hundreds of girls, women go missing

More than 900 women and girls have gone missing in Peru during its coronavirus lockdown, a top women's rights official said on Tuesday, calling for the creation of a national missing persons register to address the "alarming" number of disappearances.

Records must be kept to track those who go missing, whether they are found alive or dead and whether they are victims of sex trafficking, domestic violence or femicide, said Isabel Ortiz, a women's rights commissioner in the National Ombudsman's office, an independent body that monitors Peru's human rights.

A total of 915 people - 606 girls and 309 women - have been reported missing from the start of lockdown on March 16 through June 30, Ortiz said.

"The figures are really quite alarming," Ortiz told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview.

Countries worldwide have reported increases in domestic violence under coronavirus lockdowns, prompting the United Nations to call for urgent government action.

Latin America and the Caribbean are known for high rates of femicide and violence against women, driven by a macho culture and social norms that dictate women's roles, Ortiz said.

Before the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of women throughout Latin America, including Peru, were staging mass street demonstrations demand government action against gender-based violence.

লেঃ কমাভার বিএন

ব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন)

মফিস ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন বিজ্ঞাপন

আপনাদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাছে যে, গত ১৮ জুলাই ২০২০ইং তারিখ হতে আমাদের অফিস এবং সকল কার্যক্রম নিচুলিখিত ঠিকানায় পরিচালিত হয়েছ:

বৰ্তমান ঠিকানা মাৰ্মক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড অজিজ কোর্ট (যঠ ও সওম তলা)

৮৮-৯০ অগ্রাবাদ বানিজ্যিক এলাকা

হটামাম-৪১০০ বাংলাদেশ (কমার্স কলেন্ধ রোড, হোটেল অ্যানাদ এর লাপে)

আমাদের সকল প্রায়ক এবং স্টেকয়োন্ডারদের নতুন ঠিকানায় বোগাযোগের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাজে। এই বিষয়ে আপনাদের সকলের সহযোগিতা একান্তভাবে কামনা করছি।

মাৰ্সক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড

₽BFCC

Biman Flight Catering Centre বিমান ফ্লাইট ক্যাটারিং সেন্টার 🏻 🕍 🚉 Ref: 30.34.2600.63.2020/229



CORRIGENDUM

The following amendment has been made in the International Tender Notice No. 18/2020 Dated 02-07-2020 regarding Procurement & Commissioning of 04 Nos. Refrigerated Aircraft Catering High Lift Van which was published in the Daily Ittefag and The Daily Star on 03-07-2020. In the terms & conditions of the tender Clause No. 2(xvi), delivery point was mentioned as ICD Kamlapur, Dhaka. Now the point of delivery is changed to CIF Chattogram Sea Port, Bangladesh.

For Biman Flight Catering Centre

GD-1221

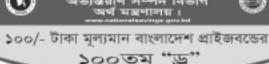
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Dy. General Manager, BFCC





দ্র অনুষ্ঠানের তারিখ ঃ ১৯ শ্রাবণ, ১৪২৭/০৩ আগই, ২০২০ প্রথম প্রস্কার VII 6,00,000

বিতীয় পুরস্কার টাঃ ৩,২৫,০০০ 9446900 ভূতীয় পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ১,০০,০০০ টাকার মোট ২টি পুরস্কার 085584b ०५५५५५५० চতুর্থ পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ৫০,০০০ টাকার মোট ২টি পুরস্কার

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চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর

মৎস্য বন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম ফোনঃ ০৩১-৬১৩০০৬

বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর কেন্দ্রের ২য় ফেজ শিল্প প্লটের (১০৩ ও ১০৪নং শিল্প প্লটের মধ্যেবর্তী) কোষ্টগার্ড পশ্চিমপার্শ্ব

,	দরপর স্মারক নং-		580505/40/20-578 5566,64,600.Po,400,6696,00,00
2	দরপরের বিষয়	1	১৫০ ফুট x ২০ ফুট হেরিগ্রোভ ব্রিক রাজ্ঞা নির্মাণ, ১৬০ ফুট লখা ও ০৮ ফুট উচ্চতা বাউভারী ওয়াল নির্মাণনহ বারবেড ওয়ার লাগানো ও আনুষাদিক কাজ।
5	সিভিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	1	ভারিখঃ ১৮ আগষ্ট ২০২০ইং, সমন্যঃ বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা।
9	দরণমের সিভিউল প্রান্তির স্থান	:	চউগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর, মৎস্য বন্দর, ইছানগর, কর্ণফুলী, চউগ্রাম।
2	দরপর দাখিলের শেষ ভারিখ ও সময়	1	ভারিপঃ ২০ আগউ ২০২০ইং, সময়ঃ দুপুর ১২।০০ ঘটিকা।
b	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান এবং খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	1	চট্টগ্রাম মধ্যে বন্দর, মধ্যে বন্দর, ইছানগর, কর্পফুলী, চট্টগ্রাম। তারিশঃ ২০ আগট ২০২০ইং, সময়ঃ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
ł	দরণমের সিভিউল মূল্য	:	৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্জাশ) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
7	আর্নেস্ট মানির পরিমাণ	1	বে কোন সিভিউল ব্যাংক থেকে চট্টগ্রাম মধ্যা বন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম শিরোনামে ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা পে-অর্চার/ডিডি দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
0	দরপত্রের সাথে যেসব ঝণজ/দলিবাদি দাখিল করতে হবে	2	ক) দরপর ক্রয়ের রশিদের মূলকপি। খ) হাজনাগাদ ট্রেড আইসেন্সের সভ্যায়িত কপি। গ) হাজনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সর্বশেষ সনদের সভ্যায়িত কপি। ঘ) ড্যাট রেজিটেট্রশনের সভ্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
5	নির্বারিত ভারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন দ বলে গণ্য হবে।	রপর	এহণ করা হবে না এবং অসম্পূর্ণ ও ফ্রণ্টিপূর্ণ দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল
2	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যক্তিরেকে কর্তৃপা করেন।	क (र	েকোন দরণার এহণ অথবা সকল দরণার বাজিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ

www.jailsupernarayangonj@gmail.com পৱা নং-৫৮,০৪,৬৭০০,০৯১,,০৪,০০৫,২০-২৬১(৪) তারিখঃ ৪/৮/২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

সূভাষ কুমার ঘোষ

নাবাহৰণাছ জেলা কাবাণাৰ

	100	বারা আব্দরর, বাংগাদেশ, দাব্দা।							
ą	লরপত্রের নাম	নারায়র্থণাঞ্জ জেলা কারাণারে বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য সরবরাহের ৬য় বারের দরপত্র।							
0	দরপত্রের বিজঞ্জির বরাত ও তারিখ	কাৰা অধিনগুৱেৰ পত্ৰ নং-৫৮,০৪,২৬০০,০৬১,০৪,০১১,২০২০-৮২৪ তাৰিখ্য ৩০/৭/২০২০খ্ৰিঃ।							
8	ইচ্ছুক নরনাতাদের ন্যুনতম যোগ্যতা	লরণত্র সিভিউলের সাথে সংযুক্ত টেকার ভকুমেন্টে উল্লেখিত শর্ত মোতাবেক।							
e	বাজেট ও ফাভ প্রান্তির উৎস	জাতীয় রাজগ তহবিল।							
9	দরপর আহবান পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপর পদ্ধতি।							
٩	দরণর দলিল প্রান্তির স্থান	জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, নারায়গণাঞ্চ জেলা কারাগার।							
ь	দরপর জমা দেয়ার স্থান	নারায়পথঞ্জ জেলা কারাপার, ফতুরা থানা ও জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্বালয়, নারায়পথঞ্জ।							
b	দরপর খোলার স্থান	জেল সুপাৰের কার্যালয়, নারায়গণঞ্জ জেলা কারাণার।							
50	দরপর দলিলের মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত টাকা) মাত্র।							
22	নিরাপস্তা জামানতের পরিমাণ	주화어-50,000/-, 박화어-30,000/-, গ화어-50,000/-, 박화어- 50,000/-।							
25	কার্যাদেশের সময়সীমা	১.৭.২০২০ প্রিস্টাব্দ হতে ৩১.১২,২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ পর্যন্ত।							
১৩	দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত কাগজপরাদি	দরপর সিভিউলে সংযুক্ত টেভার ভকুমেন্টে বর্ণিত শর্ভ মোভাবেক।							
78	দরদাতাদের প্রতি বিশেষ নির্দেশাবদী	ভারা কর্তৃগক্ষের স্টোর অর্ভার মোতাবেক মালামাল সরবরাহে বাধ্য থাকবেন।							
50	দরপর আহ্বানকারীর নাম	সুভাষ কুমার ঘোষ, জেল সুপার, নারায়র্ণগঞ্জ জেলা কারাগার।							
3/6	দরপর দলিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ ভারিখ								
59	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/৮/২০২০ প্রিস্টাব্দ ১২,০০ মটিকা পর্যন্ত।							
25	দরপত্র বাস্ত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/৮/২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ দুপুর ১২,৩০ ঘটিকা।							
7.9	দরপত্র মূল্যাছদের তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/৮/২০২০ খ্রিস্টান্দ লুপুর ০২,০০ ঘটিকা।							
20	কারা কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্য	হরেকে যেকোন/সকল দরপত্র বাহিল/গ্রহণ করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।							

A book's plea for a better internet

"Happily, the Web is so huge that there's no way any one company can dominate it," wrote Tim Berners-Lee, the man who invented the World Wide Web (WWW) in 1999. In retrospect, this statement might seem naïve. But early adopters both developers and users—truly saw the internet as a decentralising and democratising force, while traditional media at the time scoffed at it as nothing more than a hipster sub-cultural obsession. That being said, was that utopia ever within grasp? What if the internet was never a post-racial, egalitarian space to begin with, and only recently did its many problems balloon out of proportion due to its pervasive presence in our lives?

In Lurking: How A Person Became A User (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020), author Joanne McNeil prods at this question as she charts a history of the internet from the early days of AOL forums and CompuServe chat rooms to today's Facebook and WhatsApp, from the vantage point of an early user.

As a 'lurker' in the early 1990s—which in internet parlance is a silent observer who explores the conventions and norms of an online community before deciding to actively engage—McNeil witnessed the internet when it was compartmentalised like walled gardens,

and the primary objective of AOL (the first ever ISP) was to keep its users engaged solely with its own content. Back then, a person's identity online was plastic. Tethered only to a username, the chance to reinvent one's image on the internet seemed limitless.

However, after the dotcom crash paved the way for surveillance capitalism to become the *modus operandi* in Silicon Valley, online visibility was forcefully tied to the user's real-life identity under the guise of authentication. But authenticity, taken to its logical limits, becomes an act of totalisation. Google has assigned a user identification number to every single human being on earth. Facebook, in classical Orwellian fashion, refuses to acknowledge those who do not use its platform by calling them "unregistered" users. And with visibility on the internet now fastened to a person on the ground, cases of online harassment and exploitation are skyrocketing.

This book is notoriously difficult to pigeonhole. At times it reads like an autobiography; other times it is historical, socio-political, and philosophical, all the while providing a critique of the internet. It tries to shoehorn so many things into its 300page breadth that several key points were

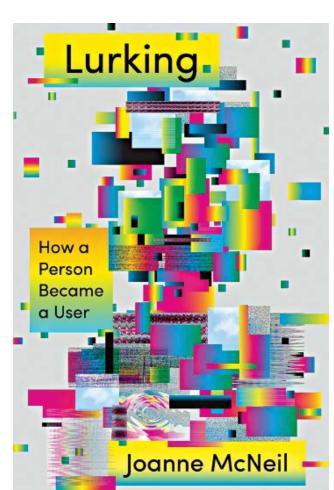
bound to suffer from under-analysis. The author exacerbates the problem by constantly employing '90s East Coast metaphors, and not the ones accessible to a larger global readership, like Seinfeld or Friends.

However, as she volleys past Friendster and Myspace in the early 2000s and arrives at present-day internet, she hones her critical tone to a near-perfect pitch. She presciently points out that stringent regulation can only accomplish so much when the individual shares such a lopsided asymmetry of power in favour of the tech giants. Similarly, promises of self-regulation by the Silicon Valley executives can only yield superficial changes rather than address deeply ingrained structural problems. Breaking up social media behemoths without de-commodification of the user can only serve as a stopgap, while nationalisation would augur a Big Brother-esque scenario in which government bodies like CIA would have access to users' personal data.

She occasionally gives vent to her resentment at the traditional media for not intervening earlier with sharp criticism of the Big Tech. But how much of the fault lies with the news media is open to debate. Any critical piece in, say, the NY times would have been

counteracted by scores of blog posts and YouTube motivational videos that slavishly celebrate the genius of the near-mythical "entrepreneur" (think of the millennial obsession with Elon Musk). In any case, it is unrealistic to expect hard-hitting analyses of Silicon Valley unicorns when the angel investors that back them also own all the major media outlets. These companies succeeded with their anticompetitive practices because proper regulatory bodies that could have checked them from the outset failed to emerge as surveillance capitalism rode the coattails of early '80s neoliberal economic policies. Blaming it all on the press reveals the obvious blind spots in McNeil's analysis. Her enduring achievement, however, is demonstrating that the present-day internet is basically the white cis-male monoculture foregrounded to the mainstream, especially after the dotcom crash purged all other alternative avenues like Café Los Negros. The meandering tone of the book might be an issue for the casual reader. Otherwise, it is worth a read.

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FROM PAGES TO PIXELS

'Shirley' crystallises the contested legacy of Shirley Jackson

SHEHRIN HOSSAIN

Shirley (2020), directed by Josephine Decker and adapted by Sarah Gubbins from the 2014 eponymous novel by Susan Scarf Merrell, interweaves fact and fiction into an imagined narrative about the time when author Shirley Jackson was writing her second novel Hangsaman (1951). Yet the film places it close to the end of her life, when the writer famously suffered from crippling agoraphobia. This is clearly intentional as Jackson's illness is easy to glamorise along with her existing reputation as a writer of gothic horror and psychological thrillers. The psychologically chaotic viewing experience of Shirley is a palpable embodiment of the experience of reading Jackson—suffocating and dizzying with its disorienting camera work and cacophonous background score.

Upon their first meeting in the film, Shirley serves their houseguest Rose with a long, searching look, saying, "No one said you were pregnant," while silent shock creeps into the latter's face. The narrative is heavy with such moments that revel in the imagined magical abilities of writer-witch Shirley. The hallucinatory quality of the film gradually builds in pace and intensity, and by the time the climax arrives, the viewer no longer knows what's real. Given that Decker's stated aim was to "[make] the audience feel like they [are] inside of a Shirley Jackson story," Shirley surely triumphs. But at a cost.

The heavily-researched Jackson biography A Rather Haunted Life (2016), authored by Ruth Franklin, focuses heavily on how Jackson as a writer, beyond "The Lottery", has rarely been recognised, even though works such as Life Among the Savages (1953)—a novelised collection of her experiences with motherhood and homemaking—contributed hugely to her creative development. In mid-1950s America, wanting both a family and a career made a woman "schizophrenic" in the eyes of society, as feminist writer Betty Friedan wrote in The Feminine Mystique (1963). Yet here was Jackson, rearing four children while establishing herself as the primary breadwinner over her husband Stanley

Hyman was an antagonistic figure in Jackson's life: he constantly criticised and belittled her as his own writing career plodded. He rarely participated in raising their children and was continually, openly

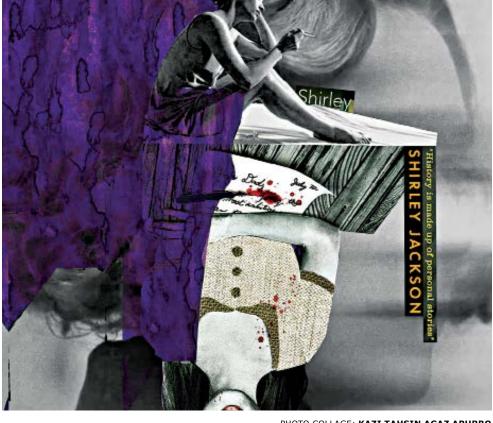


PHOTO COLLAGE: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

unfaithful in their marriage. In her public life, Jackson was imposing, witty, and calmly self-possessed. Privately, she was cowed by her abusive marriage, and Franklin argues that Jackson's work became a crucial vessel for the distress this produced.

On such counts, Shirley is faithful: its primary thematic concerns are female suffering and ambiguous endings, both crucial ingredients across Jackson's works. But the liberties it takes do not do reallife Jackson any favours. A warm and loving mother is swapped for a witchy, almost malevolent Shirley in the film, and this polarisation—while easier to commercialise—destroys the defining multitudes she contained as an individual and as a writer.

For Jackson, human cruelty was a direct avenue into questioning and understanding how we structure our realities. Her protagonists were invariably female, be it Hill House's desperate Eleanor, Hangsaman's fractured Natalie, or the mischievous Merricat of Castle. The writer herself was an unhappy caregiver for her entire family who

succeeded in becoming an instrumental part of the gothic/horror canon. In this way, she has come to assume the form of a mythological figure.

Which is what artists will always ultimately be if we keep failing to separate them from their art. Despite Decker's claims that Shirley is not intended as a biopic, it undeniably functions as one. Where biographer Franklin argues for a diverse, multifaceted profile of Shirley Jackson, Shirley immortalises her as a "witchy" horror writer rather than an artist of unbounded versatility and character. As evolved consumers of increasingly complex art, we can—and should—do better to remember that artists are, at the end of it all, real people.

An extended version of this article is available online.

When she's not spending time with her dogs or her books, Shehrin Hossain sometimes likes to write. She welcomes suggestions for what to do with her English Literature degree at shehrin@gmail.com.

Earth calls the soul in 'Inner **State**

RASHA JAMEEL

"A poet's work is to name the unnameable, to point at frauds, to take sides, start arguments, shape the world, and stop it going to sleep.

It appears as though Inner State (Daily Star Books, 2020) takes the aforementioned Salman Rushdie quote to heart, with a similar sentiment echoed in the poems "A Scribbler's Insight" and "When Tears and Rainwater Unite".

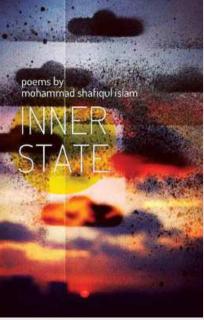
Mohammad Shafiqul Islam's collection of 48 poems is rather politically charged, and it doesn't apologise for being so. It offers an appeal for us all to pay better attention to our surroundings—little things like the presence of a beautiful woman adorned in a white saffron sari, and more pressing matters like global destruction via wars and climate change—everything counts. But amidst these subjects, the poems more deeply explore the Bangladeshi landscape in the aftermath of war, pollution, socioeconomic divides, and political corruption, as depicted in "Tabula Rasa", "Food for Thought", and "An Eye Opener".

War, despite being horrifying in its actuality, is often glorified in the name of patriotism, to encourage people to enlist in droves in service of their nation. But Inner State argues against the destruction that follows such phenomena. Mohammad Shafiqul Islam doesn't hold back when talking about mass rape, countless ruined childhoods, widespread famine, people being sentenced to a life of poverty, and the environmental damage, all of which constitutes a warravaged landscape. In "Shadow Lines", the poet paints an image of war at its most brutal, each word heavy with the trauma and horror experienced by those caught in the crossfire. The poem itself is a tribute to Amitav Ghosh's The Shadow Lines (1988) which explores the implications of 'lines' that simultaneously draw and divide people. Islam's poem contains references to historical events like the Indo-Pak Partition and human rights issues such as racism, colourism, religious discrimination, and refugee crises, and in all these verses, the truth in his words are harsh, but necessary.

The book also dwells significantly

on humankind's relationship with nature. Islam repeatedly equates nature with innocence—such as in "Walking Barefoot On Grass"—and attempts to shake loose the ignorance that complicate the state of ethics in our surroundings and fuel humanity's unquenchable need for consumption.

Finally, the last few pieces explore the idea of personal growth through the poet's experience with love and anxiety. While the former can feel somewhat unrelatable, with the fine line between love and infatuation left undetected, the latter is illustrated with a certain degree of grace. "My Last Evening on



COVER ART: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

Park Street" can be especially suited to a bookworm's sense of romance. Overall, this poetry collection expertly addresses all that it takes to be 'woke' in 2020, particularly in Bangladesh. Whether by choice or otherwise, we've all been deaf for too long. Inner State can be a fitting wake up call.

Inner State is available for sale at Bookworm Bangladesh, Bookends Unimart, Boipathai.com, and

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The Paily Star

LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2020, SRABAN 22, 1427 BS

Rise in export earnings a welcome surprise

We must ensure continuity and fair practices in the export sector

N recent months, our news cycle has been dominated by the burgeoning health crisis created by the unchecked spread of coronavirus in Bangladesh, the impacts of a global economic downturn on our economy, and the seasonal floods that have swept across the country and affected millions of people. Against this backdrop, the promising rise in exports and remittances in the month of July this year is welcome news indeed.

According to data from the Export Promotion Bureau, exports fetched USD 3.9 billion in July, which is 44.4 percent more from the previous month and 0.6 percent more from a year earlier. The rise in export earnings was led by the garment sector—garment shipments raked in USD 3.2 billion, which is 14.1 percent more than the target set by the commerce ministry for July and most surprisingly, almost the same amount that was earned in July last year.

However, while we welcome these promising prospects in the exports sector, let us not forget the possibility that July's earnings were higher because most of the shipments that were stuck between April and May due to lockdowns all over the world were dispatched in the last two months. As markets began to open up in the rest of the world and retail sales, especially in Europe, recover and potentially return to pre-lockdown levels, we must take this opportunity to bolster our exports as much as possible. This means focusing not just on garments, but on jute and jute goods, home textiles, agricultural products, and primary and pharmaceutical product shipments—the export of all of which picked up in the last month.

At the same time, we must also look to the businesses in our economy that make up these important export sectors, and the workers whose hard labour leads to these highly-valued export earnings. Let us not forget that more than 25,000 garment workers have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. This daily also published an extensive report on at least 1,931 global brands which have either delayed, put on hold, or simply cancelled their orders (worth around USD 3.7 billion) to Bangladeshi suppliers since the onset of Covid-19. We must do all we can to ensure that these Bangladeshi companies and workers get their fair dues during these difficult times.

Confirmed Covid-19 cases and deaths increase during Eid holidays

Why have guidelines not been enforced?

T is a matter of grave concern that the number of new Covid-19 cases in the country increased during the Eid holidays despite the fact that the number of tests dropped significantly during this time. According to the DGHS briefing, 50 people died of Covid-19 across the country in 24 hours till the morning of August 4 while on August 5, 33 new deaths were confirmed by them. The spike in the number of new infections and deaths is an ominous sign for the country which has apparently failed to ensure that the health guidelines given by the government to contain further spread of the virus are maintained by the people

People have gone to the villages and come back to the cities in overcrowded buses, trains and launches, without maintaining any social distancing and health guidelines. They went to buy sacrificial animals in the local haats, went to the bazaars and mosques, hardly maintaining any health directives. Apparently, the authorities took little measures to make people abide by the government directives, which might have resulted in this sudden spike in new cases.

It is extremely disappointing to learn that the infection rate has increased to 24.6 percent in the last few days while it was 22.39 percent before the Eid holidays. While experts and the WHO have been repeatedly asking the government to increase testing coverage to curb the spread of the deadly virus, what we see is just the opposite—it has brought down the number of daily tests. A total of 11,160 samples were tested in 83 labs across the country in the last 24 hours until the DGHS briefing on August 5 while the previous day, only 7,712 samples were tested. And data shows that the number of tests per million people stands below 7,500 in Bangladesh. Despite that, Bangladesh is currently the 16th worst affected country in the world in terms of the number of cases

Although in view of the situation, the government issued an order extending countrywide restrictions on public activities and movements from August 4 to August 31 and gave a fresh 10-point directive, we wonder if these directives can be properly enforced as the government previously failed to implement many such directives. We have seen how it struggled to enforce the zone-wise lockdown system.

The new directives include keeping markets, shops, and shopping malls closed by 8:00pm; making sure there are temperature-checking and hand-washing facilities, sanitisers, and vehicle disinfecting services at the entries to shopping malls, etc. It also said that people will have to face legal action if they do not wear masks, maintain social distancing and follow health guidelines while staying outside of home. We now hope that the government will strictly enforce these directives and also increase the number of tests to curb further spread of the virus in the country.

I weep for Sinha

fails to hide the brazenness of police

of its members. Such an explanation

behaviour and the blasé attitude of some

would have been acceptable if the killing

was a one-off incident. There have been

far too many of such instances to admit

the killing of Major Sinha as a solo stray

occurrence. And were it not also for the

rather repetitive explanation regurgitated

by the police after every killing, that the

STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN NDC,PSC (RETD)

this was one murder too many by the police. Sinha's is yet another name added to the long list of victims of the law enforcing agencies, killed in gross violation

of all norms of law. It is regrettable that many among those responsible for upholding the rule of law and maintaining law and order are themselves trampling the rule of law. Some may well say that my lament is only because the one killed is an ex-soldier. What about the several hundred others killed in similar manner and comparable circumstances? That is indeed so, and I make no apologies for it. But I have not withheld my feelings on this matter regarding other such killings before. Every unnatural and avoidable loss of life pains me, as it must every sensitive human being. This has pained me even more, because Sinha was a kindred spirit, a relationship that neither the difference of age nor absence of direct association, diminishes.

I weep for Major Sinha because he was someone who had undergone a hard grind like all his brothers and sisters in arms, to serve his country. He joined the

> The killing of Major Sinha has given rise to many questions, which only an impartial investigation can reveal, for one thing, the contradiction in FIR and the inquest report must be looked into. It should also expose the fact that the police narrative of self-defence is a subterfuge to distort the facts.

military to dedicate his life's service to the country, just as his father did in 1971. He chose to leave the army prematurely, not because of any shortcomings, but because he had developed predilections for other pursuits. He left the army just as he had joined it, of his own volition. But his life was cut short most brutally.

Some have chosen the adjective "unfortunate" to describe the incident. But while that might be a good portrayal of the sad end to a young life, the



Retired Army Major Sinha Rashed Khan.

contemptible and despicable act that caused it cannot be adequately described, given the account of the circumstances

that one has come to know through various channels. Some have explained away the incident by laying blame on the "poor training" of the police. I submit that the killing has nothing to do with fortune, misfortune or infortune, or training of the agencies either, but everything to do with the psyche of the police force, of all denominations, that drive their actions. The force is driven by the brazen impunity that they have been invested with, which demands no accountability for their behaviour, however illegal the actions might be. The law keepers do not only believe that they are above the law, it would not be remiss to suggest that they are also treated as if they are. But there are of course some honourable exceptions that one should have no grudge in admitting.

Some use the argument that the action of a few should not be used to run a broad brush to paint the entire force as guilty. This explanation is a fig leaf that

PHOTO: COLLECTED

in several criminal cases, or he had resisted arrest and fired on the police or some contraband goods or drugs were found in his possession, the police explanation might wash. As if an accused, even if the accusation is true, forfeits the right to live, and his credentials accords the law enforcers to be the judge, jury and executioner at the same time. One understands that there are sinister moves afoot to paint something similar in order to cast Major Sinha as a rogue and a

But I am worried about another aspect, an odious attempt, clearly by hostile agencies, to cast aspersion on not only an army officer but also on the entire Bangladesh Army, through tendentious and slanderous comments in newspapers and news portals. One such report was carried in an Indian news portal namely, Northeast Now run from Guwahati, on August 4, entitled "Assassinated Bangladesh Army exmajor was into drugs, training ARSA". One would recall that in the recent past, provocative comments were made by

an Indian journalist to sow rift within, what is the most disciplined and welltrained force, the Bangladesh Army. The tone and tenor of this particular piece should raise our concerns. The author has quoted extensively a "senior Bangladesh intelligence official". The aim and objective of the news portal is quite clear from the comments of this particular post. The writer certainly has access to "senior intelligence official" but they are not Bangladeshi intelligence officials. It defies common-sense that a senior Bangladesh intelligence official would choose a foreign news portal, with hostile agenda against Bangladesh, to vent his views instead of using own media resources, if the story is true.

By painting a fabricated story, the piece not only wanted to paint Major Sinha as a drúg dealer with internátional mafia links, but to establish the link of the army as well in the alleged act. The piece has also scurrilously attempted to establish that Bangladesh Army is involved in training ARSA with the purpose of destabilising the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. Such fabricated, concocted, and half-baked reports have serious security implications for our country, which one hopes the relevant quarters in the administration would take note of and effect appropriate

The killing of Major Sinha has given rise to many questions, which only an impartial investigation can reveal, for one thing, the contradiction in FIR and the inquest report must be looked into. It should also expose the fact that the police narrative of self-defence is a subterfuge to distort the facts.

Sinha has now become one with Nature, but it must be ensured that his reputation is not besmirched by dubious machinations by deflecting the course of investigation and the victim made the accused. Reportedly, the police are trying to implicate an eye witness in a yaba case to discourage any eye witness evidence. It has already lodged two cases against Sinha's companion, one under the drugs control act and the other for preventing government officials from performing

Justice must be served. And we would hope that Sinha is the last to have met such a pathetic death. It is a chance to prove that the rule of law is supreme, and that nobody is above it. Let the police be made to understand that they are to serve the people, not lord over them.

Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (Retd), is a former Associate Editor of *The Daily Star*.

'Coronavirus Resilient Villages'



Badiul **A**lam Majumdar

came from the Chinese city of Wuhan—where the coronavirus originated—in early February and the subsequent influx of hundreds of

thousands of people from countries like Italy where the virus was causing havoc. Similarly, Bangladesh failed to contain the outbreak of the deadly virus in a few hotspots like Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur early on, causing it to spread all over the country. This "community transmission" was accentuated by the back and forth movement of people from the cities to the villages due to the declaration of the general holiday in late April and two Eid holidays thereafter.

Since the coronavirus does not have an approved treatment protocol and there is no certainty when an effective vaccine will be available, we will have to live with it for quite some time. According to some experts like Dr Anthony Fauci, we may never be able to get rid of the virus. Taking into consideration such expert opinion, The Hunger Project (THP) has launched an initiative in late March 2020 to create "coronavirus resilient villages"

around the country. Although local governments have not been given any direct responsibility by the government for controlling the virus, we have been working closely with Union Parishads in creating coronavirus resilient villages. Our initiative is leveraged on the "SDG Union Strategy", which THP had designed in 2015 to "localise" the SDGs. Village Development Teams (VDTs), self-help groups and the large number of volunteers mobilised as part of the SDG Union Strategy are the bedrock of the initiative

Broadly speaking, the initiative involves:

First, making a declaration that "we are in it together" based on the realisation that protection of every single person is required to protect everyone from the coronavirus in a community. Such realisation creates community ownership of its wellbeing and community members' engagement in the efforts to contain and mitigate locally the effects of the spread of the virus. Success of these efforts depend primarily on fomenting a social movement to protect the community from the onslaught of the virus. The Hunger Project's trained volunteers have been playing the catalytic role in mobilising their neighbours and creating social capital to collectedly

declare and initiate planned interventions households with children and persons to make their communities coronavirus resilient villages, making it a self-interest driven, decentralised and community-led

Second, raising awareness particularly by promoting 3Ws—washing hands, wearing masks and watching distance—in order to bring about behavioural changes in people to break the chain of infection. The volunteers use leaflets and direct personal contact—while maintaining safe distance—to disseminate information among villagers and motivate them to abide by health guidelines and manage the waste. In this effort, volunteers use the help of the health professionals posted in Union-level community clinics. They encourage religious and community leaders to dispel misinformation and disinformation about the virus. They also sensitise their communities against

with mental and physical disabilities. Volunteers also enrol those who are eligible into the government's social protection schemes, while helping others with money and materials collected locally through community philanthropy.

This self-interest-driven, communitywide and volunteer-led initiative is already making a huge difference. The initiative is underway in about 1,500 villages. As of the middle of July, the volunteers created awareness among over 3 million people. They engaged Imams and other important people to carry out over 5,000 campaigns against misinformation and disinformation about the virus. They collected nearly USD 450,000, in cash and kind, from the local people through "community philanthropy" to support those in distress. They helped enrol over

quickly control the coronavirus pandemic in Bangladesh. For example, Dr Mushtuq Husain, an adviser to IEDCR, recently wrote: "Your 'Corona resilient village' is a model not only for our villages, it may be replicated in our cities and towns. It is very urgent to minimise the numbers of Covid-19 patients from the community. The Covid-19 pandemic will not die down naturally. China, South Korea halted it through active effort of aggressive containment and mitigation measures, not only so-called 'lockdown'... If your model is followed all over Bangladesh, we will control Covid-19 within a month. Other countries will follow

The model has also begun to receive recognition from abroad. On July 23, LOGIN Asia—a Delhi-based network of organisations committed to local governance—arranged a webinar to share our experiences. Representatives and experts



Women and children washing hands with sanitiser at a cyclone shelter in Satkhira on May 20, 2020.

violence against women and children and 36,000 persons under the government's social protection schemes. Nearly 400 child marriage, which tend to increase

during a pandemic. Third, identifying, isolating and assisting those showing symptoms of coronavirus and help them isolate in their homes and get them professional medical help, including testing for the infection. The volunteers mobilise villagers against stigmatisation of the "victims" of the coronavirus. They also arrange quarantine for outsiders coming to the village.

Fourth, identifyingand supporting households and individuals who are on the verge of starvation due to loss of livelihood. THP volunteers prepare lists of female headed households and youth volunteers helped formers to harvest rice from 42 acres.

The World Health Organization issued several technical guidelines to effectively face the coronavirus pandemic, an important one of which is, Risk Communication and Community Engagement, intended to create awareness and community ownership. THP volunteers' corona resilient villages is a reflection of this guideline, which is already making a difference, and earned the accolade of experts.

Many experts feel that THP's approach, if applied throughout the country, could

from many of the Asian countries attended the webinar and showed serious interests in

PHOTO: STAR

our model. To conclude, to bring the coronavirus under control, we need to mobilise the people to confront it from the community level. Like in 1971, mobilise volunteers to create resistance against it from their neighbourhoods. The coronavirus resilient villages can be a model for such resistance, and it can be upscaled with the partnership of the government to stop the virus in its track. We seek the attention of the authorities towards this important initiative.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Global Vice President and Country Director, The Hunger Project Bangladesh

Did Hiroshima teach us any lesson?

ALI AHMED ZIAUDDIN

HEN the battlefield of Verdun was getting drenched in combatants' blood from all contending sides, the political leadership, unable to define the stalemate, was trying to sell the war as the war "to end all wars". But that war beget countless wars and after a century the end is nowhere in sight. Even worse is with hundreds and thousands of nuclear warheads pointed at each other, the potential of an Armageddon cannot be ruled out. In such an eventuality Hiroshima looks like a tea party. But then developing the most advanced but destructive weapon to destroy or scare or subdue the enemy and establish supremacy is a human failing/ambition/instinct as old as civilisation itself. When any of these elements (or all combined) becomes the motive behind creating such weapons, rationality vanishes into thin air. Humanity gets sacrificed at the altar of greed, and naked ambition to dominate others becomes the guiding principle.

Developing, acquiring, and deploying WMDs, or for that matter any war of aggression, is never easy to sell. Because they are incredibly costly both human and resource wise, it needs to be justified by depicting enemies as monsters or creating new ones. The real motive, however, always remains hidden. For example when America entered the First World War it was not to liberate Europe from the Germans nor even to pursue the lofty idea of the right to self-determination of nationalities, but in the words of a decorated US general, Smedley Butler: "When the war reached a stalemate in the trenches an allied commission in late 1916 met president Wilson and said this, 'There is no use kidding

ourselves any longer. The cause of the allies is lost. We now owe you (American) bankers, munitions makers, manufacturers, speculators and exporters five or six billion dollars. If we lose, which we will without your help, we, England, France, and Italy cannot pay you back... and Germany won't." In early 1917 Wilson declared war on Germany though he was elected to keep the US out of the war. (War is a Racket, p, 43-44). Many such cases abound including the more recent one in Iraq.

The dropping of the first atomic bomb also had a hidden intent other than a military one as I have said in another piece: "It would demonstrate the power of the bomb, bring the Japanese to their knees, while simultaneously warn Russia the US imperial ambition was global and it dare not challenge." Even after learning about the devastation the atom bomb caused in Hiroshima, Truman couldn't care less and ordered the next one to be dropped in Nagasaki. If a hundred thousand Japanese civilians got vaporised instantly it was worth the price to pay to establish US hegemony. The message however, was loud and clear to the Russians who soon joined the nuclear club; and then all hell broke

Subsequently over the next two decades or so all the UN Security Council members acquired theirs and now Israel, Pakistan and India have their globe threatening toys. They not only procured nuclear weapons but chemical and biological weapons also became part of the WMDs. But what no one noticed in their mad rush to get ahead of the perceived enemy, which became crystal clear later, is that the development of all types of WMDs became integral to economic development.

Consequently acquiring these weapons became more of an economic necessity than a security concern. Does all this make sense?

Now, everyone is threatening everyone else. Even Obama who had declared dismantling of all nuclear weapons one of his goals ended up revamping the US nuclear arsenal costing trillions. If one cares to read between the line of volumes

machine. The defence establishment and all other affiliated corporations make huge money out of it. Thus, the war industry becomes a racket. And the less said about Trump's ignorant quip "if we can't use the WMDs why do we have them" the better.

The story is not much different close to home. India and Pakistan are armed to the teeth with nuclear missiles—even though everyone

of Indians barely survive, hovering around the poverty line, so long as the money making machine of war industries go on reaping profits for the few.

When Bertrand Russell had initiated the campaign for nuclear disarmament (CND), ruling elites across the Cold War divide were alarmed and got busy selling the idea that a nuclear war was winnable if

go on. In the process, basic human needs increasingly get ignored triggering anger and resentment, not only in the developing world but even in the most advanced industrial states as well. And that's why a tense situation across the world has become a regular affair. A big chunk of the world's precious resources goes to waste in developing weapons that can never be used unless humans are seeking to destroy themselves. It's about time CND is revived not

chemical, or biological WMDs must

only in countries possessing WMDs but across the world in every society. According to the nuclear doctrines and programmes concerning the WMDs, if one nuclear missile is launched whether by intent or accident, reflex reaction would trigger dozens to be launched within minutes. During the Cold War at least, three such nuclear close calls have been recorded. One during the Cuban missile crisis, involving a Russian nuclear submarine, the second during the Yom Kippur War, when Israel deployed nuclear armed bombers, and the third during a NATO exercise in 1983. At present, when sharp threats are being exchanged on a nearly daily basis between superpowers, an accident cannot be ruled out at any moment. Any sane mind will agree that

disarming the entire stock of WMDs is the need of the hour yet, the powers flaunting those weapons justify them using all kinds of excuses. This is the consequence of trying to sustain a fundamentally unsustainable socio-economic and political order that compels competition to turn into a death race. Where does it end? Has Hiroshima taught the world any lesson?

Ali Ahmed Ziauddin is a researcher and activist.



Hiroshima after the United States detonated the first ever nuclear bomb in an armed conflict on August 6, 1945. Approximately 80,000 people were killed as a direct result of the blast and another 90,000-146,000 died from its acute effects.

of literature justifying such huge expenditure even after knowing full well the futility of a nuclear warfare which at best is unwinnable and at worst will assure mutual extinction it becomes absolutely clear the

programme is a money making

knows that a nuclear showdown will lead to mutual annihilation. The entire subcontinent will be reduced to nuclear ash including the warmongers creating hysteria. But they couldn't care less if nearly half of Pakistan and around 40 percent

ACROSS

one had enough capacity to strike back, totally ignoring the fact that the other side may also possess similar capacity. And now it has become such a vicious cycle that competing powers can no longer stop. The search for the most advanced nuclear,

Fast fashion's thorny question



thing has yet to be much discussion about since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic is the issue of waste. We

know that hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of garment and textile orders have been cancelled or postponed. We also know that this is a global issue—affecting Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Cambodia and all other garment production hubs.

As I write this, mountains of clothing which may never be sold is piled up at ports, in warehouses, sustainability perspective—re-use is high up on the "hierarchy of waste" in sustainability discussions. What about the rest? Here we

come to a rather unpalatable truth. The stark reality is that in many garment production hubs, the options for upcycling, recycling or downcycling clothing are somewhat limited. These are new and emerging markets in many cases. Nobody knows what will happen to theliterally—billions of garment items that will no longer be required because of Covid-19. But I fear that a sizeable amount of these items will be either incinerated or

Just consider the irony of that! We have spent years talking about sustainability and the need to make better use of the world's precious

Bangladesh as a garment hub depends on people purchasing things they often do not need. We may not have worried about this in the past, but this is an issue our leaders surely ought to consider moving forwards.

What this tells me is what many have been saying for years—we purchase a huge amount of clothing we do not really need. It's frivolous and unnecessary.

Here's another thing: Bangladesh as a garment hub depends on people purchasing things they often do not need. We may not have worried about this in the past, but this is an issue our leaders surely ought to consider moving forwards.

Fast fashion—and this is what we are talking about here—is a brilliant job creator. You only need to look at what happens when you temporarily take fast fashion away from Bangladesh to see this is the case. Our RMG industry is being decimated by the slowing down of fast fashion and millions of jobs are

But what if after all this is said and done, people globally begin to realise well not going out and purchasing clothing every weekend? What if new buying habits emerge in the wake of Covid-19 as people start focusing on what they need rather than what they

These are awkward questions,

Perhaps now is the time for Bangladesh to start thinking long and hard about its own future in the apparel space. I firmly believe the fashion industry's leaders will be under huge pressure to place more emphasis on value and longevity in clothing production in the coming years. Will our factories be ready to respond?

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE). Email: mostafiz@denimexpert.com

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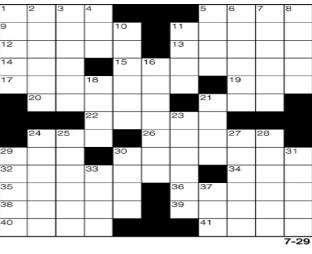
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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Gazipur

Website: www.spcbl.org.bd

Local/International Re e-Tender (2nd Call)

Electronic tenders (e-Tenders) are hereby invited from the competent local/international manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the following items for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. Re e-Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specifications will be available at web: etender.spcbl.org.bd/114.130.43.56. It is to mention here that this is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-Tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender bidders need to register on e-Tender.spcbl.org.bd/114.130.43.56. For more details please contact cell: 880-1534002183 & 880-1534002184. Necessary information is given below:

Name of the items Nature of Re e-		Date of	Last date and	Date & time	Value/set of	
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Bidder may collect e-Tender schedule from the aforementioned website. Earnest money @ 3% (three per cent) of the total quoted price shall have to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of The Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur along with the price of Re e-Tender schedule in the form of a separate Pay Order/DD in the tender box kept at Corporation's office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of Re e-Tender. In the case of international tender, Irrevocable Bank Guarantee may also be given as earnest money from any international commercial bank abroad with a counter guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-Tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to be submitted as per Re e-Tender guidelines mentioned at the above website. Offer(s) will be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) Re e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one supplier/manufacturer for submitting one offer against each item along with earnest money and price of Re e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-Tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

Sheikh Mohammad Shoaib Nazir

General Manager (Foreign Purchase) Phone: 88-02-9205661

and on factory floors. What on earth will happen to it all? It is impossible to tell but there are several possible options for such clothing. It might still be sold to buyers. In fact, many brands have agreed to take their orders, but they want a large discount.

What happens to clothing that brands will not take? In some cases, brands have been offering to pay towards the cost of orders, but they do not wish to take the order. They have told the factory supplier they can do with the clothing what they wish, provided that they remove all the brand's labelling and all other traces. Will factories be able to re-sell this clothing? In some cases they may do, but in a great many it is doubtful. For instance, George, the clothing arm of UK retailer Asda, has cancelled a lot of school uniforms. It is difficult to see how such clothing will find a new market anywhere.

It also needs to be factored in that all clothing is seasonal—nobody wants to buy coats in the summer any more than they will buy shorts in the winter.

There are other possible destinations for this excess clothing. It could find its way into the second-hand markets. This would be an excellent option from a

resources. We have heard talk of failing cotton crops because of global warming. And yet here we are in a situation where clothing may end up being destroyed because the industry has produced too much. How did we ever get in this mess?

These are exceptional times, we all know that, and nobody could have predicted how this pandemic would pan out and the impact it would have. We have all been blindsided.

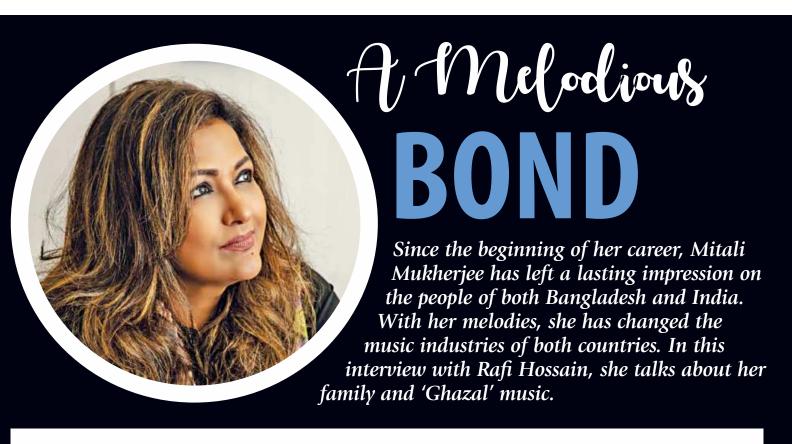
But there is something else worth considering here. Since this pandemic began, millions of clothing sales which would otherwise be made have been postponed and may never happen at all. Millions of trips to purchase clothing have not happened. As individuals, we have all purchased far less clothing in the past 1-2 months than at any time previously. In fact, by the end of this year, the overall reduction in the amount of clothing purchased will likely be down by at least 10 percent probably much more.

And yet, is anybody going cold because they don't have clothing? Are people complaining because they do not have the right shirt or T-shirt or the correct suit? Are people falling ill because they cannot purchase clothing? Obviously not.

that—actually—they coped quite

and I do not have any real solutions. What I do know, however, is that fast fashion is criticised day in, day out, in the international media. I have no doubts that the world cannot go on indefinitely creating an excess of "disposable" clothing but I also recognise that, when the world begins to wake up to this fact, countries like Bangladesh will face a real economic problem.





working with Ali bhai.

Rafi Hossain: Welcome to Uncensored with Rafi Hossain. Today, we have with us a very special guest -Mitali Mukherjee. Mitali, we are very happy to have you here with us.

Mitali Mukherjee: I am very happy to be here. I would like to thank both The Daily Star and you, Rafi, for having me here. Rafi: Your son, Amandeep is also a musician, right?

Mitali: Yes, he is a musician as well. He plays the electric guitar, and he even worked on the title track for the movie, Dangal. Amandeep also composes, and his work has appeared on both Bhupinder's and my albums. He has also worked on the tracklist for the movieAe Dil Hai Mushkil. Now, he is taking online courses, and since he is very interested in jazz music, he is working on that.

Rafi: At one point, 'Ghazal' music had a lot of avid listeners. Now, it seems that not many people listen to it. Do you think so too? Mitali: I would not say that the number of listeners has decreased by much. It is just that Ghazal music does not get publicity on platforms like television. If you look at the industry in Bombay, all music is film-oriented. So, all the music that gets promoted is mainly from movies. In the past, along with the films' songs, other songs used to be promoted, but,

unfortunately, the other songs do not get as much publicity as they used to. So, you do not get to see genres like Ghazal getting publicity on television. But, the music style is still very popular. A

I consider myself very fortunate that my parents were very supportive of whatever I or my siblings wanted to do. I have seven siblings, and all of us were involved in music or dance.

Rafi: Did you compose the tune for more songs after this one?

face comes to my mind.

Rafi: Growing up, your family was very invested in music. Am I correct?

Mitali: I consider myself very fortunate that my parents were

very supportive of whatever I or my siblings wanted to do. I

have seven siblings, and all of us were involved in music or

dance. My late elder sister was even a gold medalist for Kathak

Mitali: I actually composed all eight songs on that album. I had also composed Ghazals, and composed one of Gulzar Saab's Nazm. While I was working on that

in both East and West Pakistan. My elder

brother, Deepak, was an amazing Tabla

player. He would listen to all kinds of

him and sing. Unfortunately, in 1988,

he was suffering from kidney disease,

and after a kidney transplant, his body

rejected the kidney and he passed away.

He was very young when he died, and I

cannot express how badly his death had

affected me. One of my most popular

dedicated to him. I composed the tune

for this song and my brother had actually

written it. Whenever I sing this song, his

songs, Keno Asha Bedhe Rakhi, was

Bangla songs, and then have me sit with

album with him, I used to say that heis more partial towards Bhupi, and that he would not give me anything. He then told methat he will give me a Nazm one day where I will be the



GRAPE VINE

Newly wed Kornia

Vocalist Zakia Sultana Kornia has recently tied the knot with SOS band founder and keyboardplayer, Nabil Salauddin. Nabil has previously worked with many renowned bands, namely Prometheus and Ark, as well as artists like Kaniz Suborn and Mehreen Mahmud. The wedding, which was set to take place inMarch, had to be postponed due the



pandemic. The akht finally took place on July 27, 2020, with only afew of their loved ones present. Kornia said, "Ours is not a love marriage, but one that our families arranged. The wedding was scheduled to take place on March 26, and the reception on April 1, but wehad to delay it due to the COVID-19 outbreak. I spent the first day of this Eid at my in-laws' place, andhad an invitation to my sister-in-law's house the next." In terms of her career, Kornia first appeared in aprivate television music show, Power Voice, in 2012, where she became a runner-up.

Shreya Shomoyeeta



Puja Cherry in 'Hridita'

Actor Puja Cherry recently signed up for a government grant film, Hridita, directed by the duo Ispahani-Arif Jahan. Starring opposite her will be *Dhaka Attack* famed actor ABM Sumon. The film is an adaptation of the story *Hridita* by Anisul Hoque. Puja said, "The duo Ispahani-Arif Jahan is one of the best directors in our industry. This will be the first time I am going to work for a storyline adapted from a novel. I will try my best to portray the character Hridita just as the book and reach the hearts of the audience. Aside from this, Puja Cherry's Shaan and Jinn is still awaiting their releases.



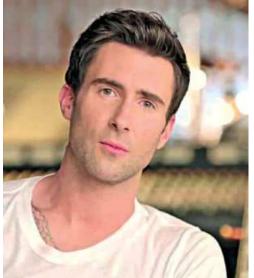
CHANDI'S first song

National Award winning actor and dancer Chandni has given her voice for the first time to a song. The song, titled Janina, has been written by her mother, Fatema Begum. The tune of the song and music direction have been done by the Farhan Labib Ahmed from the band The Rockchild, while the musicalarrangement was done by Zahin Rashid. The music video was made by Tuku Khandokar. Chandni said, "Although acting and dancing run in my veins, I love music. Previously, I had sung DhonoDhannoPushpeBhora for a dance, but this is my first-time giving voice to a song." Janina was released on her own YouTube channel, Chandni Tube.

Amina Hossain

GUESS THE CELEBRITY

Guess who the celebrity is? **HINT:** BRING BACK MEMORIES



ANSWER FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE: "BRAD PITT"

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

POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS





Strangers from Hell, also known as Hell Is Other People, is a South Korean TV show, initially released on August 31, 2019, on OCN. It was written by Jung Yi-do, directed by Lee Changhee, produced by Kim Woo-sang and Kwon Mi-kyung under the banners of Woo Sang Film and Studio N, and stars Im Si-wan and Lee Dong-wook in the leads. The story, which is based on the eponymous webtoon series, follows the life of a writer who moves to a suspiciously cheap apartment in Seoul where mysterious and dangerous residents live.

2GETHER: THE SERIES

2gether: The Series is a Thai TV show based on the eponymous 2019 novel by JittiRain. It was directed by Weerachit Thongjila, and produced under the banners of GMMTV and Housestories 8, and stars Metawin Opas-iamkajorn (Win) and Vachirawit Chiva-aree (Bright)

in the lead. The story follows the life of university student who starts a fake relationship with a classmate to make an admirer leave him alone. It was first released on February 21, 2020 on GMM 25 and LINE TV, but can now be watched on Netflix as well.





Lootcase is an Indian dark comedy film. It has been directed by Rajesh Krishnan, and produced by Fox Star Studios and Soda Films, under the banner of Disney+Hotstar. The film stars Kunal Khemu and RasikaDugal in the lead, alongside Vijay Raaz, RanvirShorey and Gajraj Rao. It tells the story of a man whoaccidentally finds a suitcase full of cash, and has to decide what he to do with it next. It was released onJuly 31, 2020.

Amina Hossain& Shreya Shomoyeeta

Basel v Frankfurt Live from 1:00am (Friday) **UEFA Europa League** Sevilla v AS Roma Live from 11:00pm Wolves v Olympiacos

Live from 1:00am (Friday)



Dr Ali Emran (C), an associate professor of BSMMU, leads Bangladesh national football team manager Satyajit Das Rupu (L) and a batch of footballers to the testing facilities where the players and officials got tested for Covid-19 yesterday before travelling to an isolated resort in Gazipur for a residential camp. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Four test positive, but booters raring to train



Moving past the fear of coronavirus infection, national looking forward to starting afresh as

training camp for the Joint Qualifiers the camp today after going through Sarah Resorts in Gazipur after four and a half months of inaction.

Team manager Satyajit Das Rupu informed defender Bishwanath Ghosh, who was part of the first batch of 12 players, will not join the camp as he tested positive for Covid-19 on August 3 as part of the assistant coach Stuart Watkiss are Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF's) prerequisites to join the camp. The BFF organised a second round of tests for the footballers and seven officials yesterday at the BSMMU before leaving for Gazipur yesterday evening.

Reza, MS Bablu and Nazmul Islam recalled to the preliminary squad -- were found positive in vesterday's tests as those three, along with Bishwanath -- were eventually left behind in Dhaka.

The players are supposed to start low-intensity training this afternoon while the second batch of the first batch yesterday joined the 12 footballers are scheduled to join for World Cup and Asian Cup at the Covid-19 tests. On Friday, seven other footballers will follow the same process, while captain Jamal Bhuiyan's and defender Tariq Raihan Kazi's presence will be subject to the availability of return flights to Bangladesh.

Head coach Jamie Day and scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on August 16.

My family did not want me to come to Dhaka during the coronavirus pandemic but I convinced them a month ago and continued training at my club ground," said midfielder Three more footballers - Suman Mohammad Abdullah, who was

after two years following an injury sustained in 2018.

Everyone is scared of coronavirus but I am not worried because we have to overcome the barriers and if we can train while maintaining social distance, there is nothing to worry about," said the Sheikh Russel KC midfielder.

"I know it is now more challenging to secure a place in the final squad but I like the challenge because I know the pain of staying away from the national team," said Abdullah.

'Coronavirus is of course to be feared because we travelled from different districts to come to Dhaka and don't know each other's health conditions," said striker Suman Reza, who was later found to be Covid-

Bangladesh will host Afghanistan in Sylhet on October 8 before travelling to Qatar to play their away match against the Asian Champions on October 13.

Azhar's duck in Pak's shaky start

Afp, Manchester

Pakistan captain Azhar Ali was out for a duck as the first Test against England got under way at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

At lunch, the tourists were 53-2, with opener Shan Masood having batted through a tough session to be 27 not out and Babar Azam unbeaten on four.

With two leg-spinners in Yasir Shah and Shadab Khan in Pakistan's side, there was a logic in Azhar's decision to bat first after he won the toss, with his slow bowlers likely to be more effective on a wearing pitch.

Nevertheless, the overcast skies and piercing floodlights made life tough for opening batsmen with conditions favouring England's four-man pace attack, who had been involved in a recent 2-1 series win over the West Indies. In contrast, Pakistan's preparation for this three-match series amounted to just two intrasquad warm-up games.

Shan Masood and fellow opener Abid Ali did well to survive the first hour against an unchanged England.

James Anderson, closing in on his 600th Test wicket, took the new ball on his Lancashire home ground in the company of longstanding team-mate Stuart Broad, fresh from becoming just the seventh bowler to take 500 Test wickets.

But it was Jofra Archer who made the breakthrough as he cleverly bowled Abid Ali with a fulllength delivery for 16.

Kirsten 'meets'

SPORTS REPORTER



Former India head coach Gary Kirsten, who was appointed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board as a consultant in the past and oversaw the selection of Steve Rhodes as head coach in 2018, took part in a virtual meeting of the Bangladesh national cricket

Members of the national squad had a few virtual meetings since the Covid-19 outbreak, with head coach Russell Domingo and his staff conducting the meetings. It was Kirsten who shared his experience with the Tigers' and the coaching staff yesterday.

The meeting lasted more than an hour where the former South African opening batsman shared his experience both as a player and also as a coach. Few of the cricketers relayed their queries to Kirsten as the players are gearing to get back to the field following a long break from cricket since mid-March.

"Mainly he (Kirsten) discussed on how we could return to cricket and the areas that we need to focus on and things like that. It was a pretty general meeting where we all took part in the discussion," one of the members of the national squad, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star.

Following the long break, a number of national team members have already begun individual practice at BCB's facilities across the country, with more players showing interest to start training from August 8.



Bangladesh batsman Mahmudullah Riyad was seen practising at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Nadal skips **US** Open

AFP, New York

Defending champion Rafael Nadal said Tuesday he will not play the US Open, citing concerns over the coronavirus and slamming tennis's "barbaric" revised calendar.

"After many thoughts I have decided not to play this year's US Open," Nadal said on Twitter.

"The situation is very complicated worldwide, the Covid-19 cases are increasing, it looks like we still don't have control of

"This is a decision I never wanted to take but I have decided to follow my heart this time and for the time being I rather not travel."

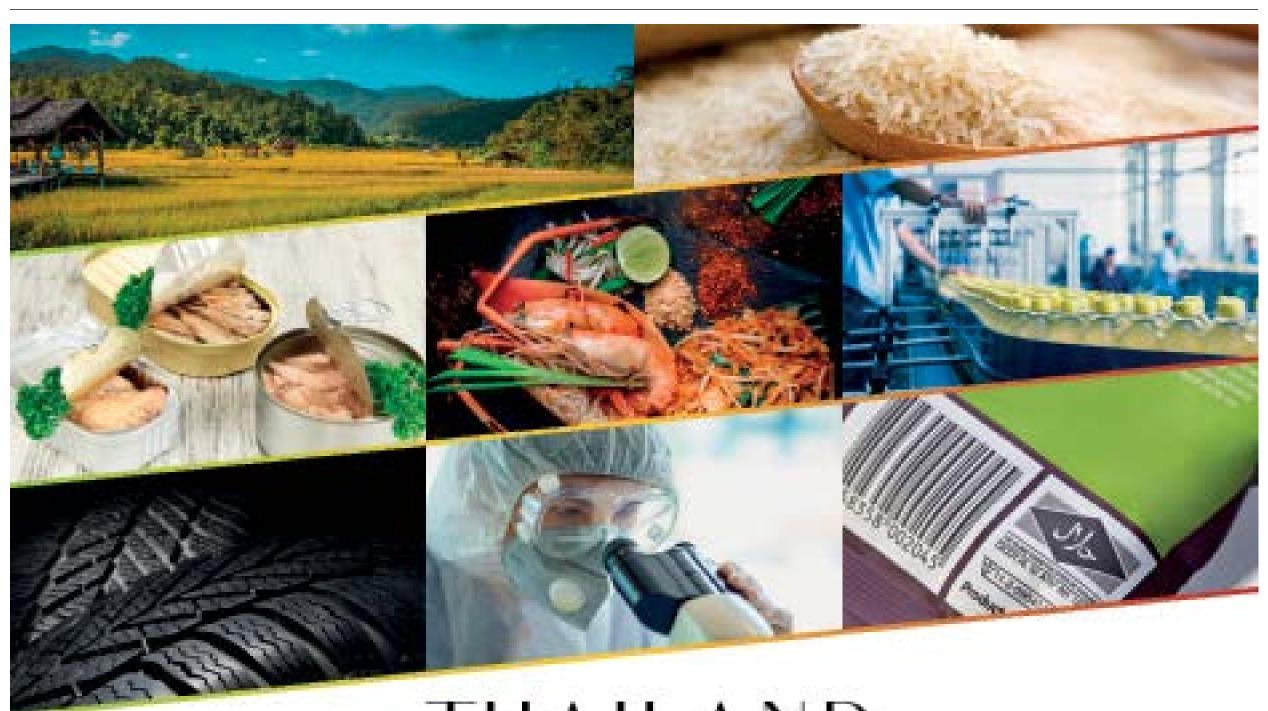
The 34-year-old Spanish star also took aim at the international tennis schedule, which been revised following disruptions sparked by COVID-19 shutdowns.

The US Open in New York, scheduled for August 31 through September 13, will be followed a fortnight later by the French Open at Roland Garros.

"We know that the reduced tennis calendar is barbaric this year after 4 months stopped with no play..." Nadal said.

With Nadal's long-time rival Roger Federer already ruled out of the tournament as he recovers from knee surgery, the US Open will mark the first time since 1999 that neither player has featured in the main draw of a Grand Slam event.

Nadal, who has 19 Grand Slam victories, could have equalled Federer's tally of 20 Slam wins in New York.



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COURTES HATES ENTERED AND AND BEST MAN





Dhaka gets first tranche of \$1b Japanese loan

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh yesterday got the first tranche of the \$1 billion loan pledged by Japan to bounce back from economic whiplash brought on by the global coronavirus pandemic.

Japan joins the likes of development partners such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank International Monetary Fund and the Islamic Development Bank in rallying behind Bangladesh.

The five multilateral development lenders have altogether provided about \$2 billion in Bangladesh's efforts for economic recovery.

Japan normally provides project aid to Bangladesh and now would call the planned support as budget aid, which came after Dhaka sought help following the outbreak of coronavirus in the country in March that necessitated a two-and-a-half month-long general shutdown.

While the virus could not be snuffed out, the shutdown caused great damages to the economy.

The pandemic stands to wipe off the gains made in poverty reduction in the past decade, according to the World Bank; and as per estimates, more than 1.5 million of the poor and the vulnerable have lost their livelihoods for the shutdown.

This means the need to spend substantially on social safety net programmes and job creation has become imperative. At the same time, its purse strings have been tightened for the near-collapse of economic activities.

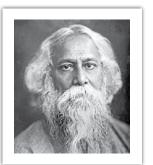
"So, Japan has committed \$1 billion to aid in economic recovery," said an official of the Economic Relations Divisions involved in the proceedings.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



What used to be a canal has become a pit of floating garbage in Nandipara of the capital's Khilgaon. Waste from a nearby kitchen market and floodwaters have been making their way into the water body for years now, turning it into a perfect breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes and more.

AMRAN HOSSAIN



Tagore's 79th anniversary of death today

Bss, Dhaka

The nation is observing the 79th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore today recalling the great poet who did not leave any human emotion untouched in his works, especially poems and songs.

The day is being observed with limited programmes the pandemic.

Rabindranath died at the age of 80 on August 7 in 1941, according to the Gregorian calendar. But his death anniversary is observed in Bangladesh on Sraban 22 of the Bangla calendar.

To mark the day, Bangla Academy, Shilpakala

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Erosion hits 10 districts as flood water recedes

STAR REPORT

With flood water receding, erosion has become devastating in 10 districts, devouring homesteads, croplands, educational institutions and other

Many rendered homeless by river erosion have taken shelter on roads, dykes

and other safe places for survival. Officials of Water Development Board (WDB) said they were trying to prevent

river erosion by dumping geo-bags. Over 55 lakh people of 162 upazilas under 33 districts have so far been affected by floods, said the latest report of National Disaster Response Coordination Centre

(NDRCC) In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, at least 4,000 homesteads and vast stretches of arable land with standing crops, orchards and bamboo clusters have so far been eroded by flood water in the last week or

Local WDB have identified at least a hundred spots in the two districts that witnessed serious erosion.

Meher Ali, 62, of Balapra village under Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, said, "Our homesteads on around 12 decimal of land along with another three bighas of arable land were eroded by the Teesta on Eid

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu worried over floods

August 6, 1972

Shamsuddoza Sajen

BANGABANDHU'S TALK WITH OFFICIALS

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today holds important discussions with Bangladeshi officials in London. What is discussed in the meeting cannot be ascertained but sources close to the prime minister inform that the flood situation and food problem are among the important topics. The sources say that the prime minister is very worried about the flood in Bangladesh and he has been keeping in touch with acting Prime Minister Syed Nazrul Islam and other ministers to know

details and the measures that have been taken to tackle the situation.

As for Bangabandhu's health condition, the stiches from his gallbladder stone operation are likely to be removed in a couple of days, informs Bangabandhu's

personal physician Dr Nurul Islam. "His condition is very good," he adds. Dr Islam hopes that Bangabandhu may leave the clinic in two to three days.

TAIUDDIN'S CALL TO CHINA

Finance and Planning Minister Tajuddin Ahmad calls upon the People's Republic of China to recognise the reality of Bangladesh. He says that China had made a mistake by not supporting the liberation struggle. "Even then, we don't hold any grudge against them," he adds.

On aid from capitalistic countries the minister says it is advisable that Bangladesh takes it as less as possible. The finance minister

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

KL to deport Bangladeshi worker over TV interview

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi expatriate Rayhan Kabir will be deported by Malaysia once the country's attorney general's chambers completes looking into the investigation papers of the case, Malaysia's **Immigration Department** Director General Khairul Dzaimee Daud said yesterday.

He said the department that the investigation papers regarding Rayhan's case had been handed to the AGC, reported The Star.

we will deport him to Bangladesh. "And he will never step foot in Malaysia again as he

"Once the AGC is done,

will be blacklisted," he said at a press conference. Asked how soon it would take to send Rayhan

back to Bangladesh,

Khairul said the SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

AI helps doctors fight Covid in Brazil



Doctors in Brazil, the country with the secondhighest number of cases and deaths in the coronavirus pandemic, have a new tool in their fight against Covid-19: artificial intelligence to detect infections.

Under-testing remains a huge problem in the sprawling South American country, but AI is helping fill the gap, thanks to a system called RadVid-19 developed using algorithms from German company Siemens and Chinese firm Huawei.

Brazil has been hit harder by the pandemic than any country except the United States, with nearly

2.8 million infections and 95,000 deaths. Experts say the numbers would be much higher if there were more widespread testing.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

3 schoolgirls raped in Ctg

Two arrested, sent to jail STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A metropolitan magistrate court in Chattogram yesterday sent two men to jail on charges of raping three schoolgirls in the town's Khulshi area.

Mohammed Liton, 37, of Noakhali, and Sohel Rana Raju, 28, of Cumilla, said police.

Pranab Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Khulshi Police Station, said the duo kept the girls confined at a house in Khulshi area on July 29 and raped them overnight.

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Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esh AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-15 JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

The wait of centuries is over

Says Modi as temple construction begins in Ayodhya

REUTERS, Ayodhya

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday launched the construction of a Hindu temple on a site that has been contested by Muslims for decades in a dispute that has sparked some of country's most bloody communal violence.

The Supreme Court ruled last year that Hindus, who believe the site in the northern town of Ayodhya is the birthplace of Lord Ram, a physical incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, be allowed to build a temple there, ending years of litigation.

Modi, whose Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) campaigned for more than three decades for the temple, unveiled a plaque at the site in an elaborate ceremony to inaugurate construction.

"The whole country is thrilled, the wait of SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Phool Khatun, 70, tries to have a roof over her head again after the mighty Jamuna devoured her house on Char Chunduni in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila. After her husband died many years ago, she had already been struggling to make ends meet because of floods, and now river erosion has only added to her woes.

PHOTO: SHEIKH ENAMUL HAQ

Global Covid deaths top 700,000

Data shows one person dying in every 15 seconds as hotspots see record cases AGENCIES

The global death toll from the coronavirus surpassed 700,000 yesterday, according to AFP and Reuters tallies, with the United States, Brazil, India and Mexico leading the rise in fatalities.

Nearly 5,900 people are dying every 24 hours from COVID-19 on average, according to Reuters calculations based on data from the past two weeks.

That equates to 247 people per hour, or one person every 15 seconds.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 701,112 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to AFP. At least 18,572,720 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 196 countries and territories. Of these, at least 10,917,200 are now considered recovered.

On Tuesday, 6,784 new deaths and 252,972 new cases were recorded worldwide.

Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were United States with 1,302 new deaths, followed by Brazil with 1,154, and Mexico with 857.

The United States is the worst-hit country with 156,830 deaths from 4,771,846 cases. After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Brazil with 95,819 deaths from 2,801,921 cases, Mexico with 48,869 deaths from 449,961 cases, Britain with 46,299 deaths from 306,293 cases, and India with 39,795 deaths from 1,908,254 cases.

Despite the consistent death toll, US President Donald

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1