

Bhadra 3, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

Zilhaji 27, 1441 Hijri

BANGLADESH UPDATE 2,595
New cases in 24hrs Total cases









1,60,591 Recoveries





Witnesses to Sinha Killing

# Cops out to use them as pawns

Villagers allege intimidation

ZYMA ISLAM with MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Nestled between hills on one side and the sea on the other, Marishbunia village in Teknaf's Baharchhara union is pure beauty. Babbling brooks, mossy arched bridges and hibiscus shrubs in full bloom -- this was the last location where Maj (retd) Sinha Rashed Md Khan was filming before he was killed in police firing on July 31.

But for such an idyllic location, the atmosphere in Marishbunia is unnerving. All the witnesses named in the case, filed against the slain exarmy major by police, are from this village, and the inhabitants have been between a rock and a hard place since early this month.

While the investigation officer in the Sinha murder case against nine policemen arrested three inhabitants of the village, listed as witnesses in the police case against Sinha, police have tried to use the villagers as pawns and rattle them into silence.

The locals allege that the village is under intensive surveillance. Several villagers, all interviewed separately, claimed that vehicles of different law enforcement agencies have been making daily rounds of the village.

Yesterday, these two correspondents encountered a black-tintedwindowed Hi-Ace microbus -- the vehicle of choice for many a law enforcement agency -- zipping through the village streets around 11:30am. Villagers walking down the streets stopped to stare as the van crossed

Over the last two days, whenever the correspondents visited the village, they entered crowded tea shops to ask questions but people quickly slunk

This fear goes back to the day when the witnesses were picked up by plainclothes men, and the Teknaf police retaliated by harassing their

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



her tested for Covid-19 at the capital's Mugda Medical College and Hospital yesterday. She had to wait two hours in the heat to give samples. The number of people getting tested at the hospital has been visibly increasing since the Eid. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

#### BFIU orders freeze of NRB Global Bank ex-MD's accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has recently directed the commercial banks to freeze the accounts of 83 people, including former NRB Global Bank managing director Proshanta Kumar Halder, his mother, and brother.

The BFIU issued the directive after its investigation found that Tk 3,000 crore was transferred into their accounts which

While holding the post of the managing director of Reliance Finance, a non-banking financial institution, Proshanta Kumar Halder, also known as PK Halder, had made his relatives directors of three other leasing companies -- Peoples Leasing and Financial Services, International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL) and FAS Finance and Investment Limited -- for swindling money, said sources at the Anti-Corruption Commission. SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



#### Indian foreign secy likely to arrive today

UNB, Dhaka

**Indian Foreign Secretary** Harsh Vardhan Shringla is likely to arrive in Dhaka today on a brief visit aiming to boost ties between the two neighbouring countries, an informed source said.

It could not be known what is the purpose of the visit. However, a diplomatic source indicates that the Indian foreign secretary is likely to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, among others, and discuss ways to strengthen the bond between the two

> Shringla will also convey SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

CHAKARIA 'CROSSFIRE' VICTIMS

# Expatriate killed 'for money'

Alleges family; mistaken identity feared to have led to killing of another one

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

The eldest son of a Bangladeshi expatriate in Oman, Md Jafar used to run a human haulier to support his family in Chattogram's Patiya.

While his fight against poverty continued, he got a chance to make it to the Arab country and change his fate, which he did. Toiling more than nine years abroad, he finally

But little did Jafar know what laid ahead. In the early hours of July 31, just a day before Eid-ul-Azha, the 37-year-old was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Cox's Bazar's Chakaria area. Locals insist he was innocent but according to the police

managed to make his family solvent.

version, he was a yaba peddler. Two other persons -- Md Hasan, 37, of Chattogram's Patiya municipality area and Jahir Ahmed, 45, of Shantinagar area of Chakaria After the

Md Jafar

-- were also killed in the same "crossfire", which has some doubts questions on police's role in the incident. "shootout",

family members alleged policemen picked up Jafar, who came to Bangladesh on March 12 to visit his family, from his home in Patiya. Later, the law enforcers "murdered him in cold blood, failing to extort Tk 50 lakh"

from them. On Sunday, they filed a case with the judicial magistrate's court in Patiya accusing Chakaria police station's Officer-in-Charge Habibur Rahman and Inspector Aminul Islam, also in-charge of Harbang police outpost in Cox's Bazar, of the murder. Nine people, including a local union parishad member, were named as witnesses in the case.

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#### SHAHED'S LOAN SCAM ACC grills him over loan from Farmers Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday interrogated Regent Hospital Chairman Mohammad Shahed in connection with a case filed against him for misappropriating about Tk 2.71 crore from now-defunct Farmers Bank.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Mohammad Sahajahan Meraz interrogated Shahed for about five hours at the commission's Segunbagicha headquarters.

Earlier, the ACC filed a petition with Dhaka's Senior Special Judge's Court to allow the commission to interrogate Shahed. The court, presided by Judge KM Emrul Kayesh, allowed the ACC to

interrogate him on a seven-day remand. On July 27, Meraz filed a case against Shahed for misappropriating about Tk

2.71 crore loan from Farmers' Bank. Shahed, who is now in jail, came to the limelight after he was found involved in issuing fake Covid-19 certificates following a raid by Rab on Regent Hospital. He went into hiding and was later arrested by Rab from Satkhira.

"We've gleaned information regarding misappropriation. For the sake of proper SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# I will sue everyone, I swear

Vows Shipra in video message as her 'seized' personal and 'doctored' photos make rounds in social media

Stamford University student Shipra Debnath, also a crew member of slain Maj (retd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan, has promised to file cases under the Digital Security Act against police officials and others who made her life miserable by circulating her private photos on social media.

In a video statement yesterday, she sought justice for the killing of Sinha and the attempts made to

assassinate her and her colleague Shahadul Islam Sefat's characters. After Sinha's murder on the night of July 31, she alleged, police went to their resort and seized both their laptops, three hard drives, mobile phones,

monitor, desktop, camera, and lenses. "But those were not in the seizure list. Now I don't know how to get those

back," she said. "I have been noticing for the last several days that some of my personal photos were posted on social media by tailoring and editing those in

Photoshop to create a different meaning. "Stealing photos from our social media profiles and [seized] devices, some officers with perverted minds shared those on Facebook and other social media platforms. Fake Facebook and Instagram IDs were created in

The people who have made my personal life miserable by sharing photos and making videos, I will take proper action against each of them under the Digital Security Act. I swear..." said the 25-year-old student.

Shipra was accused in a narcotics case following the killing of Sinha. She along with two other students of her university and Sinha went to Cox's



People throng Patenga beach in Chattogram yesterday after the authorities opened the tourist spot after keeping it closed for months due to the pandemic. Many stuck in homes for weeks and months decided to go to the beach in the afternoon and some stayed there well after sunset.

**RAJIB RAIHAN** 

# Khaleda may

BNP leaders and activists are keen to see party Chairperson Khaleda Zia actively involved in politics again, but their desire is not likely to be met anytime soon.

The former prime minister, now out of jail for six months under a government order, remains inactive in politics mainly because of her illness. Besides, the BNP also fears repercussions from the government for any such move by her.

Khaleda was freed from jail on March 25 after the government had suspended her jail sentence in a corruption case for six months as per section 401 of Criminal Code of Procedure.

But the order did not make it clear whether she can do politics actively. Party leaders fear the government may send her back behind bars if she becomes active in politics. The BNP chief did not

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Cases Against Khaleda

# not be back in active politics SC keeps 4 of anytime soon them stayed

Another court sets Oct 6 for

her to show up

STAR REPORT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court's orders that stayed the trial proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in four separate vandalism and arson cases filed in 2015.

The apex court, however, asked the HC to hear and dispose of the rules issued in connection with the

cases. It asked Attorney General Mahbubey Alam to take

necessary steps for the HC hearing on the rules. Another Dhaka court yesterday set October 6 for the appearance of Khaleda before it in 11 cases lodged against her following a time plea from the defence.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, came up with the orders after virtually hearing four separate petitions filed by the state seeking stay on the HC's orders.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Deputy Attorney General Bishwajit Debnath appeared for the state while Barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Barrister Bodruddoza Badal represented Khaleda Zia during the virtual proceedings.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Badal said that the HC stay orders on the trial proceedings of Khaleda Zia will remain in force following the apex court's order.

The HC will hold a hearing on the rules for their

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

#### Macron urges new Mideast talks after call with Abbas

French President Emmanuel Macron urged fresh Middle East peace talks after Israel and the UAE agreed to normalise ties in a move praised by many Western governments, including Paris, but unanimously denounced by the Palestinians.

Taking to Twitter after a phone conversation with Mahmoud Abbas, Macron said he told the Palestinian leader he was determined "to work for peace in the Middle East".

He added: "The resumption of talks to reach a fair solution that respects international law remains a priority."

The French leader had hailed the agreement announced by US President Donald Trump on Thursday as a "courageous decision" by the UAE, saying it showed Dubai's "desire to contribute to the establishment of a just and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians".

# Cops out to use them as pawns

Md Mobarak, brother of Md Aiyas, the third witness in the police case, showed these correspondents the broken lock on the front door of their house, and their broken back door.

"This was in the early hours of August 12. Aiyas had been picked up around 3:30pm the day before. A plainclothes man, flanked by two policemen in uniform, came at 2:00am. They asked for Aiyas's wife, so she came to speak and answered questions about Aiyas.

"They left and came back an hour later -- this time we were fearful and we didn't open the door. They broke the locks, barged in and said Aiyas's wife needed to go to Teknaf Police Station with them," claimed Mobarak.

"We pleaded and they finally relented -- but not before getting her signatures on a sheaf of blank papers," he mentioned.

Aiyas' family also alleged that the circumstances surrounding how Aiyas had been picked up was also very unnerving.

Mobarak said, "Around 3:30pm [on August 11], a group of people identifying themselves as journalists came to our house. They asked Aiyas to show them the spot where Sinha was coming down from the hill. I also went to the spot with my brother and saw Nazimuddin and Nurul Amin there.

"The people who identified themselves as journalists then said they must go to Cox's Bazar to meet a foreign journalist. I was left behind. Later, his [Aiyas] phone was found turned off. Around 10:00pm, he called to say he was well and asked me not to worry. The following day, Rab produced him before court as an arrestee," he mentioned.

On the August 11 night, policemen knocked the doors of their neighbours in the middle of the night. Right opposite Aiyas's home is a mud-walled house where his distant uncle lives.

"They came to our house around 11:45pm and banged on the front door. They couldn't break it because we use old-fashioned iron-rings to lock the door," said the relative.

The house next door, where a single mother lives with her young child, was not spared either. Another neighbour named Md Hashim said police came to his house around 8:30pm and they too kept the door closed out of fear.

Hamid Hossain, an auto-rickshaw case, had left the area, claimed his brother Kamal.

"I don't know why police made my brother a witness... On the July 31 night, he had received a phone call from Aiyas saying they needed an autorickshaw to go to Shamlapur where a robber had been caught by police. He dropped them off in Shamlapur and

The following day was the Eid day. Police came around 10:00am while my brother was slaughtering a sacrificial cow. They took him to the police station in that state. He told me that they made him sign some blank papers," alleged

Hamid has been hiding since then, he claimed.

Police also broke into the house of another witness, Nazimuddin, claimed

There have been allegations that Nazimuddin's wife was forced to file a case claiming that her husband had been abducted by several men in a Hiace microbus. She was allegedly made to give her thumbprint on the documents.

When these correspondents visited her home yesterday, the entire premises were found empty. The neighbours said she fled the village the very next morning.

While Rab Director General Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun was visiting Baharchhara yesterday, journalists asked him why police forced the wife of one of the witnesses to file an abduction case when in fact it was Rab that had arrested the witnesses.

In response, he said the agencies are working together. "There is no lack of coordination among them."

Khairul Islam, the investigation officer of the Sinha murder case and also assistant superintendent of police from Rab, described to the Rab DG how Sinha had come out of the car with his hands raised in the air when he was shot. **INVESTIGATION** 

At a press briefing in Cox's Bazar last night, Lt Col Ashiq Billah, director of Rab's Legal and Media Wing, said, "An officer with a track record of solving 700 cases has been given the charge of investigation. Today we interrogated three members of the Armed Police Battalion, who were present at the check post on the day of the incident."

are sub-inspector Md Shahjahan and constables Md Razib and Md Abdullah.

"They will be interrogated further for the next few days. Legal action will be taken if their involvement is found.

"We will also investigate the narcotics case that police filed against Shipra Debnath, one of Maj (retd) Sinha's team members. We have prayed to the court for a directive on handover of Shipra's belongings to Rab. Her belongings are currently with police but they have not yet cooperated," he said.

"We also quizzed the four arrested policemen and three witnesses, and got vital information that we are currently analysing," added the Rab official.

Sources at the Cox's Bazar district driver listed as a witness in the police jail said the four-member probe committee, formed by the home ministry, interrogated inspector Liaqat Ali, the prime accused in the Sinha murder case, and another accused, SI Nandadulal Rakhshit, from 10:30am to 6:45pm yesterday.

> Another key accused, Pradeep Kumar, former OC of Teknaf Police Station, will be quizzed today, added the sources.

> Meanwhile, Bangladesh Police Association issued a statement claiming that some vested quarters are out to malign the image of police while they are in fact completely cooperating in the investigation.

### Indian foreign secy

Delhi's special message to Dhaka, according to the source.

He will leave Dhaka for home the same day, wrapping up his brief visit. However, there was no official announcement on the visit.

India recently described its relations with Bangladesh as "exceptionally close" but expressed displeasure over a "mischievous" story pertaining to Bangladesh-India ties.

We're confident that both sides appreciate mutual sensitivity and mutual respect building further on the relationship," said Anurag Srivastava, spokesperson of the Indian external

affairs ministry at a virtual weekly media briefing in New Delhi.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen recently termed Bangladesh-India relations ties" and Bangladesh-China relations "economic ties".

On August 14, Bangladesh's Deputy High Commission in Kolkata condemned the disinformation campaign targeting Bangladesh by several web portals based in India's northeastern region.

The mission also urged all concerned to disregard the false information peddled.

Management Division sent the loan

# ACC grills him over loan

investigation, we cannot disclose it right now," said Meraz.

According to the case statement, Shahed bribed former audit committee chairman of the then Farmers Bank Mahbubul Haque Chisty -- accused in five cases filed last year for illegally

him Tk 35 lakh to get the loan. Shahed opened a current account with Gulshan Corporate Branch of Farmers Bank on January 11, 2015.

amassing Tk 135.45 crore -- and gave

On the same day, he applied for a Tk 2 crore loan to buy an MRI machine worth around Tk 3.4 crore for his hospital.

In his application, Shahed pledged to keep Tk 1 crore FDR as mortgage against the loan.

On January 15, 2015 at the 21st meeting of the committee, chaired by Chisty, the memo was produced and

approved. After three days, the Credit Risk approval letter to the Gulshan Corporate

deposited Tk 35 lakh in cash at the Bakshiganj Jute Spinners Ltd account with Farmers Bank at the Bakshiganj

who is managing director of Bakshiganj Jute Spinners, withdrew the money on two separate days -- January 18 and January 20, according to the ACC.

Shahed did not repay the loan. Later, the bank reconciled the loan with Shahed's Tk 1 crore FDR. The total outstanding, including loan and interest

Chisty, his son Rashedul and managing director of Regent Hospital Ibrahim Khalil are also made accused in the case.

against Shahed for misappropriating Tk 1.51 crore loan from NRB bank.



Children hangout on a large sewage pipe left in their neighbourhood at Mugda in the capital. With schools closed and not much else to be done during the day, many spend the time playing with neighbourhood children. Some forget to wear the masks though. The photo was taken a couple of days ago. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

### I will sue everyone, I swear

Bazar on July 3 to take part in a documentary being made by the former

Sinha was killed in police firing on July 31 at Shamlapur police check-post, triggering an outcry in the country.

Shirpa was arrested on charge of possessing liquor and marijuana, and was released from jail on bail amid widespread protests.

Since her release, she has been exposed to cyberbullying. superintendents of police posted Shipra's personal photos on their social media accounts, taking a dig at her character. A Supreme Court lawyer on Sunday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the two police officers' actions. "I want justice for the murder of

Maj (retd) Sinha. I want justice for the character assassination of me and my colleague. I want law enforcement agencies to adopt positive lens," Shipra said in the 8:56-minute video. The attempt to assassinate her

character was an insult and humiliation to every working woman in the country, she noted, adding that it was done intentionally to divert attention from

"Isn't it [the attempt at character assassination] a punishable offence under the law of Bangladesh?" she asked. "I am a student and I also work,

besides studying. In an independent country, doesn't any woman have the

right to live like according to her will while not harming others?" she asked.

Shipra said that she is not blaming the entire police force as there are many "But if the officers accused in killing

and the officers with perverted minds engaged in defaming a woman are not identified and brought to book, the nation will hold the entire police force responsible," she said. Describing the fateful night of July

31 and its aftermath, Shipra said about 10-12 police members entered their resort after 12:00am without any search warrant or any female police. Without permission, they searched their rooms but did not give any

information about the whereabouts of Sinha and Sefat even after repeated questions, she said. Around 2:30am, some plainclothes

men appeared at the scene and Shipra repeated the question. 'They then said, 'Yes, Sinha is dead'.

"Without giving any reason, they took me and my other colleague Tahsin Rifat Noor to Ramu Police Station. Then in the afternoon, they took us to the office of Cox's Bazar SP... In this whole period, I requested every police officer to allow me to see Maj (retd) Sinha for the last time... but my request fell upon

"Around 8:00pm, they escorted me in a police van. Then I was sent to jail. There, I came to know I am accused in a narcotics case," Shipra said.

She said she met some women in the jail whose husbands met the fate of 'crossfire" by police.

"While I was coming out of jail, they requested me to talk about them too. This responsibility still haunts me,' Shipra said.

În the video, she requested authorities concerned to investigate and talk to the helpless and tortured women in the jail.

Speaking about Maj (retd) Sinha, she said he was fond of travelling and a man full of dreams and adventure.

"As an army officer, he was an allrounder... He served the prestigious SSF for a long time. He worked for the protection of our honorable prime minister. And today, how logical is it to question his intelligence, character and team choice?" she asked.

Shipra said Maj (retd) Sinha was the chief coordinator of their documentary team and took every decision surrounding logistics.

"In one word, he's our guardian."

When asked, Lt Col Ashique Billah, Rab's legal and media wing director, at a press briefing in Cox's Bazar refrained from making any direct comment about the video and said that the elite force is only in charge of investigating the murder of Maj (retd) Sinha.

"Whatever came in the media or went viral on social media, is a private matter of Shipra Debnath. As a conscious citizen, she may take help of

the law," he said.

#### Expatriate killed 'for money' gunfight with police in Cox's Bazar.

Taking the case into cognisance, the court ordered the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to investigate the incident and submit a

Jafar's father Abdul Aziz told The Daily Star, "My son had been living in Oman for the last nine years. He used to come home in Patiya's Kachuai union every year to spend some time with us. He was about to leave but couldn't as international flights remain suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I myself worked in Oman for 18 years but could not change the fate of my family. My son was different, he drew a handsome salary. With money sent by him, we bought our house and many other properties."

Aziz said two men in police uniform along with several others in plainclothes appeared at their home around 6:00am on July 29 -- two days before the alleged shootout. As Jafar opened the door, they introduced themselves as members of Patiya police station, said the father.

They put my son in handcuffs. At one point, they ransacked his room and took away valuables from his almirah," Aziz said, adding that the policemen then pick Jafar up in their van and headed towards Cox's Bazar.

Aziz alleged police later called them multiple times over the phone and demanded Tk 50 lakh for his son's release. They also threatened to kill him in "crossfire" if they failed to pay the money.

"On July 31, local union parishad member Anwar Hossain called us over phone and said Jafar was killed in a

Several leaders said Khaleda's

absence in politics impacted negatively

on the mental strength of the party men

and that's why she should be active in

party affairs. They said the chairperson

Party sources say Khaleda's health

Speaking to The Daily Star last week,

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul

Islam Alamgir said, "Leaders and activists

want Khaleda Zia to be active in politics.

chairperson has made any decision in

expressed her willingness to go to her

Gulshan office once the Covid-19

He said neither the party nor the

Sources said Khaleda recently

But her health does not permit her."

is not good as she has been suffering

from diabetics, arthritis, and some other

herself wants to be active in politics.

health complications for years.

His body was kept at the morgue of Cox's Bazar Medical College," he said.

Anwar member of Ward-4 under Number 16 Kachuai union, said, "I was informed

He also said Jafar had married only one and a half years ago and that he law enforcers to retaliate, which was very polite. "As far as I know, he had no criminal records with any

Hasan, another victim of the July 31 "crossfire", was also allegedly picked up from his locality. According to local sources, he was a poor rickshaw puller, who used to live in Paikpara area, which falls in Ward-6 of Patiya

said, "Hasan was toiling day and night had no criminal record.

that Hasan was killed in a shootout with police. Later, I informed his family about it," he said.

area who is known to be a yaba trader. "It might have been a case of mistaken Asked whether Jafar or Hasan

had any criminal records with Patiya police station, OC Borhan Uddin of the police station yesterday said, "I can't make any comment without checking the documents. I will tell you later.'

After the "gunfight", Chakaria police

claimed that they had arrested two people with yaba pills around 1:00am on July 31. During interrogation, the arrestees said yaba dealers were distributing the tablets in Boitali area.

Based on the information, Inspector Aminul Islam said police raided the area around 2:30am. But sensing their presence, the criminals opened fire on them, forcing the retriggered a "gunfight".

Aminul said they found bullet-hit bodies of Jafar, Hasan and Jahir lying at the spot after the "gun-battle" and that the three were members of a yaba smuggling gang. He said Jahir stood accused in three narcotics cases. Police also claimed to have

recovered 44,000 vaba tablets, two firearms, and seven cartridges from Four police personnel -- Officerin-Charge of Chakaria police station Habibur Rahman, Aminul, and

also injured, claimed the inspector. Later, Aminul filed a First Information Report with the police station over the incident and accused the three of assaulting police and obstructing them from discharging

constables Sajjad and Sabuj -- were

their duties, as well as murder. This correspondent tried contacted Aminul and Habibur repeatedly for comment on the matter,

but they did not answer. In the meantime, Jafar's father's fight for justice continues. He vowed to bring down those who killed his

loving son. 'My son was innocent. He had enmity with no one. They killed him for money. I want justice," he sobbed.

# prevailing epidemic situation, she did

organising secretary of BNP, said the party chairperson's good health is their first priority. "Khaleda Zia is the symbol of our strength. We hope she will recover

executive order freed the BNP chief from jail on March 25 for six months on conditions that she would stay at her home and not leave the country.

Khaleda landed in jail on February 8, 2017 after being sentenced to five graft case.

year, the High Court enhanced her punishment to 10 years after dismissing her appeal in the case.

Zia Charitable Trust corruption case on

#### 'Yaba smugglers' fire at BGB men in Bandarban

Pills worth Tk 4.2cr recovered OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Suspected yaba smugglers fired at members of Border Guard Bangladesh near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Bandarban's Naikhyangchhari upazila on Sunday night, BGB said in a press release.

The suspected smugglers were seen coming from Myanmar and shot at BGB members patrolling the area, and fled the scene after the BGB men fired back in self-defence, said the press release.

BGB members later raided Ghumdhum's Rejuamtoli area near the border and recovered 1,40,000 yaba tablets worth around Tk 4.2 crore, said Lt Col Ali Haider Azad Ahmed, commanding officer of BGB-34 battalion.

No one was arrested in this

#### BFIU orders

FROM PAGE 1

Together, the 83 misappropriated the Tk 3,000 crore, added the sources.

In its investigation, the BFIU found that two businessmen and their family members received Tk 34

crore in their bank accounts. Besides, about Tk 60 crore was ransferred into the bank account of Purnima Rani Halder, wife of IFLSL and HAL International Director Swapan Kumar Mistri, revealed the

probe. On January 8, the ACC had filed a case against Proshanta over amassing about Tk 274.91 crore beyond his known source of income.

The enquiry of the case found that questionable transactions of about Tk 1,636 crore were made in Proshanta's accounts and also in those of people related to his personal interest over a certain period of time. The graft watchdog revealed that

Γk 240.87 crore in his accounts, Tk 160 crore in his mother's account and Tk 1,235.7 crore in those of people related to his personal interest. ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anowar Prodhan is now probing the

Proshanta made transactions of about

suspicious transactions of Tk 3,000 Meanwhile, the ACC has asked HAL International directors Swapan Kumar Mistri, Kazi Momrez Mahmud, Pritish Kumar Halder, Amitav Adhikari and Managing Director Susmita Saha to appear before it today for quizzing. They are

accounts would be frozen. A large amount of money was transferred into their accounts, said

among the 83 people whose bank

Tomorrow, the graft watchdog will quiz RB Enterprise proprietor Ratan Kumar Biswas, Anan Chemical directors Uzzal Kumar Nandi and Anita Kaur and Reptiles Farm Chairman Shimu Roy in this regard.

The four are also among the 83. Proshanta is now living in Canada. He, along with brother Pritish Kumar Halder and wife Susmita Saha, is the director of a Canadian firm -- P&L Hal Holding Inc -- since July 3, 2014, according to official records in the North American country.

#### SC keeps

FROM PAGE 1 disposals, he said, adding that

Khaleda is on bail in these cases. He added that Khaleda is accused in a total of 37 cases and she is on bail in 35 of them and has been convicted in two (Zia Orphanage and Zia Charitable) cases.

The BNP chairperson was released from jail following an executive order issued by the government on March 25 this year.

Following four separate petitions filed by Khaleda, the HC on April 13, 2017 stayed the trial proceedings against her in four separate vandalism and arson cases and also issued four rules asking the government to explain as to why the proceedings of the cases should not be scrapped.

The cases were filed during an antigovernment agitation enforced by a

BNP-led alliance in 2015. Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Session's Judge Imrul Qayes set October 6 for Khaleda's appearance before it in 11 cases lodged against

He set the date allowing a time plea from the defence, court assistant clerk Anisur Rahman told BSS.

Of the cases, eight were filed with Darus Salam Police Station for carrying out subversive activities, and two others were filed with Jatrabari Police Station.

Police filed 10 cases while one, for sedition, was filed by a civilian. The hearing on the charge framing

in 10 cases was scheduled to be held yesterday, while the court was also to accept the charge sheet in the sedition case.

#### even meet her party leaders since her release from jail, except for exchanging Eid greetings with some senior leaders at her Gulshan residence in the capital

on August 1.

this regard.

Meanwhile, that same day, Shahed

Chisty's son Rashedul Haque Chisty,

till July 15, 2020, stood Tk 2.71 crore.

Earlier, the ACC filed another case

situation is over. While exchanging Eid greetings, the opposition leader discussed party affairs Hossain,

about the shootout by Patiya police. They said Jafar's family members could take the body from the morgue."

police station. VICTIM OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY?

municipality. Safiul Alam, councillor of the ward,

to run his family. As far as I know, he "I was informed by Patiya police

The councillor, however, said there is another Hasan in the municipality

identity.

THE 'GUNFIGHT'

Khaleda may not be back with several BNP standing committee members. The leaders said Khaleda herself should make all the party

decisions as she is now out of jail. Although no one within the party differed publicly with BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman on different issues, many leaders say they are more comfortable with working under Khaleda's leadership. Tarique is now

staying in the UK. "Khaleda Zia had been in the dark regarding most of the party activities for more than two years when she was behind bars. She can give us directives now even if she cannot actively take part in politics," a senior BNP leader said wishing not to be named.

BNP vice-chairman Mohammad Shahjahan said, "Khaleda Zia is an icon of unity and a symbol of the nationalist force. There is no alternative to her leadership. She has dedicated her whole life to politics. She is not active in politics now due to her illness, but she will surely take part in politics after

Khaleda walked out of jail at a time when the world has been hit by Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the

not even visit any hospital for treatment. However, doctors visited her at home regularly and gave treatment. Ruhúl Quddus Talukder Dulu,

soon and will join active politics. The government through

rears' imprisonment by a special court in Dhaka in the Zia Orphanage Trust On October 30 the following

The former premier was convicted by another special court in Dhaka in the October 29, 2018. She was sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment by RISK OF LANDSLIDE

#### 19 shelter homes opened for hill slope residents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

District administration in Chattogram has opened 19 shelter homes for people living at slope of hills, in the wake of heavy downpour in the port city.

Authorities urged people through loudspeakers to take shelter at those centres to avert casualties throughout yesterday at Lalkhan Bazar, Koibollodam area, Arefin Nagar, Baizid, Akbar Shah and Firoj Shah Colony areas.

Chattogram has been experiencing moderate to heavy downpour for the last

Thousands of people, mostly from lower income groups, live at makeshift shanties built at the slopes of hill or by razing hills. According to the district administration, 17 hill slopes across the port city are being occupied by such

In 2007, some 127 people died at Motijhorna area of Lalkhan in a massive landslide, prompting authorities to take cautionary measures to protect people

Touhidul Islam, executive magistrate of Chattogram district administration,



Chattogram city saw 49mm rain in 24 hours till vesterday afternoon, resulting in the city's commercial hub Agrabad to go under knee-deep water. Due to lack of proper drainage, such events are common in the monsoon season, and residents have no choice but to bear with the problem.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

# Where rainfall is a curse

Low-lying areas of Ctg inundated again

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg Once again residents in port city had to suffer immensely due to waterlogging caused by torrential rain yesterday. Most low-lying areas in

the city went under knee- to waist-deep water. Chattogram Met Office recorded 33.6mm rain in the past 24 hours till 9am yesterday. Rain would continue in the next 24 hours due to active presence of monsoon air, said Dr Shahidul Islam, meteorologist of

Chattogram Met Office. The Chattogram Port was also advised to hoist cautionary signal number 3

Due to incessant rain, low-lying areas including Bakalia, Chawkbazar, Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, Sholoshahar Gate No 2, Badurtala, Kapasgola, Agrabad, Port Connecting Road, Halishahar, Shulakbahar, Chandgaon, DC Road, KB Aman Ali Road, and Prabartak Intersection went under

A large number of people were seen wading through filthy water to go to their destinations. Some were busy protecting their homes and shops from water while others were trying to drain and scoop out the

Very few vehicles plied the roads and a handful of rickshaws and threewheelers were seen carrying passengers -- that too for fares no less than

"I have been waiting for a vehicle for around 30 minutes but could not find one," said Rehenuma Khanam, a resident of city's Rahattarpool area. She said she had to go to the bank. It was around 10:30am and unable to find any vehicle, she started walking towards her destination, wading through filthy water overflowing from roadside drain.

On KB Aman Ali Road, Sudhir Dutta was facing a different problem. Water entered his photo studio and he was trying to scoop it out. "This has become a common issue. Every time it rains, we suffer," he said.

He expressed his frustration at the indifference of the authorities concerned in addressing the issue.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# DMCH to get bigger, better outpatient unit

Long-awaited expansion work near completion



Once completed, this 7,500 sq ft steel structure will help ease long queues and serve additional patients. The photo was taken last week. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The outdoor department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) is going through an expansion. Hospital authorities expect to start providing service from the expanded outdoor premise within one-and-a-half months.

The DMCH outdoor service, located beside Central Shaheed Minar on Dhaka University campus on the first and second floors of a three-storey building, has been at the same place since the 1960s. The number of patients has increased sharply in the last 20 years, but the outdoor department had seen no expansion, until

DMCH Director Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin said the department is being expanded due to its space constraint to host a large number of visitors everyday. To accommodate them, a temporary 7,500 sq ft steel structure is being constructed, where additional patients can also be served.

Hospital sources said the outdoor department was constructed in line with the hospital's initial 700-bed layout. DMCH was established in 1946.

"Around 4,000 to 5,000 visitors come for outdoor service every day during regular times. Due to the shortage of space, treating such a large number of patients

have been difficult for some time now," the nospital director said.

"The insides of the department is crowded, which forces patients and health workers to work under severe heat. Sometimes a patient has to sit all day before obtaining service," he added.

When this correspondent visited the outdoor department last year, he saw it filled to the brim with patients and attendants, with suffocating heat and humidity, as ceiling fans overhead could not keep up with the number of patients. On top of this, counter queues move at a snail's pace, making the environment even more unbearable.

Once outdoor service begins at the expanded premise, the medicine and child departments' outdoor services could be shifted here, as these are the busiest sections with around 1,000 visitors everyday.

The space freed up by shifting these sections could be allocated to expand services of other departments, while departments which previously could not offer outdoor services due to space constraint might be allocated space to operate. There are also plans to transfer the ticket counters here.

Additionally, toilets will be built at the current outdoor premise as there's a longstanding shortage of it for visitors.

### cancellation of GK Shamim's contract

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld a government decision that cancelled an agreement with the company of Golam Kibria Shamim known as GK Shamim, now in jail, for constructing a 20-storey building at Azimpur government colony in Dhaka.

The court rejected a writ petition filed by Shamim, an influential contractor of the Public Works Department and an expelled Jubo League leader, challenging the legality of the government decision.

The bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman passed the rejection order considering that the petition was not placed properly.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Barrister Abdullah Al Mahmud appeared for the writ petitioner while Additional Attorney General Murad Reza and Deputy Attorney General Amit Dasgupta represented the state during virtual hearing on the petition.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# High Court upholds Violence against children in workplace shot up in July: MJF

Incidents of violence against children in the workplace shot up in July after people gradually started to return to work since June.

A telesurvey titled "Violence against Women and Children: Covid-19" conducted by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) found that child abuse in the workplace increased by 137 percent in July compared to the previous month.

A total of 692 children were subjected to violence in the workplace in July, while the number was 292 in June. On the other hand, incidents of domestic violence has decreased. In addition, incidents of child abduction has

also increased — 69 children were abducted during the pandemic. Besides, a total of 2,979 children have been

cortured, and of them, 1,979 (64 percent) are girls while 1,000 (34 percent) are boys. According to MJF's findings, violence against

children increased after the lockdown, as more and more children have joined work in both formal and informal sectors. Having been away from economic activities for a long period, many people

were instigated to send their children to work. Besides, parents were also in favor of getting some extra money as the children have not been going to school amid the closure. On the other hand, due to the downfall of the

economy, factory owners (especially of the informal sector) took the opportunity to use child labour, which is comparatively cheaper than paying the wages of adult workers. To understand the extent of violence against

women and children in this changed situation, MJF collected data through its 111 partner organisations in 53 districts in July, and interviewed a total of 63,968 people. Of them, 44,875 were women and 19,093 were children.

The total number of victims, including women and children, was 11,471 in July, which was a slight decrease from the 12,740 recorded in June.

A total of 8,492 women were subjected to violence in July while the number was 9,844 in June. Incidents of violence against children increased to 2,969 in July, while the number was 2,896 in June.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

#### KILLINGS AT JASHORE JUVENILE CENTRE

#### Rights bodies call for judicial probe

Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh -- a group of right activists' organisations -- yesterday demanded judicial investigation into the killing of three boys at Jashore Juvenile Development Centre.

They claimed although the incident was reported in many media as an internal clash between two groups of children, the injured hospitalised teenagers complained against the officers and employees of the juvenile centre that they beat the boys till death.

"There are previous allegations that bodies of teenagers have been recovered, beaten and tortured at this centre and the district administration had constituted an inquiry committee earlier. The inquiry committee also made several recommendations for the smooth running of the institution, which were not implemented."

It demanded an inquiry into why the recommendations were not implemented. They said the deaths and serious injuries of these juveniles in custody are unexpected.

The coalition members -- Save the Children Bangladesh, ActionAid Bangladesh, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Educo Bangladesh, Terre des homes, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, Plan International Bangladesh and World Vision Bangladesh also expressed grave concern over the incident.

# Expat workers in Greece to receive skills training

Bangladesh embassy in Athens signs agreement to help those who lost jobs amid Covid-19 pandemic

Jamil Mahmud

Unemployed Bangladeshi migrants in Greece are going to have an opportunity of institutional skills training facilitated by the Bangladesh embassy there that will benefit them getting jobs amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Bangladesh embassy in Athens recently signed a deal with Athens-based training institute IEK Delta for a "basic training programme in culinary arts", said Dr Sveda Farhana Noor Chowdhury, labour welfare counsellor at the embassy.

The initiative is first of its kind undertaken by the mission, she said.

Following this, the embassy in a circular on Wednesday called for applications from eligible Bangladeshi migrants for the enrolment.

As per the programme, Bangladeshi migrants who have valid documents but currently unemployed will get the training opportunity, reads the circular posted on the embassy's social media page. The embassy official said the expatriates'

welfare ministry will provide financial support for the training and migrants don't have to pay any fee. The training programme will be in six

batches and the first batch is expected to start in September depending on coronavirus situation, she told this newspaper over phone.

Each batch will comprise 15 individuals. The training module will be of 60 credit hours and likely to be expanded for one month, she added.

"After successful completion, each participant will get certificate," she said.

The official said the IEK Delta has its own "career office" through which it is affiliated with several popular restaurants in Greece.

Five bail petitions

by Iqbal Hossain

The High Court yesterday refused to grant

bail to Iqbal Hossain Bhuiyan, a business

partner of survey organisation SD Survey,

in five separate cases filed in connection

However, the court issued five

separate rules asking the Anti-Corruption

Commission and government to explain

within four weeks why Iqbal Hossain

Bhuiyan should not be granted bail in the

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul

Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel

came up with the rules after virtually hearing five separate bail petitions filed

by Bhuiyan, in connection with cases filed

with Paltan Police Station in September

Bhuiyan denied

BASIC BANK SCAM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

with BASIC Bank loan scam.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

# Demand for reopening jute mills rings louder

Civil society members, workers and left-leaning party leaders took to the streets in Khulna city yesterday, demanding immediate reopening of jute mills under government arrangement. Under the banner of "Patkal Rokkhay Sommilita Nagorik Parishad"

(Citizens' combined platform for prot, they brought out a procession in Khalishpur area. Later, they staged a rally where they criticised "government conspiracy" to close down the state-run jute mills. The participants called upon all to join the movement. The procession started from Daulatpur Jute Mill Gate in Khalishpur

at 10am. Then it marched along BIDC Road passing through Platinum Jute Mill, Crescent Jute Mill, Khalishpur Jute Mill and BL College Gate. It reached People's intersection at noon.

Hundreds of workers and civil society members participated in the

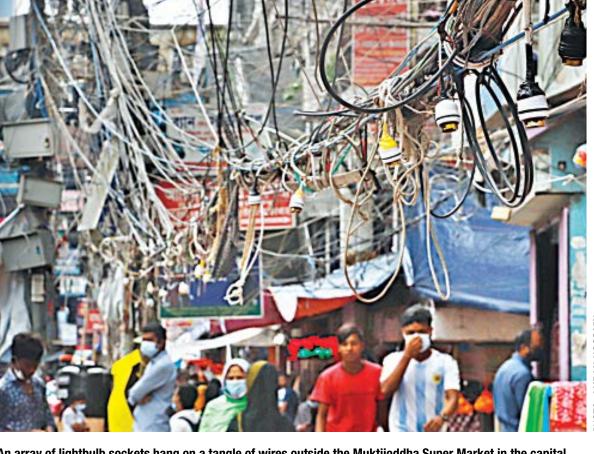
Md Kudrat-e-Khuda, convener of the Parishad, said when the demand for jute and jute products are high in world market, the government decision to shut down jute mills and handed those over to public-private partnership is really regrettable.

Talking about corruption in jute sector, he said reasons behind loss in jute mills have to be identified.

A total of country's 56 projects in different sectors are being run under PPP but none of those are in good condition, he claimed.

He further said according to mill assessment committee, only Tk 1,200 crore is needed to modernise all jute mills where the government allocated Tk 5,000 crore for workers' arrears and other benefits during

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Gonosamhati Andolon, said the jute mills were shut down during the coronavirus pandemic so that no protests could be staged.



An array of lightbulb sockets hang on a tangle of wires outside the Muktijoddha Super Market in the capital. Roadside hawkers in front of the market use electricity from inside the market by connecting power cables, paying a daily "fare" of Tk 40-50, locals said. Not only is this practice illegal, but the exposed livewire connections on the sockets poses a constant risk of electrocution, especially in rainy weather.

According to a Bangladesh Bank enquiry, in the four years between 2009 and 2013, Tk 4,500 crore was swindled out of BASIC Bank, once a healthy public

In 2015, the ACC filed 56 cases in connection with the scam, but rather quizzically, neither BASIC Bank's then chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu nor any of the board members were named as the accused.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

#### Suspended PWD engr denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to an engineer in three cases filed over corruption in purchasing furniture and household items for the officials of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna.

The court, however, issued three separate rules asking the Anti-Corruption Commission and government why Md Shafiqul Islam, a suspended assistant engineer of the Public Works Department, should not be granted bail in the cases.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel came up with the rules after virtually holding hearing on the petitions filed by accused Shafiqul in connection with the cases.

ACC lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan said Shafiqul

cannot get released from jail following the HC orders. Syed Ahmed Raza appeared for Shafiqul while Deputy

Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin represented the state. The ACC filed the case with its Pabna district office against Shafiqul and several others on December 12 last year on charges of irregularities involving Tk 26 crore in supplying furniture and household items to the officials of Rooppur plant, said Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan.

Shafiqul was also arrested on that day, he informed. According to several reports, prices of various items used to furnish the project's 966 flats for the Russian engineers and others were abnormally higher than market prices

The reports claimed that each pillow was bought for Tk 5,957, and the cost of carrying it to a flat was Tk 760. An electric stove cost Tk 7,747 and the cost of carrying it from the ground floor to the top floor was Tk 6,650. The price of an electric iron was Tk 4,154 and the carrying cost was Tk 2,945, the reports showed.

#### Demand for

FROM PAGE 3 He said no benefit was given to around 55,000 temporary workers during the closure.

He further said the stateowned jute mills incurred a loss of Tk 10,000 crore in 40 years while a huge amount of money is being embezzled in various sectors.

The participants at the meeting announced that a two-hour sit-in programme will be held at the city's Notunrasta intersection on August 24, and a convention will also be held in Dhaka on August 29 to press home their demands. Abdullah Kafi Ratan,

member of Communist Party of Bangladesh (central committee), Workers Party leader Iqbal Kabir Zahid and CPB leader Mosharraf Hossain, among others, spoke at the meeting. On Sunday, the

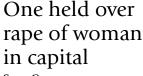
Parishad brought out a

procession from Carpeting

Jute Mill gate of Jessore to

Eastern Jute Mill Gate in

Patkal Rakkhay Sammilita Nagorik Parishad brought out a procession from Daulatpur Jute Mill to People's intersection in Khulna city yesterday, demanding resumption of all closed jute mills. The photo was taken from Khalishpur Jute Mill area.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was allegedly raped by her husband's friend in Dhaka's Rampura.

Police arrested the alleged rapist -- Mohor Ali (28) -- after she filed a case with Rampura Police Station on Sunday.

She was sent to the onestop crisis centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital the same night for medical

Rezaul Karim, a subinspector of Rampura Police Station, said the woman and her husband had an altercation around 10pm on Saturday and the husband stormed out in

anger. Mohor called her and said her husband was staying at his home, nearby their residence. He asked her to come by to take her husband back home.

When she went there, she did not find her husband. Mohor then raped the woman, the SI said, quoting the case statement.

#### High Court

FROM PAGE 3 Lawyer Abdullah Al Mahmud told reporters that the government on February 16 cancelled the agreement with GKB & Company (owned by GK Shamim) as works of the project were not finished in due time because the company owner has been in jail.

On September 20 last year, Rab arrested Shamim on charges of extortion and tender manipulation.

That day, Rab raided his house and office in the city's Niketan area and seized firearms, ammunition, bank fixed deposits worth Tk 165 crore, around Tk 1.8 crore in cash, a large stash of US and Singaporean dollars and some foreign alcohol.

Later, Rab lodged three cases under the Narcotics Control Act and Arms Act against Shamim with Gulshan Police Station. Anti-Corruption Commission also filed a case against Shamim and his mother for amassing wealth worth Tk 297.08 crore beyond known sources of income.

# Violence against

The survey also revealed that a total of 8,389 women have become victims of domestic violence in July, which is 94.8 percent of total incidents of violence.

In addition, 56 women have faced sexual violence and 19 women have been raped or attempted to rape, 11 women have been killed and 17 have been sexually harassed while receiving food and other aid.

Although the highest number of children became victims of domestic violence, the rate of child marriage has decreased to 174 in July.

Of the 8,389 women who had to face domestic violence, 4,000 were victims of mental abuse; 2,771 were victims of economic violence; 1,546 were physically tortured and 200 were sexually abused.

Referring to the July data, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam thinks the increase in child abuse in the workplace is alarming.

She also urged the government to pay special attention to the safety of children along with other emergencies under the current circumstances. MJF has previously analysed the situation of domestic

and other forms of violence in April, May and June with the help of its partner organisations. The organisation has conducted the survey to prevent

violence against women and children during the pandemic and provide them with the necessary support. Although the shutdown has ended, MJF called for

prioritising women and children, among other things, and demanded immediate action to keep them free from

This includes keeping the helplines well-functioning, for example, 109 for stopping violence against women and 999 for police assistance, so that people can get help immediately if they are in distress.

#### Cigarettes worth Tk 40 lakh with forged stamps confiscated

Our Correspondent, Sylhet

Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate in Sylhet filed two cases with Kotwali Police Station on Sunday, after seizing cigarettes worth Tk 39.91 lakh with forged stamps.

Seven persons were accused in the first case, while two in the other.

As per the 2019 circulation of National Board of Revenue (NBR), to collect revenue from domestically produced or imported cigarettes, stamps and band rolls must be glued to packs to ensure payment of VAT and supplementary duty (SD).

Hossain Ahmed, commissioner of the commissionerate, said, "On information, we seized cigarettes with forged stamps, being used to evade VAT and SD."

According to case statement, a preventive team of the commissionerate seized 5,000 packs of Derby cigarettes and 4,000 packs of Purabi cigarettes from SA Paribahan at Naiorpur area of the city on August 8.

The other case is filed in connection with the seizure of 49,500 packs of Partner cigarettes with forged stamps from AJR Transport Agency on June 29 last year.

After detecting that the stamps are forged, the commissionerate forwarded samples to The Security Printing Corporation which confirmed the matter.

OC Selim Miah of Kotwali Police Station said, "The cases are being investigated."

#### Contractor assaults PWD engineer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A contractor and his associate attacked an engineer of Public Works Department in Rajshahi yesterday, leaving him injured and his office vandalised.

Delwar Hossain, a sub-assistant engineer of PWD's Division-2, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with cut wounds over his left eye and hand, said OC Shahadat Hossain Khan of Rajpara Police Station.

The attackers -- contractor Shahabul Manjur Liton and his associate Atikur Rahman -- were arrested from the scene where they were confined by PWD staff, the OC said.

The attackers beat Delwar with a wooden chair for allegedly suspending an ongoing construction work due to use of low quality construction materials and ignoring conditions, the OC said, quoting Delwar and his colleagues. They also damaged a laptop, printer, and furniture.

Delwar's colleague and sub-divisional engineer AAM Iftakhar Mazid filed a case with Rajpara Police Station.

Talking to this newspaper, Mazid said the attack occurred around noon when the two went to Delwar's office and locked in an altercation with him. PWD staffers rescued Delwar and sent him to the hospital, kept the attackers confined and called police.

Delwar told reporters that on Sunday afternoon he went to inspect a site in Puthia where construction works of a land office was underway at the cost of Tk 1 crore. He spotted low quality brick chips being used and the contractor was not following directions to complete work as per schedule.

This correspondent could not get the contractor's

version, as he has been arrested. Contacted, the OC said the contractor told police that

he went to the engineer's office for restarting the work, but the engineer refused, which led to an altercation.

#### **Expat workers**

So, the participants can be benefitted by the career office for their employment, she said. Farhana said one requirement that the participants have to fulfill is they need to

have basic knowledge in English or Greek One module of IEK Delta says they provide basic training on skills including how to wash, cut and prepare fruits, vegetables, and salad, on cleaning and

preparing fish and shell fish, and cooking rice and pasta, said the official. So, after getting the basic training, Bangladeshi migrants might not have jobs as chef but they could be assistants at

commercial kitchens, she added. Greece is home to 25,000 to 30,000 Bangladeshis, mainly employed in agriculture, tourism and readymade

and used to have low wage.

garment sectors, said the official. She said many Bangladeshis also worked at commercial kitchens before the pandemic but they lacked proper training

Most restaurants in Greece remained closed amid of the pandemic. As a result, foreign workers including Bangladeshis lost their jobs, she said.

According to a report of UK-based The Telegraph, holidays in Greece are at risk at present, as Covid-19 cases in the popular

holiday destinations continue to rise. The number of cases in Greece is now the highest since the pandemic began.

Yesterday, there were 216 cases, up from the previous high of 156 on April 21, it said.

# 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 the following Tender as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as stated below:

1. ATM Booth decoration and branding work of our Bank.

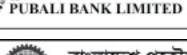
Please visit http://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp for more details, interested parties shall submit their Tender documents up to 26-08-2020 by 11:00 A.M. duly filled up all requirements.

> (Ashim Kumar Roy) DGM & Division Head



CARD DIVISION

A-A Bhaban (2nd Floor), 23 Motijheel C/A Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh



# বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পুরপের নিমিত্তে যোগ্যভাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা ঘাইতেছেঃ

#### শিক্ষক পদ

বস্তু ও ধাতব কৌশল বিভাগ

সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি ছারী পদ। বেতন ক্ষেল ৮৫ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-। পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ ₹1

সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ৩টি ছায়ী পদ। বেতন ছেল ৬৫ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।

ছাপত্য বিভাগ

সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ২টি ছারী পদ। বেতন ক্ষেল ৬৫ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।

পানি ও বন্যা ব্যবস্থাপনা ইনস্টিটিউট 81 সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি ছায়ী পদ। বেকন ছেল ৯৫ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।

পুরকৌশল বিভাগ (ক) সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি ছায়ী পদ। বেতন ছেল ৮৫ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।

(খ) সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ২টি অস্থায়ী পদ (সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে)। বেতন কেল ৮৪ ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-। কম্পিউটার সায়েল এড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ

(ক) সহযোগী অখ্যাপক-এর ১টি ছায়ী পদ। বেতন ছেল ১৫ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।

(খ) সহকারী অখ্যাপক-এর ২টি অছারী পদ (সহযোগী অখ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে)। বেতন ক্ষেপ ৮৪ ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-।

তদ্ধিৎ ও ইলেকট্রনিক কৌশল বিভাগ

সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ২টি ছায়ী পদ। বেতন ক্ষেল ৯৫ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-। নৌধান ও নৌষন্ত কৌশল বিভাগ

সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি ছারী পদ। বেতন ক্ষেল ৯ঃ ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০। গ্লাস এন্ড সিরামিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ

সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি ছায়ী পদ। বেতন ক্ষেল ৯৫ ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০।

১০। বুয়েট-জিভপাস

লেকচারার-এর ২টি অস্থারী পদ (সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং স্ট্রাকচারাল/জিওটেকনিক্যাল)। বেতন ক্ষেল ১৫ ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

উল্লিখিত পদসমূহের আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখঃ ০৮/০৯/২০২০ইং

উদ্বিখিত পদের বিষ্কারিত তথ্যের জন্য বুয়েট ওয়েবসাইট (<u>regoffice.buet.ac.bd</u>)-এ Vacancy-এর Job circular page-এ Search করা অথবা রেজিক্ট্রার অফিসের সংখ্রিষ্ট শাখায় সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করা ঘাইতে পারে।

জিভি-১২৮২

# Where rainfall

At Prabartak intersection, Jamir Uddin was spotted trying to push his rickshaw towards high ground as one of its wheels got broken after hitting something underneath

"I'm carrying my rickshaw to the garage... I'm done for the day," he said.

Contacted, Khorshed Alam Sujan, the newly-appointed administrator of Chattogram City Corporation, said he visited some low-lying areas during the downpour

"I have noticed waterlogging in some areas and instructed our staff to clean the drains in the quickest possible time," Sujan said.

"I won't spare anyone if it is found that residents had to suffer due to negligence by any staff."

"We are working to address the waterlogging issue. Hopefully, people will see the results next year," the administrator told this newspaper.

#### CAREER OPPORTUN

HBL BD LTD. a subsidiary of Hong Kong based company having presence in Bangladesh is looking to recruit Marketing Manager for its Bangladesh entity immediately. The required persons must have at least 8 years' experience in Readymade Garments/ Accessories industry. The candidate should be Graduate in Marketing/Economics preferably from foreign University and also highly motivated individual with the ability to work on their own initiative

Remuneration for the deserving candidate will be very competitive Interested candidates should apply by emailing their CV to amjad.saazsolutions@gmail.com by 24th August 2020.

#### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জেল সুপারের কার্যালয় জেলা কারাগার, সুনামগঞ্চ www.prison.sunamganj.gov.bd

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি কাঠি মন্তব্যক্ত। বাজা অভিনয়ত, বাংলাদেশ, মাৰা। ফোন বুপার, কুলাশার। ১। বিভিন্ন ধাৰার বিভিন্নবা সাধবার (বাচ বার)

ाविष्ठित्र समात भागत्रहारा मानवास (४म नार)

	CHESHON	০৩-০৩-২০২৯ মাল ৩০-০৩-২০২১খ্রঃ শবস্থ সমায়ৰ বিজ্ঞান বিশিক্ষাৰ সাৰ্বভাৰে সভাৰ (২৪ খন) এবং ৩২-৩১-২০২০ ২ ৩০-০৬-২০২০খ্রী পর্বভ বিনিমু প্রকার সামঞ্জন সংকরার (বম নাম
	HERITAL VILLER HAT	33,5000
	मरनाइस वनुर्वि	মীতিত দলপত্ত।
	HIGHER WINNESSE MIGHT	জ্ঞানিক মৃত্যুর উপর ৩৩%।
	দংশর দবিব রাজির স্থান	কেল সুপায়ক কার্যালয়, জেলা কার্যাপাক, সুনামগঞ্জ।
a	पर-प्र वन्तिक पूरा	১। বিশিল্প ৫০০/- (পাঁচপত্র টাকা) ২। বাবস্থার ৭০০/- (বাচপত পঞ্জব টাকা)।
3	नवनावस्त्रीय स्थापन	নৱপত্র দলিলে সংযুক্ত/বর্ণিকমতক।
ą	महन्त्र सर्वितसः श्रूम	ভূতাকান্ত কোনা বাইলায়ের কথা কবিব, কোনা কবালয়ের কাট্য ভূতাকান্ত ও সদর বাবা, ভূতাকান্ত।
0	প্ৰশাৰ পৰিল বিভাৱেৰ স্থানিক	০২-০৯-২০২০জ্ঞি অধিদ চলাকালীৰ ২-৫০ খটিকা পৰ্যস্ত ।

कारिक त्यांत कारण करिया करियात्व (र (कान/भाग तीकांत वरित्रम्/प्राण करांत प्रतिकार मात्रकन करान মোঃ আবুল কালাম আজন

বুনামবার জেলা করোপার ত্রুলামবার জেলা:-৪৯১৭৪ (করার

#### | 19 shelter

Procurement

Method

Place

Tender

Opening Date,

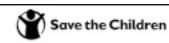
Time & Place

told The Daily Star that six executive magistrates were engaged to move people from the risky part of hills.

Deputy Secretary of Chattogram district administration asked them to work in collaboration with local councilors.

In the 24 hours leading up to 3pm vesterday, Chattogram experienced

49.06mm rainfall. The trend is expected to continue for another 24 hours, Megnad Tanchangya, assistant meteorologist of Chattogram Met Office told The Daily Star.



Save the Children International is the world's leading, independent organization for children

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

"Renovation Work of Special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU) for MaMoni-MNCSP under USAID Fund"

Ref. No. IFT/SC/BDCO/FY-20/0004 Date: August 18, 2020 Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby requesting Invitation for Tender (IFT) from the interested experienced bona fide organizations for conducting Renovation Work of Special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU) for MaMoni-MNCSP as per required specification.

Save the Children International (SCI) Procuring Entity Tender Package Name: Renovation Work of Special Care Newborn Unit Procurement (SCANU) (04) District Hospital Manikgonj, Feni, Bramman Baria and Madaripur District Hospital.

Lot 1: Renovation Work of special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU), Manikgonj Lot 2: Renovation Work of special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU), Feni

Lot 3: Renovation Work of special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU), Bramman Baria

Lot 4: Renovation Work of special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU), Madaripur Open Tendering Method

The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the Working construction works shall be two (2) years. Detail can be seen in Tender Experience Document which is available on http://procurement.scibd.info/ under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

Pre-tender 24.08.2020 at 11:00 am on Meeting Time https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrdeCupzlpHdDUbVoExyY & Place p2K8jElmgdk-Z (Meeting minutes will be available at http://procurement.scibd.info/

on 26.08.2020) Lot wise Tender security as mentioned in tender document should be Tender submitted in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft in favor of "Save the Security

Sealed bid should be dropped into the **Tender dropping box** - I kept Tender at Save the Children, House No. CWN (A) 35, Road No. 43, Gulshan-2, Document Dropping Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh. Date, Time &

From 26.08.2020 to 08.09.2020 during office hour. Last date & time for submission: On or before 08.09.2020 within 03:00 pm. The Tender opening shall take place at: Address: Save the Children Dhaka office,

House No. CWN (A) 35, Road No. 43, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh,

Date & Time: September 08, 2020 at 3:30 PM. Considering COVID-19

Situation, Summary of Tender opening record sheet will be share with the participated tenderer through email.

Phone: 88-09612555333 (Extension: 1053) Special Instruction: (a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies (b) If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place. (c) If the Tenderer(s) submit any false/incorrect or fake documents then the tenderer will be excluded and tender security will be forfeited.

Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

# When 79 years is not enough

Azibor Rahman with Firoz A Muzahid

How long does it take to solve a trivial problem at a school where hundreds of youngsters take their first lessons to be good human beings and responsible citizens of the country?

If one is asking about Bezra Narandia Government Primary School, on 83 decimals of land in Magura's Mohammadpur upazila, the answer is apparently more than

Since its inception in 1941 in Nohata union of the upazila, the school somewhat remained waterlogged for most part of the year, usually from June to December.

All through those years, the school witnessed fall and rise of many political powers and governments during three different eras -- the British, the Pakistani and the Bangladeshi.

But no department official of any of the governments or public representatives took notice of the children's plight, nor did they consider the negative physiological or psychological impact the prolonged loss of physical activity might have on the school's children.

The school currently has 353 students and 9 teachers. Its students have been doing well in the Primary Education Completion examinations every year, with 100 percent pass rate in most years. Out of the students who passed, two secured Talent Pool last year and five secured the same the year

When the school's playground is submerged in water, the children have no other option but to take part in the school assembly in the hallway, in front of their classrooms, said Nahid Sultana, the head teacher of the school.

Had they not faced the adverse situation for most part of the year, their results might have been better, she also said.



A team of ducks frolic in the water logged playground of Bezra Narandia Government Primary School in Magura's Nohata union under Mohammadpur upazila. The photo was taken recently.

said although physical education and outdoor sports are essential for a child's physical and mental wellbeing, they have been unable to provide them with such activities during the months when the playground remains under water.

Fifth grader Nusrat Jahan Munira said she and her classmates get bored during breaks when they are not able to play outside due to the water logging.

During those days, attending school and remaining stuck in the classrooms are quite difficult, said Fahim Hossain, a fourth grader.

Denying any responsibility and jurisdiction over the school, Nohata Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Mohammad Ali Miah said especially in the last 10 to 15 years, the system of natural drainage around the school have Raghabendra Mohan Das, an been obstructed by unplanned

houses and ponds, with elevated foundations and banks.

Construction of a drainage network around the school compound and connecting it with the nearby Ichhamoti Beel could be a probable solution to the problem, he added. Noor Mohammad, education

officer in Mohammadpur upazila, claimed ignorance over the situation and also passed the responsibility onto others. He said, "Why didn't the head teacher tell me about it before she told you?"

He, however, said that since he was made aware of the water logging situation by this correspondent, he would now do the due diligence before taking steps to rectify the problem at the school.

School managing committee chairman Mohammad Ali Mia (not the UP chairman) said after

assistant teacher at the school, construction of structures, such as they contacted the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Mohammadpur upazila and sought his assistance in resolving the school's longstanding water logging problem, the UNO has assured him of taking all necessary steps after paying a visit to the school at the soonest.

Nahid Sultana, the head teacher, said, being advised Wahiduzzaman, assistant education officer in the upazila, she already wrote a letter to the UNO and the UP chairman, seeking support in resolving the water logging problem at the school.

Contacted, UNO Mizanur Rahman said he was not aware that the situation at the school had been prevailing for such a long

He would visit the school within two to three days and take all steps necessary to resolve the problem once and for all, he added.

MADDHAPARA GRANITE MINING

# Rock production resumes after 5 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rock production at Maddhapara Granite Mining Company Limited (MGMCL) has resumed on Thursday after 140 days of closure due to the hit of Covid-19 infections across the country.

The authorities shut down the production of the mine on March 24 due to the coronavirus pandemic, said officials of MGMCL, a company of Petrobangla in Parbatipur upazila of the district.

Around 261 tonnes of rock have been

produced in 24 hours after the resumption of the mine activities, they said. It was learnt that the overall production

was around 600 tonnes as of Saturday night, said the officials. ABM Kamruzzaman, managing director

(MD) of MGMCL, on Saturday said they started a test run on Thursday night as the mine remained shut down for nearly five

However, it would take more one month to start full speed production, operating three production shifts, he added.

Germania Trest Consortium (GTC) is the contracted company of the mine, said

Kamruzzaman. The mine has 800 local miners recruited by GTC, who returned to their work after 132 days on August 8. The miners were

unpaid due to the production suspension. The MD further said that Covid-19 test of the miners is going on, which is a

One hundred and sixty out of 800 maintenance and production.

miners joined in the production, he said.

More 150 local miners can join their work if their Covid-19 test reports come to

hand, said the official. It is possible to produce 5,500 tonnes of rock operating three shifts, said the officials

of GTC and MGMCL. Around 7.50 lakh tonnes of rock had been at the yard in March. MGMCL sold around 6.50 tonnes of rock till the date. The stock of the rock at the yard is now

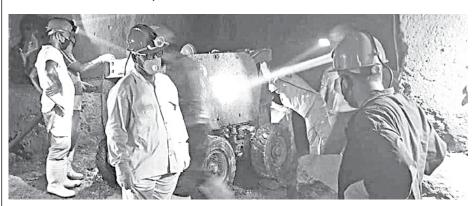
around 100,000 tonnes. North Korean Company Namnam had developed the mine, spending Tk 1275 crore. It was started in 1994. With the end of development, the company started production in 2007.

Namnam was supposed to produce around 5,500 tonnes of rock daily, but the company never could attain the target. Later, MGMCL picked up GTC in September 2013 by floating tender and signed a contract. As per the contract with GTC, the company has to produce 9.2 million tonnes of rock in 6 years.

MGMCL handed over the mine to GTC on February 20 in 2014.

GTC even failed to produce half of 9.2 million tonnes in the last six years. The contract ended on February 20 this year.

The officials of MGMCL have given a one-year contract extension to GTC to keep smooth production. Meantime, MGMCL has floated tender to pick up a new company for mine's operation,



MGMCL in Dinajpur's Parbatipur upazila resumes operations on Thursday after 140 days of closure due to the hit of coronavirus.

# Farmers buy Aman saplings for high prices

A section of traders doing brisk business taking advantage of floods

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A section of traders are doing brisk business by selling Aman saplings at high rates in the local markets of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts taking advantage of prolonged floods, much to the worry of the farmers.

Farmers are compelled to buy the saplings for high prices as it is the peak cultivation season.

Local farmers said lately prepared many seedbeds and seedlings in the river basin areas of Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dharla and Dudhkumar in the two districts were damaged due to the month-long flood in July.

Taking the advantage of sapling crisis, the traders are doing brisk business by selling seedlings for high prices to cash in amid the flood situation, the growers alleged.

A large number of farmers are facing trouble as they are not getting enough seedlings for farming, they said.

Flood-hit farmer Zahir Ali, 62, of Brahmaputra river basin in Jorgachh area of Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, said poor and marginal farmers bear the brunt as a bundle of 200 seedlings is being sold at Tk 18-20 against Tk 5 last year.



**Farmers plant Aman seedlings** in a flood affected land at Rajpur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar

upazila.

two bundles of seedlings is not more than Tk 3 to Tk 4, he said. At least 150 bundles of seedlings

are needed to cultivate one bigha of land (30 decimal), said paddy grower Mantaz Ali, 58, of the same area.

Another flood-hit farmer Azgar Ali, 57, of Teesta river basin village Rajpur in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said seedling crisis has made his Aman cultivation uncertain. He is trying to manage seedlings from his relatives.

Protap Chandra Barman, 65, of However, the production cost of the same area, said "I prepared Boro somehow.

seedbeds on 20 decimals of land this current season but 70 percent seedlings were damaged due to severe flood. So I have to purchase seedlings from the local market for high prices."

Anu Hossain, 45, a seedling trader at Brahmaputra river basin Jatrapur Haat (market) in Kurigram Sadar upazila, said due to the prolonged floods in different districts, they have to spend additional money for purchasing seedlings from flood free different districts.

"As we purchased seedlings at high arte, we are selling it at high rates," he said.

According to the sources of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, farmers of the two districts have lost their seedlings on 2,300 hectares of land due to floods this year.

Kurigram DAE Deputy Director Dr Mostafizur Rahman Prodhan said a good number of flood-hit farmers are facing seedlings crisis. They have been managing seedlings from their relatives and many of them are purchasing seedlings.

The DAE official hopes that all farmers will complete Aman farming in their lands by managing seedlings

#### 2 siblings electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Two siblings died from electrocution upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Partha Pal, 10, and Protyo Pal, 5, were sons of Porimal Pal of Palpara village.

Quoting the victims' family members, police said Partha, a Class V student at Baroghoria Government Primary School, came in contact with live electricity while trying to switch on a fan at their house. His younger brother Protyo also got electrocuted when he tried to save him.





#### ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka- 1208

#### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL) is a 100% state owned Pharmaceutical Industry will recruit the following positions for EDCL, Gopalgani Plant.

S.L No.	Post	Qualification	Experience & Other Qualification
01.	Officer, Warehouse (Material Management & Inventory Control) Post- 01	Candidate should have M.Pharm with 04 (four) years Honours in Pharmacy/Chemistry/Bio Chemistry Applied Chemistry from any public University.  Computer literacy of the candidate is essential.	O1. Minimum 05 (five) years working experience in Material Management & Inventory Control & Dispensing operation with any renowned Pharmaceutical Industry.  O2. Candidates having 'Experience of working with ERP software & recording dispensing related information in ERP' will get preference.  O3. Maximum age limit 35 years. Experience may be relaxed on the basis of academic/professional qualification.
02.	Dispensing operator (Raw Materials Warehouse) Post- 04	Candidate should be HSC pass (Diploma in Pharmacy will get preference)	01.Minimum 03 (three) years working experience in Dispensing operation (Raw materials) with any renowned Pharmaceutical Industry.  02.Maximum age limit 30 years. Experience may be relaxed on the basis of academic/ professional qualification.

Candidates are requested to send the applications to the following address with complete CV, copies of attested relevant certificates, photocopy of national ID Card and 03 copies of recent passport size coloured photograph on or before 31 August, 2020.

Only short listed candidates will be invited for selection process.

GM, Administration & HRM Essential Drugs Company Limited

395-397, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.

Experience & Other

#### Sunamganj Zila Parishad Sunamganj

উন্নয়নের গণতস্ত্র শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Date: 17.08.2020

#### e-Tender Notice Number: 01/2020-2021

Memo No. ZPSUNAM/ADP/2020/412

GD-1278

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the

#### (Limited Tendering Method)

(=							
Tender ID No.	Package No.	Date and time of receiving	Date and time of opening				
484652	e-gp/ZP/ADP/W.139	3-September-2020 14:00pm	3-September-2020 14:00pm				
484653	e-gp/ZP/ADP/W.140	3-September-2020 14:00pm	3-September-2020 14:00pm				
484654	e-gp/ZP/ADP/W.141	3-September-2020 14:00pm	3-September-2020 14:00pm				
484655	e-gp/ZP/ADP/W.142	3-September-2020 14:00pm	3-September-2020 14:00pm				
484656	e-gp/ZP/ADP/W.143	3-September-2020 14:00pm	3-September-2020 14:00pm				
484657	e-gp/ZP/ADP/W 144	3-September-2020 14:00pm	3-September-2020 14:00pm				

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 3-September-2020 12:00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP Portal.

> Assistant Engineer Tele: 0871-61359 ae@zpsunamganj.gov.bd

Pronob Roy Chowdhury

#### TURMOIL IN MIDDLE EAST

#### Saudi-Israel covert ties under focus

AFP, RIYADH

The UAE's decision to normalise ties with Israel could propel Saudi Arabia to deepen its furtive relations with the Jewish state as Riyadh seeks to entice investments to fund an ambitious economic transformation, analysts say.

The United Arab Emirates on Thursday became the first Gulf state to normalise relations with Israel, in a historic US-brokered accord that raised the prospect of similar deals with other Arab states.

Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's biggest economy, has maintained a conspicuous silence over the deal, but local officials have hinted that Riyadh is unlikely to immediately follow in the footsteps of its principle regional ally.

However, "the UAE-Israeli normalisation lends itself to expanding the realm of indirect Saudi-Israeli relations," said Aziz Alghashian, a lecturer at Essex University specialising in the kingdom's policy towards Israel.

"I think Saudi-Israeli interactions will increase via the

Home to Islam's holiest sites, Saudi Arabia would face sensitive political calculations before a formal recognition of the Jewish state. Like the UAE's move, such a step would be seen by Palestinians and their supporters as a betrayal

But the kingdom has already cultivated covert ties with Israel in recent years, a shift spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. A shared animosity towards Iran, along with Saudi attempts to attract foreign investment to fund Prince Mohammed's ambitious Vision 2030 economic diversification plan, appear to be pushing the kingdom closer to Israel than ever.



People attend an opposition demonstration to protest against presidential election results in Minsk, Belarus yesterday.

PHOTO:

# 'I'm not a saint'

Lukashenko offers to hand over power after referendum; opposition leader calls on security forces to switch sides

REUTERS, MINSK

Alexander Lukashenko, the leader of Belarus, said yesterday he would be willing to hand over power after a referendum, in an apparent bid to pacify mass protests and strikes that pose the biggest challenge to his 26 years in office.

 $He \, made \, the \, offer, which \, he \, insisted$ would not be delivered on while he was under pressure from protesters, after exiled opposition politician Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said she was willing to lead the country.

In a sign of Lukashenko's growing vulnerability, he faced heckling and chants of "step down" during a speech to workers at one of the large state-run industrial plants that are the pride of his Soviet-style economic model and core support base.

Russia has told Lukashenko it is results that gave him just over 80% of

#### **BELARUS PROTESTS**



ready to provide military help to Belarus in the event of an external threat. Lukashenko faces the threat of European Union sanctions after a bloody crackdown on protests following what demonstrators say was his rigged re-election victory last week. He denies losing, citing official

Lukashenko told workers there would be no new presidential election, something the opposition wants, until

He also offered to change the constitution, an apparent concession that seems unlikely to satisfy protesters.

"We'll put the changes to a referendum, and I'll hand over my constitutional powers," Lukashenko said, in remarks quoted by the official Belta news agency.

"Yes, I'm not a saint. You know my harsh side. I'm not eternal. But if you drag down the first president you'll drag down neighbouring countries."

Speaking in a video address from Lithuania, opposition politician Tsikhanouskaya urged security forces to switch sides, saying they would be forgiven if they did so now.

### India restores 4G data service in parts of J&K

Authorities in Indian-administered Kashmir have ordered the restoration of high-speed 4G internet services in two of the disputed Himalayan region's 20 districts on a "trial basis" from Sunday night, more than a year after they were suspended.

"The high-speed mobile data services in the districts of Ganderbal and Udhampur shall be restored forthwith, on a trial basis," a government statement said on Sunday, adding that internet speed would continue to be restricted in other districts.

Udhampur, in Hindu-majority Jammu region, and Gerderbal, in Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley, have a combined population of 850,000 out of the disputed region's total population of about 12 million.

The "trial" will last until September 8, and high-speed internet will be available on postpaid mobile phones only, according to the government

"I will update my phones. This is the first thing I intend to do once it is restored," Sheikh Anees, a journalist based in Ganderbal, told Anadolu

The internet had been cut off since last August, when India revoked the semi-autonomous status of Kashmir, divided it into two federally ruled territories and imposed a complete lockdown and communications

Kashmir was without internet for 213 days - the longest shutdown in a democracy - until it was restored on March 4.

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Al Shabaab attack on Mogadishu hotel kills 16

At least 16 people were killed in an attack on Sunday by the Islamist group al Shabaab on a seaside hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, according to government spokesman Ismail Mukhtar Omar. The toll includes 11 victims and five assailants, Omar said in a Tweet late on Sunday. "Security forces lost one, 18 people were injured," Omar said. Militants stormed the high-end Elite Hotel in Lido beach, detonated a car bomb and then opened fire with assault rifles, the latest attack by al Shabaab, which has been battling the country's central government since 2008. The hotel is owned by Abdullahi Mohamed Nor, a lawmaker and former finance minister, and is frequented by government officials and members of the Somali diaspora.

#### **Deaf Palestinian shot by** Israeli forces at checkpoin



Israeli security guards have shot and wounded a deaf Palestinian who was not able to hear the orders to stop at an occupied West Bank checkpoint. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said yesterday the 60-year-old man was walking in an area of the Qalandiya Crossing north of Jerusalem where only vehicles are permitted. Rosenfeld said security guards ordered the man to stop but he continued to "approach them suspiciously". They then shot him in the legs. Rosenfeld said it was only then that the guards discovered the man did not respond because he "cannot hear or communicate". The incident comes less than three months after Israeli police shot and killed a 32-year-old Palestinian with

#### Pranab's condition remains critical

The health condition of former President Pranab Mukherjee continued to remain critical yesterday morning, said the Army Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi adding that his vital and clinical parameters are stable. According to the Army Hospital, Mukherjee is on ventilatory support and is being closely monitored. "The condition of Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee continues to be critical. His vital and clinical parameters are stable. He is on ventilatory support and is being closely monitored," the hospital in Delhi Cantt said in a statement. Abhijit Mukherjee, son of Pranab Mukherjee, who underwent brain surgery, had on Sunday informed that the medical condition of the former president is stable.

SOURCE: **REUTERS, ALJAZEERA** 



company but Panamanian-flagged, that had run aground and broke into two parts near Blue Bay Marine Park. France is sending more experts to Mauritius to help decide the fate of MV Wakashio leaking oil into pristine waters off the coast of the Indian Ocean island.

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Jail Super Sunamganj District Jail

www.prison.sunamganj.gov.bd Memo No. 58.04.9000.159.04.043.2020-

October/2020 to September/2021

Tender

ID No.

484056

No.

GD-1276

Date: 17-08-2020

Closing date &

02-Sept-2020

12:00

#### e-Tender Notice This is to notify all concerned that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal. Publishing date & time Supply of Unnotamaner Mashur Dal Mota 16-Aug-2020 to Sunamganj District Jail for the period of

484297 Supply of Unnotamaner Cholar Dal to 02-Sep-2020 16-Aug-2020 Sunamganj District Jail for the period of October/2020 to September/2021 This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's

branches up to 10:30 on 2nd September 2020. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

> Md. Abul Kalam Azad Jail Super

BJ-02669300190 Sunamganj District Jail ☎ 0871-61173 (Office) jailsunamgonj@yahoo.com

#### Landslide toll in Nepal hits

19

AFP, KATHMANDU

The death toll from a landslide in Nepal has risen to 19 after eight more bodies were pulled out from a mud-covered village in north-central Nepal, police said yesterday. Dozens of villagers in the remote hillside region of Sindhupalchowk district were buried under mud and stone after heavy rains caused a landslide early Friday.

Rescuers dug out 11 bodies on Friday and have been searching for survivors. Helicopters were being used to reach the isolated site after the landslide blocked roads. Nineteen people remain missing but hopes that anyone had survived the landslip were fading,

# Afghan talks uncertain Prisoner release stalls after opposition from foreign govts

Afghan authorities and the Taliban have hit an impasse over the planned release of hundreds of insurgents after opposition from some foreign governments, officials said yesterday, apparently stalling peace talks.

The negotiations were expected to begin within days after prominent Afghans met in Kabul on August 9 and approved the release of 400 Taliban prisoners -- including many involved in deadly attacks -- removing a crucial precondition to talks.

While Afghan authorities freed 80 Taliban prisoners on Thursday, there have been no further releases since

"There is no plan to release any prisoner today also," an official with the country's National Security



Council told AFP yesterday. The delay has "something to do

with some countries' concerns about some people in the list," Ghulam Farooq Majroh, a member of the Afghan negotiating team, told AFP.

Another NSC official some "international partners have reservations" about releasing the prisoners.

The NSC officials and Majroh did not identify the countries, but Paris release of several insurgents accused of killing French and Australian nationals and soldiers. Bettina Goislard, a French

employee of the UN's refugee agency, was murdered by two Taliban militants in 2003, and a former Afghan soldier killed five French troops and injured 13 others in 2012 in Kapisa province.

France is "firmly opposed to the liberation of individuals sentenced for crimes against French nationals, especially soldiers and humanitarian workers," the foreign ministry said Saturday.

"We have consequently asked Afghan authorities not to proceed with the liberation of these terrorists."

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Agricultural Extension Development and Expansion of Bio-Rational Based Integrated Pest Management Technologies of Vegetables, Fruits and Betel Leaf Project (DAE Part) Room No. 303, Rear Building, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 bpmpdb@gmail.com

Memo No. 12.02.0000.922.07.003.18.13

Date: 17.08.2020 e-Tender Notice No. 08/2020-21 Open Tendering Method (OTM)

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

SI No.	Tender	Package No.	Procurement title	Last selling	Closing & opening
	ID No.			(date & time)	(date & time)
01	483724	EGP/BPMP/	Supply of sex pheromone trap & lure (fruit fly	9.9.2020	10.9.2020
		Demo-014/A	of cucurbits & fruit, BSFB, Spodoptera litura).	3.00pm	2.00pm
02	483901	EGP/BPMP/	Supply of attract & kill type trap for fruit fly of	9.9.2020	10.9.2020
		Demo-014/B	cucurbits & fruits.	3.00pm	4.00pm
03	483976	EGP/BPMP/	Supply of bio-pesticides (SNPV, spinosad,	8.9.2020	9.9.2020
		Demo-014/C	abamectin, azadirachtin, Trichoderma	3.00pm	2.30pm
			spp.decoprima).		
04	483988	EGP/BPMP/	Supply of biocontrol agent (bracon hibitor)	8.9.2020	9.9.2020
		Demo-014/D		3.00pm	1.00pm
05	483992	EGP/BPMP/	Supply of Soil Recharge (Metarhizium	8.9.2020	9.9.2020
		Demo-014/E	anisophilae, Trichoderma harzianum,	3.00pm	4.00pm
			Beauveria bassiana, Trichoderma viride)		

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to the last selling date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

> Md. Rezaul Islam Deputy Project Director

authorities said.

LAW OPINION

# August 15: A case against the doctrine of revolutionary legality

PSYMHE WADUD

Upon the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation, on August 15, 1975, the office of the President of Bangladesh was seized and eventually, the government powers were assumed by the usurpers. The very act of usurpation of powers, among others that followed, was declared illegal in the judgment handed down by the Appellate Division in the case *Bangladesh Italian marble Works Ltd.* v *Government of Bangladesh and others* (2005), otherwise known as the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment case.

Professor Hans Kelsen with his doctrine of revolutionary legality implying that a successful revolution can amount to a law-creating act and can change the basic norm or the grundnorm, made his appearance in

the said judgment. While both the High Court and Appellate Divisions expressed disapproval for illegal seizure of powers through unconstitutional means, the High Court Division made the observation that Kelsen can only be used to explain past incidents and that 'a Judge in deciding a case may call upon many a legal theory in establishing his own point of view but should not regard it as a precedent.' The Appellate Division declared that the 'will of the people' is the pole star of our Constitution and the same cannot be whittled down by any usurpers. However, unlike the High Court Division, the Appellate Division did not express its view with regard to the application of Kelsen as a normative principle, in specific. It will not be out of place to mention that the Appellate Division, seemingly in arguendo, went

As opposed to a normative principle, Kelsen's doctrine is a descriptive theory of law entailing a mere juristic proposition, which is neither beyond the pale of controversy and/or fallacy nor is to be taken as a legal norm presupposed to be relevant for judicial decisions.

on to opine that there were no pretexts on August 15, 1975 (considering that the Vice-President was available and the parliament was in existence) that could justify the assumption of powers.

Kelsen penned his theory of revolutionary legality in the book 'General Theory of Law and State' (1949). He observed that when a group of individuals attempting to seize power by force, succeeds in doing so, and when upon such seizure, the old legal order ceases and a new legal order begins to be efficacious, because the individuals whose behavior the new order regulates actually behave in conformity with the new order, then the new order is to be considered as a valid legal order. On the other hand, if the said group of people fails, if the order they have tried to establish remains inefficacious, then, their undertaking of seizing power by force is to be interpreted, not as a legal, law creating act for the establishment of a (new legal order) but as an illegal act, as the crime of treason, according to the old order.

As opposed to a normative principle, Kelsen's doctrine is a descriptive theory of law entailing a mere juristic proposition, which is neither beyond the pale of controversy and/or fallacy nor is to be taken as a legal norm presupposed to be relevant for judicial decisions.

The inherent fallacies of the doctrine of revolutionary legality were underscored in the landmark case of Asma Jilani v Government of Punjab (1972), a decision which was referred by both the Divisions of our Supreme Court in the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment case. In that case, the Pakistan Supreme Court iterated the futility of Kelsen or any doctrine or theory in order to validate or justify an unconstitutional act and unequivocally held that the said doctrine cannot be invoked in Pakistan.

The Court went on to refer to Professor Dias, Laski and Stone, among others, with the aim of rejecting Kelsen altogether. First, the Court observed that Kelsen postulated his theory on successful *coups d'etat* as law-creating acts from the perspective of international law and that his presumed hierarchy of norms does not apply to a dualist domestic legal order. Second, the Court thwarted the idea that the efficacy of a legal order would automatically confer validity upon it.

Interestingly, the Court also observed that "Kelsen [..] does not contemplate an omnipotent President and Chief Martial Law Administrator sitting high above society and handing his behests downwards" and that Kelsen did not intend to imply that every person who was successful in grabbing power could claim to be the source of law. While these well-articulated observations by the Jilani Court can be lauded, they imply a keen interest taken by the Court in interpreting Kelsen as well and this interpretation of what Kelsen's doctrine 'contemplates' or 'intends', in a way, presupposes that the doctrine is a legal principle/norm, pertinent/relevant for judicial decisions. What was advanced in *arguendo* by the Appellate Division in the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment judgment too, lends credit to the presupposition. This is something that Professor Julius Stone had feared more than half a century back.

In mid-1960s Professor Stone and Professor Kelsen got involved in a scholarly debate. In a 1964 book 'Legal System and Lawyers' Reasoning' and a 1963 article 'Mystery and Mystique in the Basic Norm', Stone critically questioned Kelsen in general and in a way persuaded him to clarify his

Finally, Kelsen made out his points with regard to his theories through yet another article 'Professor Stone and the Pure Theory of Law' (1965)-

"Never, not even in the earliest formulation of the Pure Theory of Law did I express the foolish opinion that the propositions [..] 'bind' the judge 'in the way in which legal norms bind him.' Insofar as the judge in performing his function of applying and creating law adopts a theory of law, his position is the same as that of any lawyer. And as far as the lawyers are concerned, I tried, of course, to convince them that my theory is correct.... But this does not mean that I considered the propositions [..] as legally binding."

While finding fallacies in Kelsen's doctrine of revolutionary legality is fine and can indeed be lauded as a judicious exercise, rejecting it altogether is what seems appropriate. Considering Kelsen as just another jurist's thought and not a normative principle for guiding judicial decisions, is also immensely necessary. Moreover, search for pretexts in not justifying the necessity (of invoking Kelsen) (even if as an *arguendo*, as was done by the Appellate Division in the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment case) needs to be done away with.

THE WRITER IS LECTURER IN LAW, BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF PROFESSIONALS.



PHOTO: COLLECTED. PAINTING BY SHAHABUDDIN AHMED.

LAW LETTER

# THE SHOCKING CULTURE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS

Mehadi Hasan

Extra-judicial killings have allegedly been carried out by our law enforcement agencies for many years now. The law enforcement officials have all along maintained that the deaths in the incidents are results of either 'gunfight' or 'crossfire' and are not intentional at all. Section 97 of the Penal Code, 1860 entitles every person with the right of private defence. It lays down that every person has the right to defend his life and properties against any offence affecting the human body. Accordingly, section 96 of the Code states that nothing shall constitute an offence which is done in the exercise of the right of private defence. It has been alleged that the law enforcement agencies abuse this provision to hide the true nature, intent and extent of the so-called crossfires.

Extra-judicial killings do not have any kind of legal basis, and thus, are entirely unlawful. Extrajudicial killings are unconstitutional too for they violate Articles 27, 31, 32 and 35 of the Constitution of Bangladesh. Article 27 states that all citizens are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection of the law. Article 31 states that it is the right of all citizens to be treated only in

accordance with the law. In the same vein, Article 32 unequivocally says that no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty save in accordance with law. Article 35 lays down provisions for legal protection in respect of trial and punishment. It expresses that every person accused of a criminal offence can be punished only after a fair trial in a court of law. Therefore, anyone suspected of being involved in crime has the constitutional right to defend himself and to fair trial. But it appears that, instead of trying suspected criminals, the law enforcement officers themselves tend to act as judges and executioners of capital punishments. This culture of extra-judicial justice not only challenges the rule of law but also weakens the justice dispensation system.

Extra-judicial killing in the disguise of crossfire violates international human rights obligations of Bangladesh as well. Bangladesh has ratified all the core human

rights treaties, including, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and Convention against Torture (CAT). According to articles 2 and 6 of the ICCPR, the Bangladeshi authorities have the obligation to ensure the exercise of the right to life of the country's people and not to arbitrarily deprive them thereof. As ancillary to the obligation, there is also the obligation to provide for prompt as well as effective remedies in cases where any violations take place. But this international obligation is being repeatedly violated due to the extrajudicial killings by the law enforcement agencies.

Unfortunately, the authorities appear to be reluctant to take effective steps to stop extrajudicial killings. This inactivity of the concerned authorities contributed to

the development of a culture of impunity and nonaccountability.

In the extrajudicial justice system that goes by the name 'crossfire', suspected criminals do not get any chance to prove their innocence, and consequently, many innocent persons get punished for crimes they did not commit.

We must

understand that crossfire is not the solution to any kinds of criminal activities. Real solutions require real efforts. Violence can only beget more violence. Justice has to be done, but not at the cost of denying the

systematic legal framework.

Hence, extra-judicial killings or so-called crossfires need to be stopped. And to that end, the government must show willingness to end crossfires and take proper steps.

The culture of non-accountability needs to be checked. Proper and independent departmental inquiry must be conducted in every incident of crossfire and torture in order to make the law enforcement officers accountable for their wrongdoing. Lastly, the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention)

Act 2013 must be strictly enforced by the Court to punish the police officers found guilty thereunder.

THE WRITER IS STUDENT OF LAW, NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY.

#### RIGHTS ADVOCACY

# Copyright protection in literary and artistic works



Mazharul Islam

Copyright law protects the interests of creators by giving them property rights over their creations against those who copy, reproduce or otherwise take or use the form in which the original work was expressed. According to Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author. For governing copyright, an international agreement namely, 'the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works' was adopted in 1886 which formally mandated several aspects of modern copyright law. The convention introduced the concept that a copyright exists the moment a work is 'fixed'.

According to the Berne Convention, copyright protection is obtained automatically without the need for registration or other formalities. According to section 15 of the Copyright Act (the Act), 2000 copyright subsists in original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works; cinematograph films; and sound recordings. Copyright registration under the Act is not mandatory in Bangladesh. Registration of any work under this Act establishes only a prima facie evidence of ownership in case of disputes. Copyright is an automatic right which exists the moment a work is fixed, first published or recorded and no formalities are required for acquiring such exclusive right under the Act.

Copyright subsists in any literary or artistic work published within the lifetime of the author until sixty years after the author dies. To qualify for copyright protection, a work must be original.

Anything done like others do or with others' direction cannot be treated as an original work. . In the case of *Donoghue v. Allied Newspapers Ltd* [1938] *Ch.* 106, the UK High Court held that a mere amanuensis does not, by taking down word for word the language of the author, become in any sense the owner of the copyright.

copyright.

According to section 17 of the Act, the author of a work shall be the first owner of the copyright. However, if any author works as an employee of a publisher, according to section 17(a) of the Act, the publisher shall be the first owner of the copyright in the work in so far as the copyright relates to the publication of the work or to the reproduction of the work. But in all other respects the author shall be the first owner of the copyright of the work unless there is any agreement to the contrary.

The author or publisher of, or the owner of, or other person interested in the copyright in any work may file application to the Registrar of the Copyright Office for registration of the work. There is no limitation period for filing such application of copyright registration under the Act.

There are two types of rights that derive from copyrights such as— economic rights, which allow the owner of rights to derive financial benefit from the use of his works by others, and moral rights which allow the author to take certain actions to preserve the personal link between himself and the work.

It is pertinent to mention here that the moral rights can never be transferred in any way and always remain with the original author of the work. However, economic rights can be transferred or assigned to others usually for a sum of money or royalties depending on the proposed usage of the work. If the period of the assignment is not stated in the deed of assignment, according to section 19(5) of the Act, the duration of assignment shall be deemed to be five years from the

date of assignment. The owner of the copyright shall have the right to claim legal remedy against any infringement or offence occurred from the date of publication of the work under the Act. According to section 81 of the Act, the owner of the copyright can institute civil suit claiming compensation for infringement of copyright in the court of District Judge within the local limits of whose jurisdiction he actually and voluntarily resides or carries on business or personally works for gain. As per section 92 of the Act, the copyright owner can file complaint to a Court of Sessions regarding offences, as mentioned in the Act, if occurred.

Though we have strong legal framework for copyright protection in Bangladesh, due to lack of awareness about copyright protection, many authors lose their first ownership of copyright working under employment and, on the other hand, many publishers lose their rights failing to establish employment relationship — as they neither execute written agreement nor issue appointment

It is therefore, the protection of copyrights has been a matter of great concern in the context of Bangladesh. The Government and concerned authority should take more initiatives to raise awareness about the IP rights, because otherwise, creative persons and creativity

will not flourish.

THE WRITER IS CORPORATE LEGAL

8 | The Paily Star



LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 18, 2020, BHADRA 3, 1427 BS

### Dr Khan's biodegradable PPE invention is revolutionary

It should be developed for mass production

E are delighted by the news of an innovative invention by Dr Mubarak Ahmad Khan—a biodegradable protective gear used by healthcare professionals and others using easily available, natural material—jute and the shell of crabs, lobsters and shrimp. As incredible as it sounds Dr Khan, a scientific adviser to Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, has come up with this biodegradable, non-toxic material that can make personal protective equipment (PPE) which can be easily discarded without causing any harm to the

This is a revolutionary invention that can solve the growing problem of toxic waste created by discarded PPEs made of polythene-like material that poses high risks in terms of contamination and environmental degradation. We are already aware of hazardous Covid-19 related plastic waste being discarded improperly that can spread

Dr Khan's endeavour follows his earlier discovery of a jute polymer to make the famous "Sonali Bag" that can replace the environmentally hazardous polythene that is still rampantly used and discarded indiscriminately, causing irreparable damage to water bodies, the ocean floor, aquatic life and the environment in general.

It is exciting news that the scientist has made this PPE with cellulose extracted from jute and chitosan, a natural fibrous material made from the exoskeleton of aquatic creatures such as crab, lobster and shrimp. These are readily available in Bangladesh and the material developed is also cost effective. According to Dr Khan, chitosan has been shown to provide anti-viral immune protection and is a component of vaccines and other drugs. This kind of PPE, moreover, is easier to decontaminate and dispose of as it disintegrates in water within seven days and in soapy water, it dissolves in three minutes, during which most viruses are also destroyed. Thus the potential to use this material for PPEs, which are so cruicial for Covid-19 management, is huge. There are also important implications in terms of marketing this product internationally if it can be produced on a mass

It is wonderful news that already Dr Mubarak has received the approval from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and is about to test it at the Shishu Hospital, and he will work with ICDDR,B to develop the protective gear. The scientist has also mentioned that this material can be used to for packaging purposes and to make shrouds for dead bodies.

We deeply appreciate Dr Khan's timely research and invention and hope that it is given due recognition by the international scientific community, and that the government will support him in every way so that this material can be produced on a mass scale to make such protective gear as we continue to battle with Covid-19. It goes to show how, with the right support, our scientists can discover innovative, indigenous solutions to the most formidable problems, especially during such crisis periods. Dr Khan and his team's efforts are truly achievements to celebrate and be proud of.

#### Another case of embezzlement in the healthcare sector

Public procurement must be cleansed of corruption

report published in this newspaper sheds light on the recent enquiry by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) at Sheikh Hasina Medical College in Habiganj. It was revealed that the principal of the college, along with two other suppliers, pocketed nearly Tk 3.43 crore back in 2018 through inflating prices of items purchased. The ACC filed two separate cases against the principal and the two other proprietors.

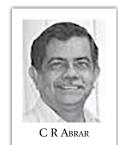
On May 15, 2018, according to the case statement, the principal floated tenders in two packages for medical and sports equipment, chemical reagents, furniture, computers and books without following an annual procurement plan, and later awarded the tenders to two suppliers. Unlike the usual snail's pace at which such processes are completed, this time the products were supplied, and bills approved and paid for very speedily, which raised suspicions. By inflating the price of each and every product—various types of microscopes, LED TV and A/C, digital weighing machines, books and journals, etc—by multiple folds, the named culprits managed to embezzle nearly Tk 3.43 crore.

We commend the ACC for unraveling this shameful scam and for taking steps against those involved, but it also reveals the level of corruption in these institutions where accountability seems to have disappeared completely. How could such bills be approved when the prices were so obviously inflated? It's a shame that funds that were intended for a rightful purpose, were deliberately misdirected in order to maximise the benefits of an authority figure and his cohorts.

Obviously, the hyped up prices were "overlooked" to serve the interests of certain individuals. In fact, this seems to be a theme oft repeated in many of our public institutions. Time and again, we read reports in the paper of procurement of equipment or machines at exorbitant prices. It begs for greater monitoring by the government and basic accountability of these institutions. If these institutions were properly audited and their procurement activities monitored, such large scale corruption could not have occurred. Unfortunately as we have seen there is rampant corruption in both public and private institutions. That this should happen in the health sector and continue even during this pandemic when all healthcare resources are overstretched, is indeed an added tragedy. It is reassuring that the ACC is going after these fraudulent activities, but the government must install efficient oversight of all such institutions where public procurement entails large sums of money.

# Pardoned in host countries, incarcerated in Bangladesh

The bizarre tale of our mistreatment of deported migrant workers for "conspiring and tarnishing the state's image"



month, we got to know Shaheen has come back. He said he will have to stay in quarantine for two weeks... His mother and I were waiting for him when we suddenly received a phone

call... He told us he is in Kashimpur jail," narrated Shaheen's disappointed father to a reporter of The Daily Star. Shaheen worked as a pipe-fitter for four years in Bahrain. Not being aware that an application for visa extension has to be launched before its expiration, Shaheen was arrested by the authorities in Bahrain when he went to file for the extension. It was not only this one family's hope of celebrating Eid together with their long absent loved one that was dashed; 219 other families across the land endured the same heartache. Subsequently, another group of 36 deported migrants were detained.

At a time when these families are struggling to cope with the consequences of the unexpected returns of their migrant family members, the latter group's unpredicted incarceration is devastating. The families are given very little information about the detainees. Meanwhile, their deeply concerned spouses and siblings try to figure out how they would secure their release, worried parents pass sleepless nights wondering what the future holds, and restless children pester their mothers of when they would get to see their fathers.

That the returned migrants were sent to Kashimpur prison directly from the quarantine centre was perhaps the only clear information these families have. The detainees were charged under the much contested Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure "for suspicious activities". The Investigating Officer of the case justified the move saying, "All had gone abroad to work but got involved in different criminal activities instead". Meanwhile, a court rejected bails of those who lodged petitions and on July 10, instructed the police to submit a report within 10 days. The deadline was extended. On August 4, the Turag Thana Police asked for 15 more days to submit the report. In the interim, the pardoned repatriated workers continue to remain in the high security prison.

Police sources have informed the media that they may be charged with sabotage and terrorism. The Home Minister has confirmed that there are allegations of "conspiracy" against these individuals. His ministry sources inform that in the General Diary lodged with Turag thana, the police has claimed that by engaging in criminal activities, these people have "tarnished the image of the country abroad". It further claimed that the authorities did not have their exact addresses and so if they are released, they may disperse and commit crimes, including murder, robbery,

terrorism and sabotage.

At the court, while justifying their detention, the police claimed that during their stay in quarantine in north Diabari, they were engaged in consultations with various groups to commit "antigovernment and anti-state" activities, including violent acts. Hence, they appealed to detain the accused until their investigations are completed.

It is noteworthy that the police could not provide any credible evidence of the charges being framed against them. In a report from The Daily Star, the investigating officer was quoted as saying "We don't know yet what the crimes are, but we have sent 'enquiry slips' to the police stations of the villages they came from to probe on their behalf". The Officer in Charge of the Turag thana did not mince his words when he said, "We are investigating their crimes. It's only after the investigation that we will be able to ascertain who is guilty and who

This en masse incarceration of the

Fourthly, the candid admission of the police that they were not aware of the actual crimes committed and was waiting for responses from the police stations of the villages of the accused also appear to be frivolous. One is not sure what information would be forthcoming from the villages of the migrants. Are the police expecting the families of migrants to divulge the crimes their migrant family members had committed? Or are they more interested to know if the concerned migrants had committed crimes prior to their departure abroad? If it is the latter case, then should this not have been an issue when passport and immigration clearances were granted officer grossly wrong when he says all in the pack have veered towards committing crimes in destination countries instead of

to them? And finally, is not the investigating working there? The assumption that if these people were released they could commit "murder, robbery, terrorism and sabotage" and "other violent acts" is also deeply flawed.



pardoned, deported migrant workers after finishing their quarantine has raised some serious questions pertaining to the protection of rights and liberty of

Firstly, can this be an acceptable proposition that each and every member of a squad of 255 persons would engage in hatching a conspiracy, albeit in groups, at a time when they would be too eager to return to their loved ones after a prolonged and rough experience abroad? Secondly, isn't it imperative on the part of those levelling such serious charges to provide at least a shred of evidence of the alleged "suspicious activities" to the court to justify their plea for detention? Thirdly, if indeed crimes were planned, then does not it rest on the authorities to establish the motive? One fails to understand what axe would a band of returnee migrant workers have to grind against the government and the state, when the state authorities quarantined them for their own safety and safety of their This is simply because barring one or two cases, all those detained in Kashimpur prison were in custody in their countries of destination either for administrative infractions (such as overstay of visa or work permit) or minor offences such as consuming alcohol, robbing a tire or misusing telecom rules.

Criminal records obtained from the Middle East by credible media outlets inform that their "crimes" fall into two broad categories: being in an "undocumented status" or "petty narcotics charges, including consumption of liquor". Those belonging to the second category received state pardons commuting their sentences. Bangladesh embassy officials in Kuwait and Qatar confirmed that all inmates of drug charges secured state pardons from the Emirs. The counselor (labour) in Doha was quoted by The Daily Star as saying that barring one or two murder convicts, most inmates were in jail on narcotics charges and had served two-thirds of their sentences. Some were

convicted for rather innocuous offences such as selling cell phone talk time, which is widely practiced in every nook and corner of Bangladesh, and not deemed as a crime.

This bizarre tale also raises issues regarding the just application of the law. The crimes were committed abroad and all concerned had served more than half of the terms before they were pardoned. They were not returned under any extradition arrangement and as free persons. Rudimentary knowledge in jurisprudence informs that a person cannot be tried and punished for a crime more than once. Any attempt to put them on trial in Bangladesh will be a travesty of justice.

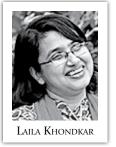
Jurist Shahdeen Malik has denounced the move as "entirely illegal", maintaining that if someone has served a sentence abroad or his sentence is commuted, then making him serve a fresh tenure at home does not have any legal foundation. He further asserted that mere suspicion is not a sufficient ground to deprive a person of his liberty. Former chair of National Human Rights Commission Mizanur Rahman of Dhaka University noted "such acts of the executive branch are damaging the minimum democratic space that people are enjoying. It is ominous for our state, (enjoyment of) human rights, and for the common masses.'

"All citizens are equal before the law" stipulates Article 27 of Bangladesh's constitution. One of the principal aims of a key European Union project on migration being implemented by a leading NGO of the country (following due clearance by the government of Bangladesh) is to (a)ssist returnees to become financially independent through tailored economic reintegration plan." Bangladeshis in irregular status in Europe is the principal target group. The question therefore arises—if the government is okay with programmes for reintegrating this cohort of irregular migrants, what drives it to resort to such draconian measure against those (most, if not all) who went abroad through legitimate channels following procedures laid out by both governments of origin and destination, to eke out a living, but were forced by circumstances to fall into an irregular status? Often, it is the Kafeels (employers) and the facilitating agencies at the destination end who create conditions for such irregular status, without migrants having any redress.

So far, the predicament of these returnee migrants have drawn little attention from public representatives, the agencies that are meant to uphold the rule of law and deliver justice, the passionate public intellectuals, the otherwise vibrant civil society and the media in general. It is time we all stand by these defenceless subalterns, prove our commitment to the principles of rule of law and equality in treatment. and acknowledge that they too are equal stakeholders of the state.

C R Abrar is an academic with interest on migration and rights issues. He acknowledges the support of reporting done by Rozina Islam (*Prothom Alo*) and Zyma Islam (*The Daily Star*).

# Ending violence against children must be a national priority



Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020, each year, half of the world's children (approximately

one billion)

are affected by

physical, sexual or psychological violence, suffering injuries, disabilities and death. The report was published in June this year by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, UNESCO, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the End Violence Partnership. It charts progress in 155 countries, including Bangladesh, against the INSPIRE framework (a set of seven strategies for preventing and responding to violence against children).

This is the first time ever that governments have self-reported on their work to address violence against children. While there are some methodological concerns, the report provides a good overview of the progress that countries have made in implementing interventions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets on ending violence against children, and makes recommendations for the future.

Violence is a serious violation of children's rights, which affects their health, education and development. This also has serious economic impacts. According to an estimate, violence against children results in a GDP loss of USD one trillion every year. The report suggests that while nearly all countries (88 percent) have key laws in place to protect children against violence, less than half of countries (47 percent)

CCORDING said these were being strongly enforced.

In Bangladesh, there is a culture of impunity. Perpetrators of violence against children are hardly brought to justice, which contributes to continuing violence. In the past month alone, 89 percent of children (1-14 years) in Bangladesh experienced violent discipline. Due to my work on protecting children from violence, I am painfully aware of how socially acceptable the practice of corporal punishment is. In addition to physical and mental violence, children of our country are subjected to rape, torture, child marriage, trafficking, abduction etc.

A lack of proper coordination across departments that are responsible for children, health, education, social work etc. makes it challenging to address violence against children in a holistic way in Bangladesh. This is combined with inadequate professional capacity and limited budgetary allocations. Shouldn't we do more and be better at ending violence against children?

Between 32 percent to 37 percent of countries considered that victims of violence could access support services. Bangladesh has also responded positively. However, the "perceived reach" is quite low; 26 percent of countries provide programmes on parent and caregiver support and 15 percent of countries had modifications to provide safe physical environments for children. Bangladesh does not have interventions in these areas.

The report has been published at a time when most countries are struggling to cope with Covid-19. This global pandemic is primarily a public health emergency, but it has a lot of secondary impacts on children's education, health and protection, in the short and long run. Due to prolonged school closures, restrictions in movement and social isolation, children have lost their regular lives and support

networks. Unequal gender relations and patriarchal norms are important causes of violence against women and children, and these get magnified during a humanitarian crisis, making them more vulnerable.

From media compilation reports by various child and women's rights organisations and networks in Bangladesh, we have seen an increase in domestic abuse, violence against children, rapes, child marriage, cyber-crimes, trafficking etc during Covid-19. This must be considered while we respond to the crisis.

The report highlights that countries have mechanisms to support national violence prevention work. But only onefifth of the countries have fully funded national action plans or plans that include specified indicators on the prevalence of violence against children with baseline and target values. Decision-makers in every country accept the need to scale up their

Isn't it tragic that violence against children continues to shatter children's lives even when we know what works in preventing it? The report suggests that drastic effort is needed to scale up our collective support for evidence-based prevention efforts if we are to end all forms of violence against children by 2030. I believe strong political commitment is required to make this happen

The report makes a number of recommendations. Some are worth highlighting for Bangladesh. An appropriately resourced agency should be mandated to coordinate multisectoral action to end violence against children. Countries should prioritise data collection on key violence-related indicators as part of regular SDG reporting and use these to set measurable targets in data-driven national plans. Governments should ensure a renewed commitment to the implementation and enforcement of laws. Funding for evidence-based approaches to ending violence against children must be increased and be embedded in medium-term expenditure frameworks in national and sub-national levels. All these recommendations can be implemented if we make ending violence against children

Violence against children risks efforts to achieve SDGs. Let us be committed to create a society where all children can be free from violence and realise their potential. There is a need to establish a functional and well-funded child protection system (mandated by the Children Act 2013 of Bangladesh) at all levels to protect all children from all forms of violence. The government should lead the process and parent/caregivers, teachers, community members, health professionals, social workers, civil society, media, academia etc will have to play their roles to prevent and respond to violence against children. It is very important to change social norms and learn to treat children with respect and dignity. A social movement is required to stop tolerating violence against children.

One of the recommendations of the report asks governments to initiate policy dialogues to review the status of their violence against children prevention programmes with relevant stakeholders from government, NGOs and international partners. They are encouraged to use the country profiles and national recommendations included in the report as starting points. Will there be a policy dialogue in Bangladesh to rigorously review where we are and identify what more needs to be done to bring momentum to end violence against children?

Laila Khondkar is an international development

# Justice for Sinha can initiate justice for others too

KAMAL AHMED

HE Police does not shoulder the responsibility of any misdeed committed by an individual", claims the Bangladesh Police Service Association (BPSA), a representative body of the members of the police cadre in the country. The statement was aimed at calming tensions created due to the unfortunate extrajudicial killing of Major (rtd) Rashed Md Khan Sinha in Cox's Bazar by a police team.

It must be noted that till now, none of the members of the BPSA have been named in the Sinha murder case. However, the irony was, on the day the association issued the statement, one of its members, an SP of Rajshahi Range, was sued in Dhaka for the abduction and extortion of a businessman. Besides, some more stories appeared in the media in the last few days alleging police excesses, extortion, corruption and another extrajudicial killing in the same Cox's Bazar district, which appears to be a pattern throughout the country.

The BPSA statement claimed that Bangladesh Police took action against the wrongdoers earlier and that this practice would continue in future. But the facts do not bear out such statements. In fact, this particular mentality—that any wrongdoing should be apportioned on individuals rather than the enabling structures and cohorts foster more abuses, more corruption and an erosion of public trust. No wonder the opening lines of a decade-old report of the International Crisis Group (ICG) on Bangladesh police still remains valid and relevant. The report said, "After decades of misuse and neglect, Bangladesh's police are a source of instability and fear rather than a key component of a democratic society. Human rights abuses are endemic and almost all Bangladeshis who interact with the police complain of corruption."

The ICG in that report warned that if the police continue to be used for political ends, the force may be damaged beyond repair at a great cost, not only to Bangladesh's citizens but also to current and future elected governments. Given the role the police has played in crackdowns on opposition and silencing dissent, over-enthusiastically acting

like members of the ruling party during elections and extracting impunity from the political masters, one may reasonably assume that we have reached the state that was predicted by the ICG.

The outcry for justice for Sinha is a wakeup call to look beyond one particular crime, and instead identify the institutional faults. It should start from rejecting the notion that all crimes committed by members wearing the badges of a security force have nothing to do with the institution. The recent backlash against institutional racism in policing in the United States has forced politicians and police to review and reform policing. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement has resulted in police forces being defunded by quite a few local authorities, which for long ignored the need for change.

Luckily, so far, racism is not that visible in Bangladesh but power and influence have become major factors in policing. In this context, a possible backlash on policing for the few and privileged should not be discounted. Our focus should be now on reforming the police and ensuring justice

The outcry for justice for Sinha is a wakeup call to look beyond one particular crime, and instead identify the institutional faults. It should start from rejecting the notion that all crimes committed by members wearing the badges of a security force have nothing to do with the institution.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

for all. For too long we have focused on symptoms and not the cause. Justice for Sinha should pave the way for justice for all the victims of extrajudicial killings and abuses.

The most frequent answer the authorities love to utter is that reforms require indepth study and time. But the fact is that a comprehensive study under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was undertaken and its recommendations, which were submitted in July 2012, remain largely ignored. Among many other findings, its most crucial analysis is that the Police Act 1861 places great emphasis on accountability to the government but less importance on accountability to the law and to the community, which is against democratic principles. The study says that in a democracy, "police have an obligation to be accountable to the law, elected representatives and the community". It clearly states, "notwithstanding the Bangladesh Police's move to establish the Police Internal Oversight body, failure of the 1861 Act to

institute some form of independent and external review of police misconduct is a glaring omission".

It is true that the current government, during the early years in its first term, brought in some measures which some people felt were encouraging and positive. The most notable among those were improving pay and provisions, and an apparent attempt to involve communities in policing. But, like any other half-hearted reform initiative, it failed miserably. Community engagement became another tool to make police work for the ruling party, instead of the society. Monthly meetings at police stations with socalled "civil society" representatives became farcical and in some cases, conspiratorial against opponents and rivals of local MPs and leaders of the ruling party.

Without an external oversight mechanism, as the forces of accountability gradually shifted more to the party in power, abuse of power for financial gains became rampant as well. Doubling of salary and other financial incentives did not work to discourage

corruption; rather demands and greed reached an unprecedented level.

The impunity issue was best summarised last year by the United Nations Committee on Torture (UNCAT) when it observed, "The Committee is further concerned at reports that there is no independent body authorised to carry out investigations into allegations of torture by officials, so investigations are carried out by officers from the same units or within the same official hierarchy as the alleged perpetrators, resulting in conflicts of interest."

Among many other recommendations, the most important one it made was establishing an investigation mechanism to handle complaints regarding torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials that is independent of law enforcement agencies, including the police hierarchy. It also called for legislations ensuring effective victim and witness protection. The need for such legislation can easily be felt if anyone looks at the abuses and harassment by members of the police force on social media against the co-workers of Sinha. Its recommendations include ensuring an oversight body's monitoring role in the progress of investigations into allegations of torture. We should now make it a priority that these recommendations are fully implemented as soon as possible.

In an extraordinary move, the administrative probe body set up by the government into Sinha's killing is holding a public hearing into the circumstances and issues related to the incident. The hearing may not have any bearing on the criminal investigation and prosecution, but it shows that similar public hearings in all other alleged extrajudicial killings are possible. Therefore, a public enquiry into all alleged extrajudicial killings headed by a Supreme Court judge with judicial powers should be instituted as soon as possible. Establishing a judicial probe does not require any new legislation. We urge the government to establish a judicial commission and make the truth come out. Justice for Sinha should open up the way to justice for others too.

Kamal Ahmed is a freelance journalist based in London.

#### TRIBUTE

# Remembering Murtaja Baseer: The master of 'abstract realism'

On August 15, eminent artist, poet, litterateur and Language Movement veteran Murtaja Baseer passed away after losing his battle with coronavirus. In memory of this versatile genius, we are reprinting an interview that came out in Star Weekend Magazine on August 24, 2007

Aasha Mehreen Amin

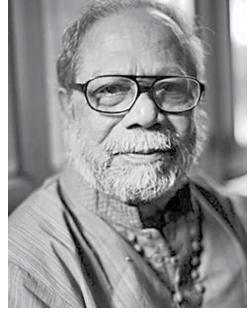
T 75, Murtaja Baseer is as agile and hyperactive as a child, with a mind as sharp and clear. In his cosy apartment in Manipuripara, Baseer eagerly shows his oil paintings stacked against the walls and explains the various phases that he has gone through as an artist and the mentors who have helped him along the way.

Taking up art as a profession was somewhat decided by providence rather than a conscious personal choice. In 1947, Baseer was in class nine and was already influenced by Marxism. He became a member of the student wing of the communist party and drew pictures of Marx, Engels and Lenin for the Party. It was this association that paved his entry into the world of art and that heavily influenced the themes and subjects that he was to depict in his work throughout his life. The Party wanted to form cadres in all educational institutions and so Baseer was asked to join the Government Art Institute set up by Zainul Abedin.

At first, his father Dr Muhammad Shahidullah, a prominent scholar of literature and language and a doctorate holder from Paris's famous Sorbonne University, was not particularly excited about Baseer's academic choice. But his son's eagerness won him over and even induced him to give Baseer two rare volumes on the Louvre Museum that he had kept locked in his library for years. That was ample encouragement for the delighted 16 and a half-year-old, who spent hours studying the books and learning from them.

But Baseer's early days as an art student were far from smooth sailing. He was still very involved with left politics that ended him in jail for five months after he was caught putting up a Party poster on the wall. After being released, when Baseer came back to the Institute, he felt alienated and was apathetic enough to want to give up art altogether. "I told Zainul Abedin, my teacher, that I would give up", says Baseer, "but he said 'no' and called for Aminul Islam, one of his most brilliant and favourite students and a year senior to me." Aminul, with whom he shared the same political ideology, helped Baseer to get back on track and to improve his drawing and painting.

It was when he was in the second year that Baseer experienced an unpleasant experience that actually led him to start painting in oil. "I was doing a drawing in one of the classes when my teacher tapped me on the shoulder and asked me to get up and give my seat to another student Razzak, who always stood



Murtaja Baseer (1932-2020)

first in class. I knew I wasn't a very good

**FILE PHOTO** 

student but I felt extremely insulted and ended up sitting in the corridor with tears streaming down my face." It was at that moment that the famous Safiuddin Ahmed, then a teacher at the Institute, stopped and asked him why he was crying. When he heard what had happened, Ahmed took him home, an unusual gesture for the reserved teacher from Kolkata. "I was a little surprised", says Baseer, "there were oil paintings done by him all over the place; Safiuddin was famous for his woodcuts at the time."

It was Safiuddin who encouraged Baseer to start doing oil paintings, often taking the young student along to various spots to paint. Baseer says that incident taught him a lot. Later as a Professor of Fine Arts at Chittagong University, Baseer says he always made sure that he would first go to the worst student in the class. "I think a teacher is successful," says Baseer, "if he or she can uplift the weakest students." When Baseer was asked at the interview board that decided on his professorship what he taught, he replied with "Nothing", further explaining—"I never impose my personality on my students, I only try to help them." Baseer acquired this way of thinking from his first mentor Zainul Abedin who, says Baseer, never encouraged his students to be like their teacher but urged them to try to develop on their own.

It was after 1954, in Kolkata where he

went to take an art appreciation course at the Ashutosh Museum, that Baseer met Paritosh Sen who had just come back from Paris. Baseer was impressed with Sen's minimalism and his style of painting with palette knife. During his stay in Kolkata, he also learnt the technique of mixing water colours from famous painter Dilip Das Gupta.

Baseer says that it was in Florence, where he went for higher studies, that he was drawn to the pre-Renaissance painters such as Giotto, Cimabue, Duccio, Fra Angelico and others from the 13th and 14th centuries. "I liked the simplified drawing of these artists", says Baseer, "with their absence of perspective or shades of light." "Around '57, '58 I thought of something: that there is no such thing as so-called background and so I started superimposing in light and shade, making the main subject transparent." This translucent effect is found in many of his works such as Somnambular Ballad (1959). The Gypsy (1958) and Man with Accordian (1959), with traces of this even in later works in other media such as Girl with Flower.

The 60s proved to be another important



Biriwala 1954 (Linocut)

decade for Baseer. In 1960, an exhibition of his paintings, drawings and lithographs was organised by the Pakistan Arts Council in Lahore. His second exhibition in Lahore displayed 28 of his works and were completely different from his

"transparancism" phase. A brief period of despondency while in Lahore resulted in his depicting the darker side of life in *Girl with Lizard* and *Dead Lizard*, which he did in

In 1962, the artist got married and this is when he developed yet another style. "My life became very organised and structured", says Baseer, "and this was reflected in my work." The geometric shapes and female forms of his paintings at that time portrayed the emotional stability of the artist.

Baseer was always drawn to realism and the abstraction of modern art did not really appeal to him. "But I felt I was not in the mainstream with everyone moving towards the abstract; I started getting a complex", says Baseer. The artist remarks that he does not believe in pure abstract, which is often the result of alienation and angst of those societies in which life has become mechanical and vacant. The claustrophobia the country was facing in the late 60s however, influenced him to come up with his Wall series, which seemed to be the closest he had come to abstract art. But as far as Baseer



Bloody 21st 1952 (Linocut)

was concerned, he was reproducing actual parts of walls that looked abstract because they were devoid of figures. This is when Baseer came up with a new term to describe his work: abstract realism. The walls denoted barriers between people, the emotional

distancing in relationships.

In 1971, Baseer escaped to Paris with his family, fearing arrest for his involvement in the independence movement. It was during his stay in Paris that the *Epitaph for the Martyrs* series was done, inspired by the colours enmeshed in pebbles that he found on a Parisian street. The understated colours and forms of the pebbles represented a solemn epitaph for the martyrs who had died and were dying. In 1975, Baseer received the Shilpakala Academy Award, especially for his *Epitaph* series. He was awarded the Ekushey

Padak in 1980. In 1978, Baseer did a few paintings in his *Jyoti* series using religious motifs from prayer mats, scriptures and charms.

Baseer is very wary of repetition and says he stops as soon as he detects any sign of it in his work. Which is why he admires Picasso so much for his constant attempt to be innovative. He describes his "abstract realism" as the attempt to blend the vision of a Renaissance painter with the mind of an impressionist. The Wings series of the late 90s for example, is a completely new phase. The magnifying of a part of a butterfly wing in all its spectacular pattern and colour is a defiant protest and optimism against the degeneration of modern society. Again, in 1980, The Light series showed another form of work based on Quranic verses. "I was heavily criticised for this work", says Baseer, ' I do not see any contradiction between religion and progress. Bangali Muslims are very progressive but that does not mean they are atheists." Baseer adds that the work of artists like Michelangelo and Rembrandt were heavily influenced by religious motifs so it is very natural for artists to use religion

Baseer, the eternal optimist, is very hopeful about the future of Bangladeshi art. "Bangladeshi art is of international standard," remarks Baseer, " but there are constraints. The state must play a greater role and patronise art; there should be a Shiplakala Academy in every district. There are many abandoned houses all over the country. They can be turned into venues for exhibitions. All creative work including art, moreover, should be made tax-free."

Even after more than fifty years of creating a formidable repertoire of work, Baseer is far from being complacent. For Baseer, talent is an overstated word in art; it all boils down to sheer hard work, something this dynamic artist has never shied away from.

Aasha Mehreen Amin is Senior Deputy Editor, Editorial and Opinion, *The Daily Star*.

#### Japan PM's hospital trip sparks health speculation

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whose first term in office ended in part for health reasons, sparked fresh speculation yesterday about his wellbeing with an unexpected, hours-long hospital visit.

Abe emerged from the Tokyo hospital where he was previously treated for ulcerative colitis more than seven hours after he entered, and left by car without saying anything, according to TV footage of local media

His previously unannounced arrival yesterday morning prompted a local media frenzy and comes after weeks of speculation about his

A weekly magazine report in July claimed Abe had been vomiting blood, but government spokesman Yoshihide Suga insisted the prime minister was healthy.

#### 'Lucky' phone

Phone users in China -- especially companies seeking to impress clients and business partners -- often pay a premium for combinations of digits considered lucky.

Eight is the most sought after digit, and so prized in China that the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing started officially at eight minutes past eight on the eighth day of August, the eighth

The number four, which in Mandarin sounds similar to "death", is least favoured.

The winner of Sunday's auction paid 400 yuan to join the action and has ten days to come up with the remaining sum.

A phone number ending in eight sevens holds the record on the auction platform for fetching 3.91 million yuan at a 2017 auction.

Seven sounds like "arise" or "life essence" and is considered a good number for relationships.

#### BSF shoots

FROM PAGE 12 They then left the body in Chhoy Roshia area and fled.

Lt Col Suraj Mia, commanding officer of 53 BGB Battalion, said they found the body in Chhoy Roshia area around 10:30pm, some 3km inside the Bangladesh territory from zero

Sumon's family said he went outside home in the afternoon, the BGB official added.

The BGB is investigating the

The official said they also called a flag meeting with BSF, but it did not respond till filing of this report around 5:30pm yesterday.

Shamsul Alam, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station, said on information, they went to Chhoy Roshia area around 5:45am and sent the body to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Sumon had a bullet wound on the left of his back.

#### British PM

FROM PAGE 12

Minister Syed Nazrul Islam in the chair. The meeting is understood to have discussed among other things the food situation in the country. SOVIET UNION TO IMPORT JUTE FROM BANGLADESH

The Soviet Union will import jute worth Tk 2.15 crore from Bangladesh, informs the Soviet ambassador in Bangladesh today. He further informs that a Soviet ship has already reached the Chittagong Port to carry the purchased raw jute.

SOURCES: August 19, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

#### China grants

FROM PAGE 12

of the immune system's attack against foreign invaders, such as viruses.

Results of both trials were released in the medical journal the Lancet. Reports said that CanSino's Covid vaccine has already received the

greenlight to be used by China's military despite not yet undergoing the type of large-scale testing needed to prove its ability to prevent infection.

CanSino's vaccine candidate was the first in China to move into human testing in March but other potential vaccines developed by Sinovac Biotech and a unit of China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) have already been approved for Phase III trials overseas.

Saudi Arabia said this month it plans to begin Phase III clinical trials for the CanSino vaccine. CanSino has said it is also in talks with Brazil and Chile to launch Phase III trials in

those countries. Saudi Arabia plans to test the vaccine alongside a placebo on 5,000 volunteers and is currently preparing trials in the cities of Riyadh, Dammam and Makkah, Saudi state news agency SPA had reported.



Health staff wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) conduct morning exercises with patients suffering mild symptoms of the Covid-19 at an emergency hospital in Surabaya, Indonesia yesterday.

PHOTO:

#### 'Please, take us back'

in Bangladesh and are passing hard

of them maintain regular contacts with Indian High Commission in Dhaka, which says it is yet to receive any instruction regarding them.

Frustrated, a number of stranded Indian citizens, many of whom are connected through WhatsApp, are planning to stage a demonstration at Benapole on August 24, seeking steps from Indian authorities about their

Early this month, India's Ministry of External Affairs sought approval from West Bengal's Mamata Banerjeeled government to take back the state's 2,680 people stranded in Bangladesh since the Covid-19 lockdown began

In a letter dated August 7, it stated that 2,399 people want to return to their villages in West Bengal through the Petrapole-Benapole integrated check post (ICP), while 281 people want to enter through Phulbari-Banglabandha border, reported Indian news portal The Print.

The letter, sent by MEA's Additional Secretary Vikram Doraiswami to West Bengal Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha,

"unskilled or semi-skilled" labourers, and have been living in "extreme distress" under the lockdown, with no financial support.

"They are all from weaker sections of our society. Many are living in extreme distress, including sheltering in school verandas or public parks, and are increasingly desperate to return home. It is not feasible for them to fly home; they can only hope to return if they are allowed to travel by rail or road.

It said Delhi has offered to arrange trains and vehicles for them once the West Bengal government approves. THE SUFFERINGS

Seventy-year-old Sheikh Ali Mortuza and his wife came to Dhaka for a visit with their relatives in mid-February but found the Benapole border closed just days before they were due to leave in March.

They are residents of Murshidabad in West Bengal. For them, days pass by slowly in Dhaka -- and even the joy of meeting and spending time with relatives turns tedious on some days since there is no news about when they can return back home.

Partha Paul Chowdhury has also been stuck in Bangladesh for five

stated that the stranded people are months after he, his mother and an commission will take same steps for aunt arrived on March 8 to attend a the standard Indian too, he said. programme at his maternal uncle's house in Ullapra of Sirajganj.

"I am in constant touch with the High Commission in Dhaka. Initially, they would say that they were working on it, ushering in hope for our return. But now they say they can't send us back as the West Bengal government is not giving permission," he told The Daily Star on Sunday.

In the meantime, his mother's medicines, brought from India, ran out. She has several health complications including that in heart

"My mother is now very sick. She is suffering from hypertension. Who will take responsibility if my mother dies here," said Partha, who is from

He said several special flights operated between Dhaka and Delhi in the last two to three months, but it was not possible for them to afford

Partha said they came to know from the media that the Indian government is allowing Bangladeshi people to go to India on emergency grounds taking special permission from the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. The high

But when they contacted the high commission, its officials termed it rumour, he said.

"Now our only request to my chief minister [of West Bengal] and the Indian government: please take us back," he said.

Some of them have other problems

Prianka said she has multiple visas for six months with permission to stay in Bangladesh for two months at a stretch. But she is now in Bangladesh for the last five months.

When I talked with one visa official here, he said I have to pay Tk 200 for each of 15 days after the twomonth period and Tk 500 each after 75 days. Where will I get the money when I am facing hardship with my daughter?" she said.

This newspaper contacted Indian High Commission in Dhaka earlier this month when Indian news portal The Print published a report on the issue.

An official there said the borders might open soon and they would be sent back then.

Contacted on Sunday, the high commission declined to make any comment in this regard.

#### Rivers swell

region in next 24 to 48 hours," the bulletin said.

Water level of five rivers was flowing above the danger level yesterday, said

Water of many major rivers in the Ganges basin has started rising again yesterday because of the onrush of floodwater from upstream hilly catchment areas caused by heavy downpour, reports BSS.

Local offices of Water Development Board recorded an upward trend of water in the rivers like Mahananda Chapainawabganj and Ganges at Pankha in Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Hardinge Bridge, Talbaria, and Goalanda and other downstream rivers yesterday morning.

Water level in the Ganges river went up by 8-10cm, and water is in an up by 3cm at Pankha, Hardinge Bridge and Talbaria points, while it increased 2cm at Rajshahi point in the past 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday, WDB Superintending Engineer Mukhlesur Rahman told BSS.

Meanwhile, over 50 lakh people of 162 upazilas in 33 districts have so far been affected by the flood, according to the National Disaster Response Coordination Centre latest report released on Sunday.

Our district correspondents report on the flood situation.

In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, water of major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dharla, and Dudhkumar, is rising again.

Water level in these rivers has gone

increasing trend, said WDB officials, adding that they feared that the flood situation might deteriorate again by the end of this month.

People said their sufferings will know no bounds if the flood hits them again. Nur Haque Mandal, a boatman

of Char Yatrapur in Kurigram Sadar upazila, said water in the Brahmaputra river has been rising for the last two

"If it continues, water level of the river may cross the danger level within a few days," he told The Daily Star. A farmer of the area, Jober Ali, said

they were facing immense sufferings as flood hit their areas twice since

"We have recently returned home from flood centres. Our houses and croplands have been damaged. We don't know what we will do, if flood hits us again," said Nazmul Islam, a farmer of Char Gobordhan in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila. In Nilphamari, the flood situation

remained steady till yesterday as the Teesta was still flowing 28cm below the danger level at Dimla point. But the situation may worsen shortly as there is a possibility of rainfall.

Water level of the Jamuna river rose by 5cm at Aricha point in Manikganj, and it may slightly increase further, said WDB officials.

correspondents Our Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Manikganj contributed to this report

# Bangladesh has 6th most active cases Dhaka division has accounted This issue was on t

is third on the list which is topped by USA with around 25 lakh actives cases, followed by Brazil with around eight lakh. The 37 deaths reported yesterday

took the total number of Covid-19related deaths to 3,694 -- around 1.32 percent of all cases. Thirty-two Covid-19 patients died

the previous day. Of yesterday's deceased, 28 were male and nine were female. Six died

in their residences while 31 died in hospitals. Three of them were aged between 31 and 40, eight each were between 41 and 50 and 51 and 60, while 18 were

over 60 years old. Twenty were from Dhaka division, four from Chattogram, three from Rajshahi, six from Khulna, three from Rangpur and one was from Barishal

for the highest number of Covid-19 deaths in the country -- 1.768 HEALTH MINISTER'S MEETING

WITH PM POSTPONED

The much-talked-about meeting on the trial of Chinese Covid-19 vaccines between the health minister Zahid Maleque and the prime minister Sheikh Hasina was postponed. "The meeting will be rescheduled

relations officer of the health ministry told The Daily Star. Last Wednesday, the health minister talked about this meeting during a discussion with Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal during

soon," Maidul Islam Prodhan, public

on purchase. Besides, the health ministry is also yet to take any decision on the collection of the Covid-19 vaccines when it becomes available in the market.

the meeting of the cabinet committee

This issue was on the agenda of the to The Daily Star yesterday. health minister's meeting with the prime minister.

On July 18, Bangladesh Medical Research Council permitted the icddr,b to conduct the vaccine trial on 4,200 healthcare workers in seven

But the trial became uncertain after the health minister and the health service division secretary last month said it would take time for the government to decide.

DR AMINUL HASAN AWARDED **NEW POSITION** 

Dr Aminul Hasan, the immediate past director of hospitals and clinics at the health directorate before he was removed from his post, has been appointed the principal of the Dhaka Institute of Health Technology. Sharmin Akter Jahan, deputy

secretary of the health service division of the health ministry, confirmed this

On Sunday, the ministry issued the circular, where Aminul was asked to join his new workplace within three working days. On July 23, Aminul Hasan was

made officer on special duty (OSD) amidst huge criticism over the Regent Hospital scam.

Two days earlier, Prof Abul Kalam Azad -- the then director general of the health directorate -- also resigned from his post because of the same

Last Wednesday, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) questioning the former DG and four other DGHS former officials including Aminul over various scams and irregularities in the health sector.

The three others are former deputy directors of the DGHS Yunus Ali, Md Shafiur Rahman and research officer Md Didarul Islam.

# S Korea battles worst outbreak in months

city of Daegu and became the country's deadliest cluster.

In New Zealand, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern yesterday postponed the nation's election to focus on fighting a coronavirus second wave, as data showed Japan's economy had endured a historic contraction.

With more than 21.7 million cases worldwide, a second wave of infections is also threatening further disruption in Europe where summer holiday-makers are helping fuel a

resurgence of Covid-19.

The disease has killed more than 775,000 people globally, and the death toll tops 50,000 in India, which is still battling its first wave with 2.5 million infections -- the third-highest in the world.

The postponement of New Zealand's election to October 17 came after the shock discovery of Covid-19 in Auckland last week, ending the nation's 102-day streak without community transmission.

"This decision gives all parties time

over the next nine weeks to campaign and the Electoral Commission enough time to ensure an election can go ahead," PM Ardern said.

**INDIA DEATHS TOP 50,000** Many Indian experts say the real

numbers may be far higher due to low testing rates and because deaths are often not properly recorded in the vast and impoverished nation of 1.3 billion people.

India last week overtook Britain with the world's fourth-highest number of fatalities, behind the United States,

had recorded 50,921 deaths, according to the health ministry.

With some of the world's biggest megacities and slums, India is already the third-most infected nation behind the US and Brazil with 2.65 million infections.

months out from the American presidential election, the surging caseload in the United States -- the worst in the world at more than 5.4 million with 170,000 deaths -- has forced the convention season online.

Brazil and Mexico, and as of yesterday

Across the Pacific, less than three

HOLY MOSQUES

#### Saudi appoints 10 women in senior roles

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia has appointed 10 women in senior roles at Islam's two holiest sites, authorities said Sunday, as the conservative petro-state seeks to boost female employment. The appointment of women

in senior positions at religious institutions is rare in the Islamic kingdom, which is in the midst of a wide-ranging liberalisation drive spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The women were appointed in the

two holy mosques in Makkah and Medina across various departments, administrative technical, according to statement released by the general presidency for the affairs of the two holy mosques. The recruitment drive was aimed at

qualifications and capabilities", the statement said. The two holy mosques previously recruited 41 women in leadership positions in 2018, according to Saudi

empowering Saudi women with high

Prince Mohammed has sought to boost employment for women as part of his "Vision 2030" plan, which is aimed at diversifying the kingdom's economy

and ending its addiction to oil. The number of working women in Saudi Arabia reached 1.03 million in the third quarter of 2019, 35 percent of the total workforce, compared to 816,000 in

2015, according to official figures. In other reforms, women in the kingdom are now allowed to drive cars, cinemas have reopened and genders are permitted to mix at events, including concerts, and in public

But the reforms have also been accompanied by a crackdown on

Saudi Arabia has detained and put on trial a dozen women activists who ong campaigned for the right to drive, sparking widespread condemnation.

Some of the activists allege they

were tortured and sexually harassed by interrogators.

#### **UAE** denies

he was refused because he travelled to the UAE without his required re-entry permit, said the official.

Another passenger said he wanted to go to Dubai after entering the UAE through the Abu Dhabi airport. But the authorities refused him

immigration clearance, he added. The official said the expatriates were returning to the UAE after their acation ended.

Sheikh Bahar, a migrant worker from Feni, told The Daily Star that he travelled to Abu Dhabi airport in a Biman flight on Friday. He was refused immigration clearance because he did not have the online re-entry permit that he was supposed to carry with

him from Bangladesh. Bahar, who had been in the UAE for the last 10 years, said he filled out the online form on August 6, but did not get the reply confirming his re-

entry permit in time. On the other hand, he was in a hurry to enter the country as he was supposed to join his work after his vacation ended on August 14, he said, adding that he came to Bangladesh in March this year and was stranded

amid the coronavirus pandemic. Bahar also said as per the equirement, he underwent Covid-19 tests at a government-approved lab in Bangladesh and also at the Abu Dhabi

He urged the authorities concerned to take effective steps to end his plight. Contacted, Tahera Khandker, deputy general manager (public relations) of Biman, confirmed that some expatriates returned home from the Gulf state yesterday.

The flight carried more than 200 passengers, the Biman official told this newspaper over the phone.

As per a Biman notice issued on July 29, passengers who will travel to Dubai and Abu Dhabi from Bangladesh have to obtain Covid-19 negative certificates from the approved labs valid for 72 hours before their departure.

Biman, the national flag carrier, resumed its scheduled commercial flight operations to Abu Dhabi and Dubai last month after commercial flights on the routes were suspended in March amid the pandemic. The UAE is home to several lakh

Bangladeshi migrant workers. Many of them came home on vacation and later remained stranded due to flight suspensions amid the pandemic.

After an inter-ministerial meeting held virtually yesterday, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad said measures would be taken for sending the expatriate Bangladeshis who were sent back from the Abu Dhabi airport after the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh submits a report, said a ministry press release.

a report to the civil aviation and tourism ministry within the next five working days after probing the return of the expatriate workers in Biman and Air Arabia flights, he said.

The Caab has been asked to submit

The expatriates will be sent again in flights of the related airlines or under government arrangement, he added.

# Sevilla players go berserk at the final whistle of their Europa League semifinal against Manchester United, which the Spaniards won 2-1 to book their place for the

# Nagelsmann meets his mentor

Sevilla's winning goal.

AFP, Lisbon



Having already outwitted Jose Mourinho and Diego Simeone in Champions League, RB Leipzig

boss Julian Nagelsmann now faces Paris Saint-Germain and Thomas Tuchel, who helped spark his coaching career 12 years ago, in Tuesday's semifinal.

The 33-year-old Nagelsmann is the youngest coach to reach the last four of the Champions League, underlining his reputation as one of Germany's brightest tacticians in Leipzig's first appearance in the competition's knockout phase.

Nagelsmann got the better of Simeone's Atletico Madrid in a 2-1 victory Thursday, claiming another famous scalp following the disposal of Mourinho's Tottenham -- last year's runners-up who were beaten home and away in the last

Next up is PSG and fellow German Tuchel, under whom Nagelsmann took his first steps into coaching for Augsburg's reserves in 2008 after a persistent knee injury forced him to retire aged just 20.

"Of course I was his player, but that was many years ago," said Nagelsmann, a decent centreback in his youth. "I'm more into like him." As coach of his ex-club Hoffenheim, Nagelsmann lost twice and drew against Tuchel, then in charge of Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga between 2016 and

"Matches against him are always interesting, because he has a



**Thomas Tuchel** 

good idea about football," added Nagelsmann. "I have often played (as a coach) against him (Tuchel) but rarely won. That should change now," he added. "It's clear the quality they (PSG) have -- Angel Di Maria will be back and (Kylian) Mbappe will be fit enough to start.

"We will need a top performance the day-to-day business now, just to reach the final." A knee injury cut short his playing career in 2008, "otherwise I would have needed an artificial knee when I was 40," said Nagelsmann.

> Barely out of his teens, he was offered a scouting role by his Augsburg reserves coach Tuchel.

"It was a pragmatic decision -



sixth time in the final of Europe's second-tier club competition. (Inset) Manchester

United's Bruno Fernandes and (R) Victor Lindelof engage in an altercation following

Julian Nagelsmann

since Augsburg were still paying me, I spotted opponents for Tuchel," Nagelsmann said in a 2015 interview.

The pair have "never been extremely close", revealed Nagelsmann. "He wasn't my mentor, even if many refer to him as one. "Our relationship was too pragmatic for that, but I am grateful for him giving me the idea to become a coach."

Tuchel went onto to work at Mainz and Dortmund, who he steered to the 2017 German Cup title before joining PSG in 2018 and winning back-to-back French league titles.

All the while, Nagelsmann gained experience coaching youth teams at Augsburg, 1860 Munich and Hoffenheim before moving to Leipzig in 2019. After coaching their Under-17 team, Nagelsmann rose up the ranks in Hoffenheim.

He became the youngest head coach in Bundesliga history in February 2016, aged just 28, when Hoffenheim were second from bottom in the table, but he kept them up to earn the accolade of Germany's coach of the year.

Under Nagelsmann, managed Hoffenheim four finishes in the following two seasons, earning a debut Champions League campaign in 2018/19 but making a groupstage exit. He turned unfancied Hoffenheim into a side capable of twice beating mighty Bayern Munich, the icing on the cake being a 2-0 away win at the Allianz Arena in 2017.

with Success Hoffenheim attracted Red Bull-backed RB Leipzig, who Nagelsmann joined before the start of this season, finishing third in the Bundesliga.

Now more than a decade after their time in Augsburg's reserves, Tuchel and Nagelsmann clash for a place in next Sunday's Champions eague final.

the Champions However, League is "not about duels against Mourinho, Simeone or now against Tuchel," insisted Nagelsmann. "It's a team sport, and the team (Leipzig) has played outstandingly well."

Nagelsmann believes PSG's quarter-final win over Atalanta lifted "a heavy burden" off Tuchel who was under pressure to make the last four.

"I'm happy for him."

# Covid-19 exposing Hassan's failures

SAKEB SUBHAN



Saturday, after a long absence due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan held court in a

press conference. And over the course of the press conference, he proved once again that beyond obligatory soundbites about regional cricket associations come election time, problems at grassroots levels do not much capture his attention.

Just like the pandemic has done in all aspects of life around the world, it has made crystal clear the shortcomings of Hassan and his board - the richest sporting body in the country and one of the most affluent cricket boards in the world.

At a time when the rest of the country has resumed normal proceedings amid the pandemic because livelihoods are inseparable from lives, Hassan sounded the death knell for the currently suspended season of the Dhaka Premier League - the major source of income for most of the country's cricketers.

"The league can only start under either of two conditions," Hassan had said. "Firstly, if the Covid-19 situation in Bangladesh improves, or if the vaccine arrives. Otherwise, I don't see any logic in starting the league. I don't see any point taking a risk by trying to be brave.'

Much of the press conference was taken up by Hassan's plans for the Bangladesh national team's upcoming rescheduled tour of Sri Lanka. He seemed to have considered deeply the national team's safety and the logistics of going to Sri Lanka as he talked about renting out entire floors of five-star hotels. That is admirable and also expected. The failing on Saturday - and countless times in the past -was how he summarily dismissed the domestic cricketers' plight.

"My only message [to domestic cricketers] would be to look at the rest of the world where millions have lost their job and have no income. Let us pray to Allah to help us recover from this pandemic. Of course, the BCB will try to help them."

The head of the governing body of cricket and cricketers in the country said that they will "try to help them". The thrust of his "only message" to domestic cricketers who do not have the cushy contracts of the national stars is others are

suffering, so you must too. This neglect of domestic cricketers is not new. During the players' strike last August when the country's cricketers rose as one to demand greater respect and better pay and facilities, Hassan's anger was focused on the national stars - the domestic cricketers were not even an afterthought.

Looking around the world, one can see England, which according to Johns Hopkins has the second-highest case-death ratio after Yemen. Yet domestic cricket is going on in that country, not to mention the ongoing England-Pakistan Test series. They have managed to do that with effective distancing and bio-secure measures in place, presumably because there was a strong will to get cricket back on the field.

Why are such measures not possible in Bangladesh? Answering that question may expose more of the failures of Hassan's regime. He talked about regional cricket associations when he became president, but nothing much has materialised.

If cricket facilities in regions not named Dhaka or Chattogram had become stronger, it would have been possible to shift cricket away from the infection hotspot that is Dhaka and focus activities on safer divisions like, say, Rajshahi and Mymensingh. But those measures, over eight years of Hassan's presidency, has paled in comparison to the much more visible activities surrounding the national team.

Even without a decentralised cricketing structure, the BCB has enough funds -- as their officials are often fond of saying -- to be able to take special measures in a time

If the national team is the be all and end all in Hassan's eyes, then he would also do well to consider that without a robust domestic set-up the talent well will dry up. The visible cost of not doing everything possible to get domestic cricket up and running is the dwindling livelihood of the journeyman domestic player, but what of the hidden costs?

Is it a stretch to say that many youngsters, in the absence of a viable income source from cricket, will now choose to stay away from the game?

That, however, does not seem to be Hassan's problem because those youngsters and the journeyman domestic cricketer does not have the Tiger monogram on their jerseys. With the pandemic throwing BCB's incompetence into stark relief, the fear now is that it may just be the tip of the iceberg.



Mahmudullah Riyad bats in the nets of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday as the Bangladesh team's cricketers continue their training with an eye on next month's Sri Lanka tour.

PHOTO:

# Setien out but Messi staying?

Afp, Madrid



Barcelona insisted they had not heard from Lionel Messi that he wants to leave the club, as an emergency board meeting was being held at Camp Nou on Monday.

Barca officials, including under-fire president Josep Maria Bartomeu, were due to discuss wholesale changes following the team's humiliating 8-2 Champions

League quarterfinal defeat by Bayern Munich on Friday. A report from Esporte Interativo on Sunday even claimed Messi has made up

his mind to leave this summer, although a Barcelona source told AFP shortly before the board meeting was due to start that there had still been no

communication with the club to that effect. Messi's frustration will be among the issues to be discussed along with the future of coach Quique Setien, who is expected to be sacked.

Ronald Koeman had emerged as the favourite on Monday to replace Setien given concerns around the suitability of Mauricio Pochettino, who has previously said he would never coach Barcelona due to his links to rivals Espanyol.

Another option is Barca B coach Garcia Pimienta, who could oversee a greater emphasis on youth before a longer-term

appointment is made after the presidential elections next year. Former Barca midfielder Xavi Hernandez would be the preferred option of Messi and other senior players but Xavi has recently signed a new deal with Qatari club Al-Sadd and is against working under the

current board. Another possible outcome of Monday's meeting is that the club's presidential elections, due in June 2021, are brought forward, although it is more likely they would be advanced to earlier next year than

the next few months. Sporting director Eric Abidal will also have his future discussed and could be moved on.

# Hockey GS removed



AKM Mominul Haque Shaeed, the general secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), has been relieved of his duties due to his 10-month absence in hockey activities.

The decision was made on Sunday, 15 months after Shaeed was elected general secretary of the game's local governing body. Shaheed went abroad more than 10 months ago and has been hiding ever since following allegations of his involvement in casino scandal in Motijheel Club Para in September last year.

"We took the decision of his termination in line with the BHF constitution -- article 16 (Gha) -- on Sunday. The BHF president (Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat) had a meeting with five vice-presidents and acting general secretary and no one objected to the move," BHF's vice-president Sajed AA Adel told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We never faced a similar such situation before. Besides, we did not have any option as Shaeed violated constitution by not attending the executive meeting four times and remained absent for more than 10 months even though the constitution approved only six months absence," Adel said.

Former DCC councillor-turned-organiser Saheed was asked to submit an explanation for his continuous absence in hockey meeting by July 27, but he has not yet replied.

The notice of the decision was sent to all corresponding addresses of Shaeed, and copies of Shaeed's release letter were sent to National Sports Council and Youth and Sports Ministry.

# Archery training resumes with Covid-19 tests

SPORTS REPORTER



After footballers and cricketers, archers also underwent the Covid-19 test yesterday as part of the pre- requisite to resume sports activities as the archers are all set to

restart preparations for next year's Tokyo Olympics at Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi. Some eight archers including Ruman

Sana, three coaches, masseurs and catering staff went to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital in Dhaka to submit their samples for Ĉovid-19 tests. The Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) decided to restart the camp with 18 archers in three steps with the first batch of archers comprising eight who have been at the camp from Sunday while the second batch (four archers) and third batch (six archers) are scheduled to join on August 22 and 29.

"We have taken the lessons from football and are aware instead of afraid of coronavirus. We resumed training after taking all health measures provided by the health ministry," said BAF general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Champal, adding that some 18 persons underwent the Covid-19 test and the results are expected within the next 72 hours.

If anyone tests positive, they will be kept in an isolation room at Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium and the federation will even transfer them to hospital if needed, he added.

Some eight archers on Sunday reported to German coach Martin Fredrick for individual training, who has been in Dhaka since the postponement of the archery camp in late March.

"On Sunday, Fredrick gave a motivational speech for the archers, who are going to training officially after four and a half months. The archers have also been taught how to stay safe from coronavirus," said assistant coach Ziaul Haque.

"The archers have been in observation. We will start full-swing training soon after getting the results of the Covid-19 test. The motivational speeches and hygiene lessons will continue in the coming days," said the former national archer. The archers were supposed to shoot arrows from a five-metre distance and that will continue for at least one week before archers switch to 70-metre



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# 'Please, take us back'

Indians stranded here for months plead to Delhi and West Bengal

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Prianka Majumder had planned to stay in Bangladesh for 20 days when she along with her husband and daughter came to the country on March 8 to attend her cousin's wedding in Barishal's Gournadi.

Little did she know that her 20 days in Bangladesh would stretch up to five months with no sign of possibility for immediate return to her country in sight.

The 25-year-old makeup artist from West Bengal's Uttar Chabbis Porgona district has been stuck here all these months with her three-year-old daughter due to the lockdown and travel restrictions imposed for Covid-19

Her husband, however, returned to India on March 14, following media reports that the Indian border with Bangladesh is going to be closed from March 15.

"We [she and her daughter] did not go [with him] as we thought the situation will become normal. We never thought that we'll be stuck here for more than five months," Priakna told The Daily Star.

Priakna called this correspondent first on Saturday night after collecting his mobile phone number from one of her acquaintances. The correspondent again phoned her on

"How does it feel to stay in a relative's house for such a long time? My daughter cries every night for her father but I can't help... We want nothing but to go home immediately. It is not possible to live like this," she said, with a cracked voice.

Like Prianka, around 2,500 Indian citizens got stranded SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



People are supposed to leave seats empty and wear masks as part of measures to reduce the chances of coronavirus transmission in public buses. But in many vehicles such physical distancing directives are not being heeded to. The photo was taken at the capital's Sonargaon intersection inside a BRTC bus.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

#### Rivers swell threatening more floods

STAR REPORT

Water of some major rivers in the country's northern region and some other districts is rising again, posing the risk of flooding many areas.

"River water is increasing due to heavy rainfall in the upstream. It may cause flood for a short period by the end of this month," said Mizanur Rahman, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Lalmonirhat.

Yesterday's bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said water level of the Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers was in a rising trend.

"The Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers may become steady in next 24 hours," said the bulletin released at

"The Ganges and Padma rivers are in a steady state which may remain steady in next 24 hours," it added.

"Medium to heavy rainfall has been forecasted south-eastern hilly region and south-central

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

COVID-19 VACCINE

### China grants country's first patent

REUTERS, Beijing

China's vaccine maker CanSino Biologics Inc has won a patent approval from Beijing for its Covid-19 vaccine candidate Ad5-nCOV, People's Daily reported, citing documents from the country's intellectual property regulator.

The patent was submitted for application on March 18, and was approved on August 11, the report said. It is the first Covid-19 vaccine patent granted by China.

On August 11, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Russia had won the global race to approve a Covid vaccine.

Russia said that the first consignments of its "Sputnik" vaccine had been produced and will be given to healthcare professionals on a voluntary basis.

China's CanSino's vaccine uses a modified common cold virus to carry genetic material from the new coronavirus into the human body, a method also used by the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

Both vaccines elicited antibody and T-cell immune responses and neither prompted any serious side effects in early trials. T-cells are an important component

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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

### British PM meets Bangabandhu

August 18, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

EDWARD HEATH CALLS ON BANGABANDHU British Prime Minister Edward Heath calls on Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman at the latter's hotel suite today. Coming out of Bangabandhu's room at Hotel Claridges, Heath tells newsmen that he has had 'very good talks' with the Bangladesh prime minister. The British prime minister declines to comment further on their meeting. Although nothing precise is available to the press about

the talk, it is understood that the two leaders discusses matters of mutual interest besides exchanging views on international issues with reference to the situation in the subcontinent. It is also believed that the two leaders have had a discussion on the relationship between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

STEPS TO AVERT GRAVE FOOD CRISIS UNDERWAY Food Minister Phani Bhushan Majumdar today claims that there is

a "satisfactory food stock" and the government can avert possible famine conditions forecast by many both inside and outside the country. But at the same time, he admits that the food situation is grave and would not contradict newspaper reports about hunger

It is reported that price of rice and other essentials commodities have registered a rise during the last fortnight in various parts of Bangladesh. The reasons for the rise in price of rice are attributed to floods and lack of proper communication.

The Cabinet meets today at the Secretariat with acting Prime

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

#### **UAE** denies entry to 68 Bangladeshi migrants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 68 Bangladeshi expatriates were sent back home from Abu Dhabi International Airport yesterday after they allegedly failed to meet necessary conditions for their immigration clearance.

Officials at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka said the expatriates flew back in a Riman Bangladesh Airlin flight in the morning.

Of the 68 passengers, six flew from Bangladesh the previous night and the rest travelled to Abu Dhabi on Friday, he added.

An official of Prabashi Kalyan Desk at the airport said he talked to several passengers after their return and they mentioned different reasons for not getting their immigration clearance.

One returnee said SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## 'Lucky' phone number sells for \$300,000



A "lucky" mobile phone number has sold for a whopping 2.25 million yuan (\$300,000) after hundreds of people vied online for the right to use the apparently auspicious string of digits.

The number ends in five eights, a soughtafter combination in China as the word "eight" in Mandarin sounds similar to the word for "prosperity".

The number was among assets seized and ordered auctioned by a court in Beijing, and an online sale attracted more than five thousand bids between Saturday and Sunday.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

#### Bangladesh has 6th most active cases

37 more die, 2,595 infected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 2,595 more people testing positive for Covid-19 yesterday, Bangladesh has now become sixth on the list of countries with most active cases.

The 24 hours 8:30am yesterday also saw 37 deaths from the highly transmissible virus, according to the health directorate.

of actives cases rose to 1,17,454, according to www.worldometers.info -- a reference website that provides almost real-time statistics.

of 2,79,144 Out confirmed cases, 1,60,591 patients -- or more than 57 percent -- have recovered from their illnesses as of yesterday, according to the health directorate.

With 6,79,946 actives cases, neighbouring India SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

#### **BSF** shoots cattle trader dead

Our Correspondent, Chapainawabganj

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead allegedly by Indian Border Security Force along Shingnagar border in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila on Sunday night.

Sumon Ali, 22, was the son of Kalu Mandal of Tarapur village of the upazila

Locals said some cattle traders were going to India through Shingnagar border around 7:45pm on Sunday for bringing cattle. Members of BSF opened fire on them and Suman was critically injured.

He died when his fellows were taking him SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



**PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 18** Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-38 8-00 JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-41 8-30 SOURCE- ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The rush of floodwater washed away the approach road to this bridge in Char Isli village of Rangpur's Gangachara upazila. Desperate for a usable bridge, the locals did not bother to wait for it to be mended. They made it passable by building an approach road out of bamboo poles and fences. The photo was taken yesterday.

KONGKON KARMAKER

# S Korea battles worst outbreak in months

Warns of crisis; NZ delays polls amid surge in virus cases

South Korea yesterday warned of a looming novel coronavirus crisis as new outbreaks flared, including one linked to a church where more than 300 members of the congregation have been infected but hundreds more are reluctant to get tested.

The outbreak linked to the Sarang Jeil Church in Seoul is the country's biggest in nearly six months and led to a tightening of social distancing rules on Sunday.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) reported 197 new cases as of midnight on Saturday, mostly in the Seoul metropolitan area, marking the fourth day of a three-digit tally.

South Korea has been one of the world's coronavirus mitigation success stories but it has nevertheless battled persistent spikes in infections. The latest cases brought its total infections to 15,515 including 305 deaths.

"We're seeing the current situation as an initial stage of a large-scale transmission," KCDC director Jeong Eunkyeong told a briefing.

"We're facing a crisis where if the current spread isn't controlled, it would bring an exponential rise in cases, which could in turn lead to the collapse of our medical system and enormous economic damage.

The outbreak at the Seoul church has revived fears seen in February when authorities struggled to contain an outbreak that emerged in a secretive Christian sect in the

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