

'ONE MORE REALITY SHOW'
Obama says Trump never took presidency 'seriously' as Harris accepts VP nod
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AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK 2004



Bodies and the injured scattered in pools of blood in front of the Awami League's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue after grenades were hurled at an AL rally there on August 21, 2004. Left, shocked Sheikh Hasina, then leader of the opposition, after the attack. An unexploded grenade, right, at the scene.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

SPLINTERS remind it all

Survivors demand execution of verdict to punish culprits

RASHIDUL HASAN

Doctors say her ability to fight diseases is decreasing day by day because of over 1,500 splinters inside her body, including in the head, lung, and chest. She has undergone 24 surgeries but is still far from regaining her strength. The splinters cause her unbearable pain constantly and remind her of the grisly grenade attack that left 24 people dead during an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004. She is Nasima Ferdushe, now in her 60s -- one of the most unfortunate survivors of the blast. "Doctors advised me to do an MRI test. But different hospitals and diagnostic centres said my body is not fit for it due to the presence of so many splinters in my body," said Nasima, a former lawmaker, on Wednesday. "I know I am heading towards death," she added. "But I will die in peace if I can see the execution of the verdict over the heinous attack before my last breath."

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AUG 21 CASE VERDICT Waiting for HC hearing on appeals

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court is yet to start the hearing on the death references and appeals against the verdict of the sensational August 21, 2004, grenade attack case, although it accepted the appeals of the convicts more than a year and a half ago. The pandemic caused an unusual delay for the offices concerned of the High Court and Bangladesh Government Press in preparing the paper books of the cases. However, the authorities concerned were able to prepare the paper books and these finally reached the HC on Sunday [August 16], clearing the way for the court to start a hearing on the death references and appeals of the cases.

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Railway allows purchase of 4 tickets against one NID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Up to four tickets can be bought online showing one NID card, the railways ministry has said.

Earlier, Bangladesh Railway had made national identity cards mandatory for passengers to check ticket scalping.

In a press release yesterday, the railways ministry said the authorities have relaxed the provision of showing NID cards "for the passengers' benefit".

"Up to four tickets can be bought for a family with a single NID card and can travel on trains," it added.

The change in decision came following criticism over the move.

Rights activists said the mandatory use of NIDs to buy train tickets online would shrink access to the rail services for the marginalised and those not tech savvy.

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School feeding for 1.41cr students

Proposed 5-yr programme involving Tk 19,280cr to cover all govt primary schools by 2023

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government has chalked out a mammoth Tk 19,280 crore project proposal to provide daily school meals for all 1.41 crore government primary school students to increase attendance and reduce dropouts.

Primary and mass education ministry officials said they sent the Development Project Proposal (DPP) of Primary School Feeding Programme (PSFP) to the planning commission in early July for approval.

They said the project will be vital to containing the regular trend of dropouts as well as dropouts following the Covid-19 outbreak.

Many government documents and international reports have warned that the ongoing closure of schools in the country due to the coronavirus pandemic is increasing the possibility that thousands of marginalised students across the country may have to drop out and fall into child labour.

"If the project approval is delayed, we may face some problems as the tenure of the ongoing school feeding programme

will end in December this year," said a top official of primary and mass education ministry earlier this week.

"Many project approvals take place in quick time, but in the past, we had seen approval process of many large projects takes a long time," said the official, adding that in case of delays in approval, they might fall behind and face extra dropouts caused by the coronavirus-induced closures.

Primary and Mass Education Senior Secretary Akram-Al-Hossain, however, said he believed that the school feeding project will be approved quickly and they will not fall behind in responding to the coronavirus situation.

"I believe the project will be passed in the PEC meeting soon and subsequently it will be approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council," he said.

The process will be completed within two or three months, he added.

THE PROJECT PROPOSAL
According to the officials, the five-year school feeding programme will run from July 2020 to June 2025. The government

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PROBE REPORT ON SINHA KILLING Govt body gets seven more days

Yet to quiz key accused OC Pradeep now in Rab custody

STAR REPORT

A high-level committee formed to probe the murder of Maj (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan has been given seven more working days to complete the investigation.

The committee formed by the home ministry was asked to submit its report to the government by August 31, said the ministry Information Officer Sharif Mahmud.

The committee requested for the additional time as the members were yet to interrogate a key accused -- suspended Teknaf OC Pradeep Kumar Das, a member told The Daily Star yesterday wishing anonymity.

This is the second extension of its deadline by seven days. In another development, the officers-in-charge of Teknaf and Cox's Bazar police stations, who had just joined the stations, were unexpectedly transferred yesterday evening.

"The Police Headquarters have taken the steps, and the transfers have nothing to do with the ongoing issues," said a high official of the district police. Mohammad Khairuzzaman joined as OC of Cox's Bazar Police Station on August 17 and Abul Foysal started work in Teknaf on August 8.

Pradeep, along with five other suspended policemen, is now being grilled by Rab officers on remand. The five include Inspector Liaqat Ali, who shot Sinha at a check-post, and Sub-inspector Nandadulal Rakshit.

Rab, which is probing the murder case filed by Sinha's sister, is also interrogating three suspended members of Armed Police Battalion (APBn)

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SHIPRA CYBERBULLIED HC rejects writ plea on technicalities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition that challenged the legality of two police officers posting photos of Shipra Debnath with provocative comments on Facebook.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam passed the order considering that the petition was not placed properly.

Writ petitioner Manoj Kumar Bhowmick told The Daily Star that he prayed to the HC bench to reject the petition as the bench was not likely to pass an order for taking action against the police officers.

The HC bench said that there is an alternative way to get remedy from the lower court concerned about such issues, he said, adding that he might move the same writ petition before another HC bench.

Manoj Kumar Bhowmick, a Supreme Court lawyer, on August 16 submitted the writ petition as public interest litigation to the HC, seeking its order on the authorities concerned of the government to launch a probe into this issue and take proper action against the police officers responsible for

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BANGLADESH UPDATE

2,868 New cases in 24hrs

2,87,959 Total cases

3,822 Deaths

1,68,991 Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

793,289 Deaths

22,698,145 Total cases

NEWS ANALYSIS

It's India's move to refresh ties with neighbours

PORIMOL PALMA

Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's two-day visit to Dhaka is part of India's larger policy to boost relations with its neighbours as China seeks to draw them closer to it, foreign relations analysts said.

Even though India speaks of neighbourhood first policy, questions have been raised as to how sincere New Delhi is in implementing it, they said.

India-Nepal relations are tensed after India asserted control over the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura region of Pithoragarh, which Nepal claims to be its territory, they said.

In response, Nepal issued a map depicting the region as part of the Nepalese sovereign territory.

Besides, Sri Lanka's ties with China, especially in using Chinese money for many of its development projects over the last few years, created concerns for India.

Meanwhile, India-China relation is at one of its lowest points after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash between the troops of the two nations at Galwan Valley in mid-June.

Indians are now waging a movement to boycott Chinese products.

Analysts said Beijing-Dhaka ties have strengthened in recent years as China invested in various infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, which has concerned India.

Recently, China declared that 97 percent of Bangladesh's exports to China would be duty free. The far-eastern

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Traders in Chattogram's Chaktai-Khatungonj, one of the largest wholesale markets in the country, go about their business wading knee-deep water following high tide. This photo was taken in the afternoon yesterday. Story on B4.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Coronavirus positivity rate rises again

41 more die, 2,868 test positive in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate yesterday reported 41 deaths from Covid-19 and 2,868 new cases in 24 hours.

With these, the total number of deaths now reached at 3,822 which is 1.33 percent of all confirmed cases, read a press release, adding that the total number of positive cases so far in the country stands at 287,995.

The rate of positive cases rose to 20.40 percent yesterday from 18.72 of the previous day.

The overall rate of positive cases now stands at 20.46 percent, according to the release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Meanwhile, in the past 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, a total of 3,253 Covid-19 patients have recovered.

The total number of recoveries stands at 168,991

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Collective action key to fight pandemic

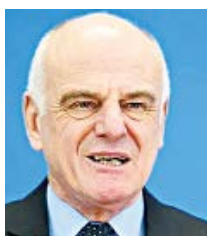
Special envoy of WHO director general stresses adequate investment in local health system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming collective action the key to fight against the global pandemic like COVID-19, Dr David Nabarro, special envoy to the Directorate General of WHO on Covid-19, stressed on adequate investment in the local level public health systems for the continuation of regular health care services during the pandemic.

He made the statement yesterday while speaking as the special guest at a webinar titled "Urban Health, Multi-Stakeholder Partnership, Sustainable Development and COVID-19" jointly organised by Eminence Associates for Social Development and Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN).

"We are learning every day about the strategies and perspectives of many countries around the world to control the virus. We need a worldwide campaign on Covid-19 and it should be led by the practitioners of the local level in the cities, villages,



Dr David Nabarro

communities, groups and societies," he said at the event.

He also said that the community should be strengthened, empowered and equipped with updated information and knowledge to fight the impacts of the pandemic.

Dr Shamim Hayder Talukder, chief executive officer of Eminence Associates, moderated the webinar and said that Eminence Associates for Social Development was trying to engage civil society for developing a risk communication plan for 2021-2041.

"We are also working on the development of a digital health care system in Bangladesh. We hope that we can drive the health system towards the needs of the mass people with some solid contributions to the people of Bangladesh and the world," he added.

The webinar was broadcasted live from the official Facebook page of Eminence Associates for Social Development.



A young man steps onto a makeshift bridge made out of banana trees to cross a road in Manikganj's Shingair upazila that has been eroded as a result of flooding. This photo was taken on Wednesday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

It's India's move

FROM PAGE 1

country also sent a medical team to Bangladesh to help it deal with the pandemic.

On top of these, the phase-3 trial of a Chinese company's Covid-19 vaccine was approved by Bangladesh Medical Research Council, even though the final decision for the trial was still pending.

Bangladesh and India have a few lingering issues.

The Teesta water-sharing deal could not be signed in last nine years and border killings rose in recent times. India's National Register of Citizenship (NRC) and Citizenship Amendment Act surprised people in Bangladesh.

Against this backdrop, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech on August 15 said India was connecting with its neighbours -- whether they are connected to India via land or the sea -- with the partnership of security, development, and trust.

Prof Delwar Hossain, who teaches International Relations at Dhaka University, said, "Indo-China relations have deteriorated significantly after the June confrontation [at Ladakh]. So, India is seeking to correct the relations with the neighbours."

Bangladesh is a close friend of India. Therefore, the first visit by a top Indian diplomat since the pandemic has been to Bangladesh, he said.

Prime Minister Modi wants to make sure that there was no misunderstandings between the two friends, he said.

The message conveyed by Modi to Hasina through Shringla Tuesday night was that India would continue to be with Bangladesh and take forward the relations.

Prof Delwar said pending issues need to be solved quickly.

For example, a number of projects under India's \$10 billion Line of Credit need to be completed at the soonest. The Teesta water-sharing deal has been left hanging for nearly a decade.

Bangladesh also has its own development plans and is not bound to rely only on India, he said.

Dhaka can obviously seek others' assistance, and this does not mean in any way that the Dhaka-Delhi relations will be affected, he told The Daily Star.

Given rising tension between Delhi and Beijing, which is expanding its footprints in South Asia, India is now realising that it needs to really work to boost its ties with the South Asian neighbours, Prof Delwar said.

In an analysis, Indian newspaper

Outlook India reported that ever since PM Hasina assumed power in 2009, she has been sensitive to New Delhi's security and strategic concerns and violence and terrorism in Assam have come down, thanks largely to Hasina's decision to hand over the ULFA leaders.

All insurgent camps were shut down and unlike the previous governments in Dhaka, Hasina made it plain that anti-India forces were not welcome. Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) also got short shrift in Bangladesh, it said.

"But today, China is spreading its wings in Bangladesh, literally India's backyard. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan was on the phone with Hasina in an attempt to mend fences with her. The opportunity for China and Pakistan was provided by the ruling party's [BJP] domestic agenda," Outlook India said.

Prof Delwar said Bangladesh believes in friendship with all. "We all should follow this policy for our common good. We hope India will realise it."

Former ambassador Humayun Kabir thinks Shringla's visit carries special significance.

Connectivity is a priority for India through rail, road, and waterways and India wants the projects under the India's Line of Credit to be completed at the soonest.

Besides, the pandemic has brought a new dimension to global diplomacy and politics as the vaccine has become essential.

As India is a major vaccine producer. It is obvious that it would try to explore markets here, he said.

"India gave a good gesture by considering Bangladesh as a priority. At the same time, we also should have our options open," said Kabir, acting president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute.

Munshi Faiz Ahmed, former chairman of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), said regional and global cooperation were more important than ever.

However, tension across the globe seems to be rising. Shringla's visit, therefore, was crucial for strengthening collaboration on efforts to combat the pandemic, he said, adding: "We hope that we can extend our cooperation in conducting vaccine trials as India is doing. It can help make a better vaccine for us and ensure quick access to the life-saving drug."

Faiz said India has the capacity to lead at the global stage, but before that it needs to prove itself at the South Asian level. "We hope India realises this and acts accordingly."

HC rejects writ plea

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posting the photographs on Facebook.

In the petition, the lawyer said the action of police officers posting personal photographs of Shipra Debnath along with provocative comments on Facebook is illegal because it assassinated her character.

He submitted the writ petition based on a report published on The Daily Star on August 16 under the headline "Cyber-bullying now adds to her trauma".

On Wednesday, Shipra's lawyer Mahbubul Alam said that Shipra would decide whether to sue the two policemen and others under the Digital Security Act after yesterday's HC rules on the writ petition regarding the matter.

Contacted yesterday, Mahbubul said he was yet to discuss the matter with his client.

On Tuesday night, Shipra, a crew member of slain Maj (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashid Khan's YouTube channel, went to Cox's Bazar Police Station to file a case against two superintendents of police and 150 others under the Digital Security Act.

Cox's Bazar Police Station officer-

in-charge refused to record the case and advised Shipra to file it with either Ramu Police Station or with the cyber-crimes tribunal, Shipra's lawyer said.

On Wednesday morning, Shipra and her lawyer were going to Ramu to file the case but they stopped after learning about yesterday's HC hearing.

Shipra was accused in a narcotics case following the killing of Maj (ret'd) Sinha. She along with two other students of Stamford University and Sinha went to Cox's Bazar on July 3 to make a travel video.

Shipra was arrested at a Cox's Bazar resort for possessing liquor and marijuana and was released on bail amid widespread protests.

Since her release, she has been exposed to cyberbullying. Two police superintendents posted Shipra's photos on social media, taking a dig at her character, her family members alleged.

On Wednesday, a Cox's Bazar court directed Ramu police to hand over 29 types of items seized from Shipra, including mobile phones, laptops, hard drives, to Rab, which is investing the murder case.

School feeding for 1.41 cr students

FROM PAGE 1

will bear the cost of the Tk19,280 crore project.

Ongoing school feeding programme project director Ruhul Amin Khan said cooked meals and biscuits will be provided to all 1.41 crore students of 66,000 government primary schools in phases by 2023.

Students of all government schools of 250 upazilas will avail the school feeding by 2021, students of 350 upazilas will get the benefit in 2022 and all students by 2023, he said.

According to DPP, students will get cooked meals for three days and fortified biscuits for the three other days.

The cabinet in August 2019 approved the National School Meal Policy-2019. The policy is designed to increase attendance and reduce the rate of dropouts, as well as to ensure that children get at least 30 percent of their required daily calorie intake at school, said officials.

Bangladesh currently has two school feeding programmes. Under one, the government distributes packets of biscuits, each weighing 75 grams, to nearly 3 million children at primary schools in 104 upazilas, said Ruhul.

Under a separate pilot project that

begin in 2013, around 34,000 students get hot vegetable khichuri meals in three upazilas -- Bamna in Barguna, Islampur in Jamalpur, and Lama in Bandarban, he added.

Project officials said they have seen attendance rates increasing by 11 percent in the areas where cooked meals were given and by 6.6 percent where fortified biscuits were given.

Besides, dropout rates have decreased by six percent in schools that provided the meals.

THE COVID-19 EFFECT

As all primary schools have been closed since March 17 due to the Covid-19 outbreak, school feeding programme officials and teachers are facing some problems in getting the biscuits to the students' homes, said officials.

They usually distribute biscuits at schools and students are being deprived of nutrition as schools are closed.

"We have distributed 50 to 100 packets of biscuits in two phases for each student at their homes, so that they are not deprived of nutrition while schools are closed due to the coronavirus situation," Ruhul said, adding that students who used to get cooked meals are now getting biscuits.

The Directorate of Primary Education's stakeholder engagement plan on the Covid-19 situation and

government's "Covid-19 Response Plan for Education Sector" both warned of a rise in dropout rates due to the coronavirus outbreak.

In July, a Save the Children report said children in 28 countries, including Bangladesh, are at moderate or high risk of dropping out.

Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 1

which is more than 58 percent of all confirmed cases.

Bangladesh is currently on the 16th position in the list of worst affected countries in the world in terms of the number of total cases.

The position is one step behind Pakistan and one step ahead of Italy, according to worldometer.info.

A total of 14,059 samples were tested in 91 labs across the country in the same 24 hours.

Seven hundred and sixty-six people were put under isolation during the same period, the release added.

Among the dead, 32 were male and nine were female.

One of them aged between 21 and 30 years, one between 31 and 40 years, one between 41 and 50, eight between 51 and 60 years, and 30 above 60 years.

Waiting for HC hearing on appeals

FROM PAGE 1

A paper book - which contains all the details of a case, trial proceedings, statements, evidence, orders, verdict and other relevant documents -- is necessary for the HC to hear and dispose of a death reference or an appeal.

If a lower court sentences a person to death in a case, its judgment is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence.

The case documents and judgment reach as death references to the HC from the lower court within seven days of the latter delivering the verdict.

Supreme Court sources said the murder case filed in connection with the August 21 grenade attack in 2004, has 585 paper books containing around 10,500 pages in 13 volumes.

A total of 22 appeals have been filed by the convicts independently through lawyers while 12 jail appeals have been filed by convicts through jail authorities, in connection with the murder case.

Meanwhile, the case filed separately under the Explosives Substances Act, has 495 paper books containing around 10,000 pages in 11 volumes.

A total of 17 appeals have been filed by the convicts independently through lawyers while 12 jail appeals have been filed by convicts through jail authorities, in connection with the explosives-related case.

The concerned HC officials are currently scrutinising the paper books

and after this process is completed, the issue will be placed before the chief justice for a decision.

Then the chief justice may assign a High Court bench for starting hearing on the death references and appeals for their disposal. State defence lawyers will be engaged for the fugitive accused of the cases, according to sources.

Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star yesterday that the government has taken necessary steps for quickly preparing the paper books of the August 21 grenade attack cases.

"I have already talked to the attorney general and requested him to move an application as soon as possible before the High Court to fix a date for starting the hearing and disposing of the death references and appeals."

The law minister also said, "Killer Ziaur Rahman's son [Tarique Rahman] and wife [Khaleda Zia] had instigated the most heinous grenade attack on August 21 in 2004 in order to kill the daughter of Bangabandhu [Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina]. Almighty Allah saved her."

"The trial court has ensured justice in this case. I am hopeful that justice will be ensured in the High Court in this case," he added.

Contacted, Attorney General Mahbubul Alam told this correspondent that his office will soon move an application before the HC for holding a hearing on the appeals and death references of the grenade attack cases.

Splinters remind it all

FROM PAGE 1

Today is the 16th anniversary of the heinous attack, which also left over 300 wounded.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina, then opposition leader, narrowly escaped death with injuries to her right ear. Ivy Rahman, wife of late president Zillur Rahman, was among those killed.

"Like me, many other survivors of the grenade attack are waiting for the end of life with unbearable pain and suffering since 2004. But our sufferings and agony would have lessened if we could see completion of the trial process and hanging of the perpetrators," said Nasima.

She was only able to walk after five years of treatment and had been completely bedridden for nine months.

Mahbuba Parvin, another survivor, has about 1,800 splinters in her body, including two in her brain, and also wants quick completion of all the procedures to pave the way for execution of those involved in the grenade attack.

"When I was taken to the hospital, everyone assumed I was dead and I was kept with the dead bodies at first," she said.

"Even 16 years after the incident, it's hard for me to accept that I have become a physically disabled person," Mahbuba added.

Talking to this correspondent, she

said that every year on the eve of the grenade attack anniversary, the survivors express their agony stemming from the delay in completion of the trial process.

"This year, we are also doing the same. I don't know if I will be able to see implementation of the verdict in my lifetime," lamented Mahbuba.

She said several survivors of the grenade attack, including veteran AL leader Suranjit Sengupta and former Dhaka city mayor Mohammad Hanif, already breathed their last without seeing justice.

In an emotion-choked voice, she appealed to the government to take measures to complete the trial process to give peace to the departed souls.

Asked about her physical condition, Mahbuba said living has become a curse for her.

"Those who were injured in the grenade attack feel like dying every moment," Mahbuba, now a vice-president of Dhaka North Swachchhasebak League, said.

In photos that appeared in newspapers after the attacks, Mahbuba was seen in a blood-stained sari lying among the dead on the spot.

She first moved her limbs after three days in a coma, and regained full consciousness after 25 days.

Kazi Shahana Yasmin, who carries 134 splinters in her body, said,

"I don't know when I will die but I want to see implementation of the lower court verdict before my death and punishment of the perpetrators."

A lawyer of the Supreme Court and vice president of Awami Swachchhasebak League, she added, "I will never get back what I lost. I will never be able to get a normal life as it was before 2004. But now I want justice. If the culprits are punished, I will get some relief."

Bazlur Rahman, who is carrying 58 splinters in his body, said after 16 years of the grenade attack, he no longer has severe pain in his body. But the delay in completing the trial process causes him much pain.

"My agony will lessen only when I will see perpetrators being hanged. I will die in peace if the culprits are punished," he told this correspondent over the phone.

A special court in Dhaka delivered the verdict on October 10, 2018.

BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman and 18 others were sentenced to life in prison while former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and 18 others were given the death penalty on charges of murder through criminal conspiracy.

All 38 accused were also sentenced to life in prison for causing grievous injuries to the survivors.

Govt body

FROM PAGE 1

-- assistant sub-inspector Shahjahan and constables Razib and Abdullah. The three were arrested in the case later and subsequently placed on remand.

The home ministry's Public Security Division had formed the committee on August 2 to probe the murder and recommend ways to stop any recurrence of such incidents.

The committee was asked to submit its report within seven working days.

Headed by Additional Divisional Commissioner of Chattogram Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, other members of the committee are Lt Col SM Sazzad Hossain representing the Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh Army, Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police (Chattogram range) Zakir Hossain Khan and Cox's Bazar Additional District Magistrate Shahjahan Ali.

SEVEN SENT TO JAIL

A Cox's Bazar court yesterday sent seven accused in the case to jail after Rapid Action Battalion produced them before it on completion of their seven-day remand.

Briefing reporters in Cox's Bazar on Wednesday, Rab Director (Legal and Media Wing) Lt Col Ashik Billah said if the investigation officer deems it necessary to quiz the seven accused further, they might request placing them on remand again.

The seven accused are suspended ASI Liton Mia and constables Safanur Karim, Kamal Hossain and Abdullah Al Mamun and villagers Nurul Amin, Nizam Uddin and Md Ayash of Marishbunia, Teknaf.

Ashik said the IO has got a clear picture about the Sinha murder by interrogating the accused, analysing statements of witnesses and scrutinising evidence.

NO FOOTAGE FROM TEKNAF POLICE STATION

The Rab director said when the investigating officer contacted the authorities concerned to provide him with the CCTV footage from July 25 to August 6, they asked the IO to contact the higher authorities.

Ashik said the IO then appealed to the court to issue an order in this regard. The court ordered the authorities to hand the footage to the investigator. The police station later informed the IO that the footage was recorded on two hard disks. One of those was missing and the other developed technical glitches.

The IO wanted to collect the CCTV footage to see the activities at the police station on July 31 and some other following days as part of his investigation, he added.

Replying to another question, the Rab official said 29 items, including a laptop, a camera, hard disks and other electronic devices of Sinha, Shipra Debnath and Shahedul Islam Sefat, would be collected by the IO as evidence. The items were seized by Ramu police.

On July 31, Sinha was going to Cox's Bazar from Teknaf when his car was stopped at a police check post on Marine Drive road in Shaplapur. He was shot dead at the check post.

Sinha's companion Sefat was arrested in a murder and a narcotics case by Teknaf police while Shipra in a narcotics case. They were released on bail.

Sinha used to make travel videos for a YouTube channel titled Just Go. He went to Cox's Bazar with Sefat, Shipra and another filmmaking student to shoot a video for the channel.

Railway allows

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, a BR circular said it would resume operations of 18 more pairs (up and down) of trains from August 27. Of the 18 pairs, 14 are intercity, three commuter and one mail. With the 18, a total of 48 pairs of trains would resume operations.

In a public circular issued on August 13, the ministry said ticket, return ticket and periodic ticket for train journey is not transferable and only the passenger, for whom the ticket would be issued, would be allowed to travel.

"If any person hands over or sell their ticket, return ticket or periodic ticket to another person, they could face up to three months in jail or be fined or both. Similarly, if anyone uses other's ticket, they have to pay a fine, which would be the same amount of the actual fare," read the circular.

"Bangladesh Railway is requesting its passengers to buy tickets online or through mobile app on their own and refrain from journey with tickets purchased by others," it added.

Although the circular did not mention when the authorities are going to enforce the measures strictly or whether all trains would be brought under the measures, Bangladesh Railway Director General Md Shamsuzzaman said the new measures would be applicable for intercity trains only.

While visiting Kamalapur Railway Station on August 15, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said, "I want to make it clear that you will have to show four NIDs for buying four train tickets. You can't buy four tickets by showing only your NID."

The BR made national identity card mandatory for buying tickets for some intercity trains from March last year to stop ticket scalping. Currently, the railway authorities are selling all tickets online to maintain physical distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

It resumed operations of trains on a limited scale from May 31 after suspension of services for over two months to contain the spread of Covid-19.

ADMISSION AT HSC LEVEL 2.69 lakh students did not apply in first phase

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

More than 2.69 lakh students who passed SSC and dakhil examinations this year are yet to apply for getting enrolled in HSC level, until nine hours before closing the first phase of admission process yesterday.

The first phase online form collection for admission began on August 9 and ended at 11:59pm yesterday.

College inspector at Dhaka Education Board Harun-or-Rashid said till 3pm yesterday a total of 13,25,313 students applied for admission to colleges and madrasas.

This year total 15,94,628 students --13,66,218 from schools and 2,28,418 from madrasas -- passed the SSC and dakhil exams, according to education boards.

Among them, 2.69 lakh students did not apply for admission till 3pm yesterday.

In another calculations, about 11.74 seats at colleges and madrasas will remain vacant this year. There were about 25 lakh seats for class XI at about 8,500 colleges and madrasas, according to Harun.

Many board officials sharing their past experience said most students who don't apply for admission in the first phase, usually drop out from education. Only a handful number of them apply for admission in the second and third phases.

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Prof Ziaul Haque, said the candidates have to keep in mind that they have more chances. "There are two more phases, in which they can apply," said Ziaul, who is also head of the inter-board coordination committee.

For several years, based on the results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam, students have been admitted centrally at class XI in government- and private-owned colleges and madrasas in the country through online.

The students can apply to minimum five and maximum 10 colleges. Respective boards then place a student to a college on the basis of their results and choices.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Sporadic rain continued to trouble residents of Dhaka over the last week, as a result of a depression at the Bay of Bengal. Some of the worst sufferers of the downpour were street hawkers, many of whom have resumed their business after months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The photo was taken earlier this week from the capital's Mirpur-1.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

India taking back citizens stranded in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indian authorities have finally taken initiatives to take back more than 2,500 of their citizens who got stranded in Bangladesh due to the Covid-19 situation.

The stranded Indians would be allowed to enter India through Benapole-Petrapole border on Saturday and Sunday, an official of Indian High Commission in Dhaka, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The official said the stranded people will have to show the token they received after getting registered with the high commission through online only to cross the border.

"The border will be opened for temporary basis on humanitarian grounds as they got stranded in Bangladesh for a long time. Decision about opening the borders permanently will be taken later," the officials said wishing anonymity.

However, some stranded Indians have already crossed the border on Wednesday, one of the stranded Indians told this correspondent from India.

"At least 70 people were with us," the Indian said

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY UN recognises four Bangladeshis as real life heroes



Shaikat

Rizvi

Akhi

Sifat

DU CORRESPONDENT

Marking World Humanitarian Day (WHD), which falls on August 19 annually, the United Nations has recognised four Bangladeshi youths as "real life heroes" to acknowledge their contribution in humanitarian services.

They are Dhaka University (DU) student Tanbir Hasan Shaikat; Brac Architect Rizvi Hassan; translator Sifat Noor, and Akhi.

Architect Rizvi Hassan is the driving force behind the construction of a safe space for Rohingya women and girls, in Cox's Bazar. The community centre caters to a marginalised, vulnerable group at risk of gender-based violence.

According to the World Humanitarian Day website, Tanbir took responsibility to provide food to 500-1,000 poor and homeless people at Dhaka University and surrounding areas for consecutive 116 days amid the pandemic.

Afterwards he rushed to assist flood-affected people in various areas, with financial support from many including his peers and teachers.

Sifat was recognised as humanitarian hero because he translates critical, potentially life-saving information into Bengali, so more people have the information they need to lead safe, healthy, and informed lives. Since getting his start with Translators without Borders in March 2020, Sifat has translated over 115,000 words into Bengali for organisations such as IFRC and UNHCR Bangladesh. Recently, his work translating Covid-19-related information helps more people keep themselves and their families safe from the virus, said the WHD website.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

HEALTHCARE IN CHT Train women on primary healthcare and midwifery

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over poor health coverage in Chattogram Hill Tracts, speakers yesterday underscored the need for providing training to women in CHT areas on primary health care and midwifery as a solution.

They also called for ensuring availability of essential drugs, surgical equipment and increasing the number of ambulance in hill areas.

They were addressing a discussion titled "Reproductive Health Safety of Women and Teenagers of CHT in Light with COVID-19 Reality", organised jointly by Bangladesh Adivasi Nari Network and Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha to mark International Indigenous Day.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on August 9 each year to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.

While presenting the keynote speech, member secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Nari Network Chanchana Chakma said people of CHT are deprived of health service in want of health and family welfare centres and community clinics at union and ward levels.

Mahbuba Haque Kumkum, programme manager, Simavi Bangladesh, said coronavirus created a crisis in availability of sanitary napkins and other essential items required for woman during menstruation. In want of these amenities,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

FAKE COVID-19 CERTIFICATES Charges framed against JKG's Sabrina, Ariful

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against eight people including JKG Health Care Chairman Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates.

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

All the accused, now in jail, claimed themselves innocent and demanded justice after Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sarafuzzman Ansary read out the charges to them.

Before that, the magistrate rejected the discharge petitions submitted on behalf of the accused.

The court fixed August 27 to start the trial of the case. During yesterday's hearing, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu represented the state in the court.

Yesterday, another Dhaka court allowed the Anti-Corruption Commission to interrogate Sabrina and five others at jail gate for three working days to know about their wealth acquired illegally. The other accused are: Ariful, Himu, Tanzina, Rima and her husband ASM Sayeed Chowdhury.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after Selina Akhter Moni, a deputy director of the ACC and also the team leader of the enquiry committee, submitted an application. On August 5, Md Liakot Ali, an inspector of Detective Branch of police and also the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

In the charge sheet, the IO said, as per direction of Sabrina and Ariful, the other accused collected samples from the patients, prepared fake Covid-19 certificates and supplied those to the patients.

Thirty-one people have been made prosecution witnesses. On June 23, Kamal Hossain, who was given a fake Covid-19 certificate from JKG Health Care, filed the case against Humayun, his wife Tanzina and several unknown people with Tejgaon Police Station. The following day, police arrested the couple and three others including Ariful Chowdhury.

All the five including Ariful were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka the same day. Of them, Humayun and his wife Tanzina gave confessional statements before a magistrate narrating their role in issuing fake Covid-19 certificates.

Following their confessional statements, police arrested four more accused, including Sabrina on different dates.

Release 225 returnee migrant workers from jail immediately

Demand 19 organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nineteen organisations working on migration yesterday demanded unconditional and immediate release of 255 migrant workers who were detained and sent to jail upon their return home recently.

In a statement signed by Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants (BCSM) chair Prof CR Abrar and co-chair Syed Saiful Haque, the organisations said families of the migrants have little information other than that their loved ones are in Kashimpur jail.

It has been reported in the media that there are instances of the families being harassed by the investigating officers and even being subjected to extortion, they said. "The families are in all sorts of uncertainty and expressing deep concern in this regard," the statement added.

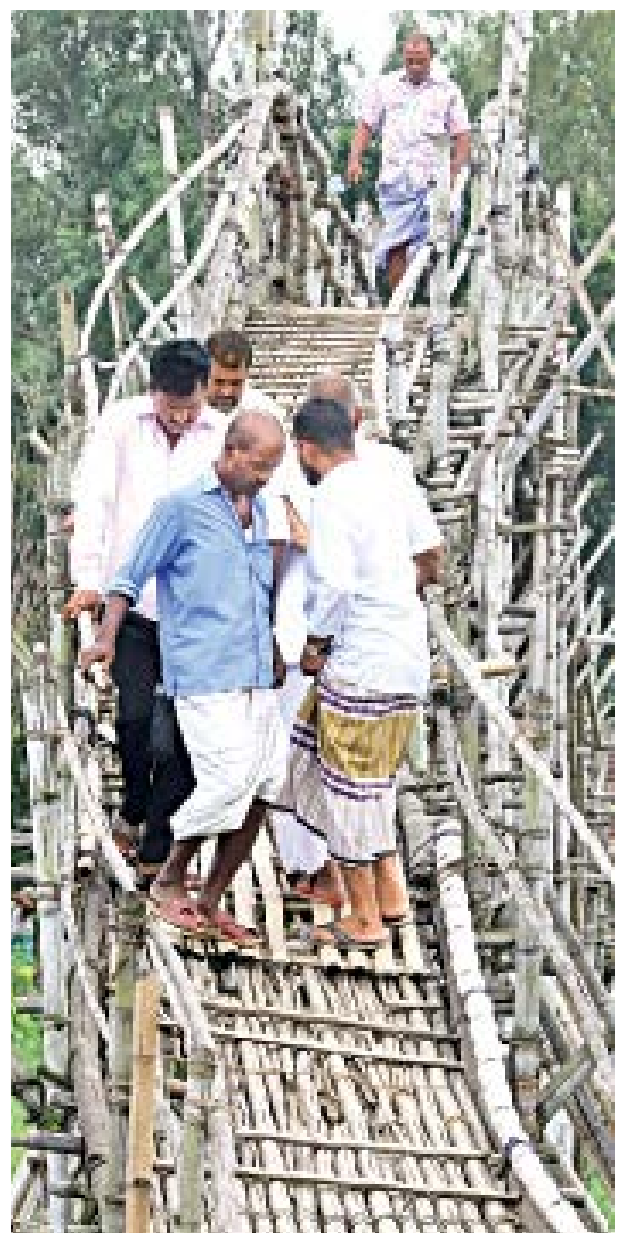
The organisations said the migrants were charged under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on "apprehension that if they are released and get dispersed they may commit crimes, including murder, robbery, terrorism and sabotage".

Police sources also said they may be charged for committing "anti-government and anti-state" activities, including violent acts.

Police, however, have not clarified the motive of the detainees, they said.

"Moreover, it is completely unlawful to arrest or detain someone for an offence that is yet to be committed," they added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Unless told, it is practically impossible for anyone to guess that this relic of a bamboo bridge is within the bounds of our capital city. At an area called Trimohoni in Khilgaon, dozens -- if not hundreds -- of people still use it to cross over the waterbody, an act that can seem like a daredevil stunt for the uninitiated. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Doctor imposter sent to jail over rape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A fake doctor and owner of an illegally operating clinic was sent to jail yesterday for molesting a woman attendee of a patient at Satla area under Ujirpur Upazila of Barishal.

The accused Rezaul Karim, owner of Mayer Doa Clinic, attempted to rape the 25-year-old attendee of a patient, said Ziaul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Ujirpur police station.

According to the case statement, the plaintiff said that her sister was admitted at the clinic on August 11 with infection in her throat and mouth and since then she had been accompanying her sister at almost all hours of the day. Rezaul attempted to harass the attendee with repeated phone calls and said she should "go to his room at night."

In the early hours of August 16, he molested her and attempted to rape. After the girl started screaming for help, he fled.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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UNITED HOSPITAL FIRE SC extends stay order on paying victim families

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended its chamber judge's order that stayed a High Court directive asking the United Hospital to pay Tk 30 lakh as initial payment to the families of the four victims, who were killed in a fire at its isolation unit on May 27.

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain came up with the order after virtually holding hearing on a petition filed by the hospital authorities challenging the HC directive.

Following four separate writ petitions, a virtual HC bench of Justice M Enayetullah Rahman on July 15 directed the hospital authorities to pay Tk 30 lakh to each of the four victims' families.

Yesterday, the Appellate Division asked the petitioners' lawyers to take initiative for hearing the petitions before a regular HC bench and get them disposed of through rule hearing from the HC.

The apex court said its stay order will not effect the HC hearing and disposal of the writ petitions, Mustafizur Rahman Khan, a lawyer for United Hospital, told The Daily Star.

He also said his client need not pay the money to the four families now following the SC order.

Following a stay petition filed by United Hospital, the SC chamber judge on July 21 stayed the HC order.

The apex court judge also sent the stay petition to the full bench of the Appellate Division for its hearing yesterday.

Niaz Mohammad Mahboob, who moved one of the petitions, told The Daily Star that the family of Monir Hossain, one of the five victims who were killed in the fire, had already been paid Tk 20 lakh as an initial payment by the hospital as a compromise.

Dhaka Bank official denied bail in Tk 22cr graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to Dhaka Bank's Dhanmondi branch Vice President Md Aminul Islam in a corruption case filed on the charge of misappropriating Tk 22 crore.

The court, however, issued a rule asking the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and government to explain in three weeks why accused Aminul Islam should not be granted bail in the case.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohail issued the rule after holding hearing on the bail petition filed by accused Aminul Islam.

Aminul cannot get released from jail following the HC order, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

He said the ACC filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station on December 23, 2018 against Aminul Islam and six others.

The case statement they misappropriated the money from the bank by submitting fake export bills through misusing powers.

Lawyer Sheikh Awsafur Rahman appeared for Aminul while Kamrunnesa Ratna represented the ACC.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASES

Destiny MD denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected two bail petitions filed by Destiny Group Managing Director Md Rafiqul Amin in connection with two money laundering cases involving Tk 4,200 crore.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohail passed the rejection orders, after holding a hearing on the two petitions.

The HC rejected the petitions as Rafiqul did not pay any money to the government in line with the Supreme Court's Appellate Division order, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

He said the HC bench asked Rafiqul to settle the issue.

The HC also directed the lower court concerned to finish the trial proceedings of the money laundering cases against the Destiny officials in six months.

Lawyers Abdul Matin Khasru and Mainul Islam appeared for Rafiqul during the hearing.

Rafiqul, now in jail, filed the petitions on August 16 through his lawyer Ujjal Bhowmick with the HC seeking bail in the cases against him on grounds that he has been suffering in jail for a long period of time since October 11, 2012 and he is now physically ill.

Meanwhile, Anti-Corruption Commission's Lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan and DAG Manik opposed the bail petitions saying that Rafiqul cannot be granted bail as there are specific allegations of money laundering against him.

On November 13, 2016, Rafiqul and Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd Chairman Mohammad Hossain were granted bail by the Appellate Division on a condition that they must pay the government Tk 2,800 crore in six weeks by selling 35 lakh matured trees planted under the company's tree plantation project.

Rafiqul and Hossain have not paid the money yet in line with the SC directive, the DAG told The Daily Star yesterday.

BARAPUKURIA GRAFT CASE

Hearing on charge framing against Khaleda Sept 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set September 17 for the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and seven others in Barapukuria coalmine graft case.

Judge ASM Ruhul Imran of the Special Judge's Court-2 of Dhaka passed the order. Dewan Ashik, bench assistant of the court concerned, confirmed The Daily Star about the order.

On February 26, 2008, ACC filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station, accusing 16 people including Khaleda and 10 of her former cabinet colleagues of taking Tk 159 crore in kickbacks on the Barapukuria coalmine deal awarded to the highest bidder.

On October 5, 2008, ACC pressed charges against Khaleda and 15 others in the case.

Earlier, six accused including former ministers M Saifur Rahman and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan died during the trial, while Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Motiur Rahman Nizami were executed on charges of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. Therefore, names of the eight were dropped from the trial.

Release 225

FROM PAGE 3

The platform said initially the competent court ordered for submission of the investigation report within 10 days, but later it was extended twice in response to police request.

Media reports citing Bangladesh missions in the states concerned, inform most of the detainees were charged for "being undocumented" and for petty narcotic offences in the destination countries and have received royal pardon after having served half of the punishment or more, said the statement.

BCSM said police stated the migrants were arrested as they "tarnished the image of the country abroad".

However, none of them were brought back under any extradition arrangement, it added.

Members of the platform include Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, WARBE Development Foundation, Brac, Bangladeshi Ovhilashi Mohila Samik Association, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Ain O Salish Kendra, and Obhishashi Karmi Unnayan Program.

FACEBOOK STATUS ABOUT CJ

Lawyer Mamun apologises to SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Syed Mamun Mahub yesterday offered unconditional apology to the Supreme Court for posting a derogatory status about Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and the judiciary on Facebook on August 11.

Syed Mamun Mahub, an SC lawyer, virtually appeared before a full bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by the chief justice yesterday morning and apologised unconditionally to it during hearing on a contempt of court rule.

Syed Mamun Mahub told the apex court that he had unintendedly and mistakenly used a word while posting a status on his Facebook and he deleted it from the platform.

After hearing on the issue, the Appellate Division fixed August 23 on the contempt of court rule.

Several lawyers including senior counsels M Amirul Islam, Rakanuddin Mahmud, Zainul Abedin, AJ Mohammad Ali and AM Amin Uddin appeared for Syed Mamun Mahub while Attorney General Mahubey Alam and Additional Attorney General Murad Reza represented the state during the virtual proceedings yesterday.

On August 12, the apex court summoned Advocate Mamun to appear before it on August 20 for posting a derogatory status about Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and the judiciary on his Facebook account on August 11. The top court issued a rule asking the lawyer to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against him for posting the status.

The apex court also prohibited Syed Mamun Mahub to practise in any court until its further order.

The Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain came up with the order and rule after Attorney General Mahubey Alam placed the issue before the bench.

2.69 lakh

FROM PAGE 3

The results of the first phase of online applications will be published on August 25.

The second round of applications will be taken from August 31 to September 2 and its outcome will be published on September 4.

The third phase will run between September 7 and 8 and its results will be out on September 10.

During the three-phase admission process, students can apply to maximum 10 colleges or madrasas, with a fee of Tk 150 for each, said officials.

After the process, a new academic year for HSC and equivalent courses usually begins on July 1.

But this year it will be different due to coronavirus situation.

All educational institutions have remained closed since March 17, and the closure was stretched to August 31 to stem Covid-19 transmission.

Education boards expected to start online admission on May 10, but they could not do so as results of SSC and equivalent exams were published on May 31.

India taking

FROM PAGE 3

through a messenger service yesterday.

The Daily Star on Tuesday published a report on the sufferings of the stranded Indian citizens as they got stuck here for more than five months due to the lockdown and travel restrictions imposed for Covid-19 pandemic since mid-March.

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

Early this month, India's Ministry

of External Affairs sought approval from West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee-led government to take back the state's 2,680 people stranded in Bangladesh since the Covid-19 lockdown began in March.

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 Additional Secretary Vikram Doraiswami to West Bengal Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha,

stated that the stranded people are "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.

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Doctor imposter

FROM PAGE 3

Rezaul was arrested late Wednesday, and produced in front of a court yesterday which sent him to jail.

Upazila Health Officer Dr Zahangir Hossain said they had submitted a report about the fake clinic multiple times but the man continued his operations using local political connections.

Barishal Civil Surgeon Dr Manowar Hossain said Rezaul has no licence from BMDC to practice. "We requested law enforcers to take action against him several times but he avoided conviction," he said.

Train women

FROM PAGE 3

most women are forced to use unhygienic products, which escalate their health risks, she said.

Gender and reproductive health expert Dr Julia Ahmed said Covid-19 created a hindrance to woman's birth control and family planning. "In want of proper information and birth control amenities, the number of unplanned pregnancy has increased," she said.

Executive Director of Deepto Foundation Jakia K Hasan said like other parts of the country, during the pandemic, incidents of violence against women and children and child marriage have also increased in CHT areas.

UN recognises

FROM PAGE 3

The campaign also recognised Akhi, a girl who was rescued from hazardous child labour by World Vision, as a real life hero. She has been making face masks on her own initiative and selling them to her poor neighbours at prices they can afford. The WHD website mentions that Covid-19 has been the biggest challenge to humanitarian operations around the world.

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গত ১৩ আগস্ট ২০২০ তারিখ বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে কর্তৃক বিভিন্ন পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত গণবিজ্ঞপ্তিতে রেলওয়েতে অমণকারী সম্মানিত যাত্রীসামর্থনের ভ্রমণের সময় জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রসহ ভ্রমণের কথা বলা হয়। কিন্তু বর্তমানে যাত্রীগণের যাত্রায়তের সুবিধার্থে বাধ্যতামূলক জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র প্রদর্শন করার বিষয়টি এতদ্বারা শিথিল করা হলো এবং এক আইডি কার্ডে পরিবারের সর্বোচ্চ ০৪ জন সদস্যের টিকিট ক্রয় ও ট্রেন অমণ করা যাবে।

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ডিকি-১২৯৮

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Family Planning
Logistics & Supply Unit
6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Invitation for Tenders (Goods)

1	Ministry/Division	Medical Education & Family Welfare Division			
2	Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management)			
4	Procuring Entity Code	-			
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6	Invitation for	Procurement of 13.80 Million Pes. Auto-Disable (AD) Syringe			
7	Invitation Ref No	DGFP/L&S-3/AD Syringe/2020-21/186/117			
8	Date	20/08/2020			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM) Type: International Competitive Tender (ICT)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds	RPA(GOB)			
11	Development Partner (if applicable)	International Development Association (IDA)			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project/ Programme Code (if applicable)	224108600			
13	Project/ Programme Name (if applicable)	4 th Health, Population & Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP)			
14	Tender Package No.	FSD/GD-15			
15	Tender Package Name	Procurement of 13.80 Million Pes. Auto-Disable (AD) Syringe			
16	Tender Publication Date	21/08/2020			
17	Tender Last Selling Date	06/10/2020 till office hour.			
	Date	Time			
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	07/10/2020 12:00 PM			
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	07/10/2020 12:30 PM.			
20	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address			
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management), Logistics & Supply Unit (5 th floor), Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215			
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Office of the Additional Director (Drugs & Stores) Central Warehouse, Directorate General of Family Planning, Nandipara (Uttargaon) Trimohoni, Union-Nasirabad, Thana-Khilgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh			
	Receiving Tender Document	Room No.-15, Logistics & Supply unit Directorate General of Family Planning 6, Kawran bazar, Dhaka-1215			
	Opening Tender Document	Directorate General of Family Planning 6, Kawran bazar, Dhaka-1215			
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Pre-Tender meeting shall be held at the Conference Room, Room No.-15, Logistics & Supply unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran bazar, Dhaka-1215 Date: 31/08/2020 & Time: 12.00 PM.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	As mentioned in the tender document			
23	Brief Description of Goods	13.80 Million Pes. Auto-Disable (AD) Syringe			
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Not Applicable			
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Taka 8000/- (Taka Eight thousand) only, non-refundable. Mode of payment should be made by Treasury Chalan from Bangladesh Bank/ Sonali Bank Code no: 1-7481-0000-2366 in favor of Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Original copy of the Treasury Chalan must be online verification/certified (CTR) by the concerned accounts' office.			
26	Lot No.	Identification of items	Location	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time in Weeks/Months
	Single Lot	13.80 Million Pes. Auto-Disable (AD) Syringe	2.76 Million Pes. AD Syringe: Regional Warehouse, Chattogram 2.76 Million Pes. AD Syringe: Regional Warehouse, Barisal 2.76 Million Pes. AD Syringe: Regional Warehouse, Bogura 2.76 Million Pes. AD Syringe: Regional Warehouse, Rajshahi 2.76 Million Pes. AD Syringe: Regional Warehouse, Khulna	BDT 20,00,000.00 or equivalent US\$ 23,590.00	Delivery of the entire quantity of goods shall have to be completed within 12 weeks from the date of opening of the Letter of Credit(L/C).
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Sukesh Kumar Sarker			
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management)			
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Logistics & Supply Unit (5 th floor), Directorate General of Family Planning 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.			
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. & Fax No: 88-02- 55012349 E-mail: dirlogdgp@gmail.com			
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				

(Sukesh Kumar Sarker)
Director (Logistics and Supply) & Line Director (PSSM-FP)
Directorate General of Family Planning
Phone: 55012349

GD-1302

Great leader of soil and people

SHYKH SERAJ

March 17, 1920. The river Madhumati was flowing at her own will while its tributary Baigar has been alongside for many years. The smell of Robi crop was all around in Tungipara. Sheikh family heard the cry of a new born. It was the moment of arrival of the liberator of (Bangalees) Bengalis, the people who were suppressed for ages. Growing up amid the joys and sorrows of Madhumati, the farming families and changes of seasons, this boy became a young man who always craved for emancipation. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who later became the ultimate leader of Bangladesh, brought us our independence and gave birth to a country named Bangladesh. I went to Tungipara in Gopalganj in March this year. Memories of the father of the nation were everywhere. Struggle of marginalized, peasants, and labourers gave him the impetus to enter politics when he was pretty young. The seed of politics and will to work for people were sown inside during his student life. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was an incomparable name in mass communication, oration and awakening the hardworking people in every corner of Bangladesh. If you go through his autobiography, 'The Unfinished Memories' and the 'Diary in Jail', you will get to know the depths of his mind, the landscape of his vision and his passion for the Bengal and its people. It is a new challenge for the people who have been deprived of land for many years. When day labourers of one district used to go to the other to harvest paddy, they would return with some paddies they received for their wages. They would carry those by boat. These people were called 'Dawal'. The autocratic government people started blocking the paddy boats of the Dawals and an announcement was made to confiscate the paddy and the boat if the paddy was not deposited to the government storage. Sheikh Mujib formed a movement on behalf of the Dawals and also awakened the ordinary people on behalf of the peasants and labourers.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman played an outstanding role in every noteworthy

movements for the betterment of Bengal. While Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar and many others sacrificed their life in the Language Movement of 1952, Mujibur Rahman started a hunger strike at Faridpur prison. Bangabandhu became the leader with pure inspiration, and hope and aspiration of all the people residing in the then East Pakistan.

I saw an elderly farmer returning home from his farm work in Tungipara. I requested him to share any memory of Bangabandhu if it comes to his mind. "The government men were taking away rice from my house as I was in debt. Hearing the news, Sheikh Mujib came running and repaid the loan from his own pocket. After getting the money when policemen were leaving the spot Bangabandhu told them from the back, "The money has been paid, now you have to fix everything you have ruined." "Such a brave and kind man he was," added the old man.

All that Bangabandhu did and said was for the people of Bangladesh, especially the marginalized and the peasants. He was always vocal. If we see the attendants of the March 7, 1971, speech of Bangabandhu, we'll

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively. He is a BIDS, Ashoka and Bangla Academy Fellow. He also received highest award for agricultural journalism from the United Nations, FAO A.H. Boerma Award, Gusi Peace Prize (Philippines) and many other prestigious accolades at home and abroad. At Channel i, he's the Founder Director and Head of News. He's also Director and Host of Channel i's popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is seen wearing 'mathal' (a special hat) at a popular folk programme 'Gambhira song' on January 10, 1973.

PHOTO: WWW.MUJIB100.GOV.BD

see most of them were ordinary people—farmers, labourers, students and people from all walks of life, but a significant portion of them was farmers. Farmers were at the forefront in the steps taken by Bangabandhu during the Liberation War as well as after the independence of Bangladesh. Bangabandhu thought very intensely about ensuring the constitutional rights of the farmers.

Article 14 of the constitution of Bangladesh states, "The main responsibility of the state is to liberate the working people—peasants and workers and to liberate other backward groups from all forms of exploitation." Article 16 of the constitution states, "In order to wipe out the discrimination in living standards between urban and rural people, he called for an agricultural revolution." He said, "No matter how

boastful we try to be, we must not forget, we all are rooted in the soil and farming."

During his visits across the nation, Bangabandhu drew attention to various issues like agricultural heritage of different regions, condition of farmers, diversified crops and their rotation. He reminded about the unique features of the soil of this country. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu as the head of the government and head of the state got only 1,314 days to rebuild independent Bangladesh. His visionary, long-term and well-thought-out vision is in every aspect of Bangladesh's development. During the post-liberated period in 1972, the production of food grains in the country was 1.1 crore (11 million) tonnes. It was not enough for 7 crore (70 million) people during that time. The Bangabandhu government

had provided food subsidies for two years after independence to curb down the food shortage. In the first five-year plan, more investment was made in mainstream agriculture, irrigation and other input facilities. Cooperatives played an essential role in Bangabandhu's agricultural development and food security. He discussed his thoughts with eminent economists, university professors and many other people from relevant fields. He took various initiatives to make the plan up-to-date. He thought of a two-tiered cooperative. There has been much research on his cooperative ideas. Active researchers and economists of that time still carry that memory and strategies. Bangabandhu told everyone to become a down-to-earth person so that people can contribute to the country in the best manner possible.

His speech at the Bangladesh Agricultural University on February 13 in 1973 provides a complete outline and philosophy for agricultural production and food production. He urged the agriculturists to go to the village. He said the gap between village and the city should be bridged. He also mentioned that modern and mechanized agriculture should be embraced. He also stressed on the issue that farmers should be honoured and respected. In 1973, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute was institutionalized through Act No 10. Initiatives for research of different crops, except rice, were taken at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute. Horticulture Development Board, Cotton Development Board, Seed Certification Agency, Rubber Development Programme, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Fisheries and Livestock Research Institute and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, the highest body for research coordination were reconstituted.

The ministry of jute was established to expand the potential of the golden fibre of Bengal. Today, Bangladesh's progress in agricultural development is appreciated and followed all over the world. We are getting excellent benefits of Bangabandhu's dream and initiatives. The world is amazed at the foresight of an undisputed leader.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu is in the heart of our farmers and evolution of the farming sector of Bangladesh. Today, we're experiencing an extraordinary agricultural awakening. I have been walking in rural Bangladesh for more than four decades. In the farmer's field, I have seen many adverse conditions and hardships of the agrarian population. I have also witnessed thousands, lakhs of people focus on agriculture with confidence. This confidence comes from the great leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose motto was never to look back and fight back with what you have. Most profound homage on the 45th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members.



A recent photo of some of the floating seedbeds at Nagdora Beel in Mohanganj upazila of Netrakona.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Saplings being prepared on floating seedbeds

The effort being undertaken to help farmers in flood-hit Netrakona, Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Netrakona is making floating seedbeds for poor and marginal farmers who have been affected by the recent floods.

Around 6,000 farmers, nearly half of whom are very poor, were affected in the district where three back-to-back floods damaged seedbeds on 575 acres, Aus fields on 45 acres and vegetables on around 4 acres of land, said Habibur Rahman, deputy director of DAE in Netrakona. The damage has been estimated at over Tk 76 lakh.

With the help of the affected farmers, as many as 120 floating seedbeds are being prepared to produce saplings on 15 acres of land in flood affected Sadar, Barhatta, Mohanganj, Khaliajuri, Kalmakanda and Purbodhala upazilas in Netrakona.

The saplings will be ready for distribution among the affected farmers within a month, he also said.

Mostafa Kamal, upazila agriculture officer in Mohanganj, said local farmers have made 36

floating seedbeds in Nagdora Beel, a water body in the upazila, where they are growing saplings of BR-22, a late variety of rice.

The saplings produced there would be distributed among the poor and marginal farmers in the first week of September, he added.

Three back-to-back floods damaged seedbeds on 575 acres, Aus fields on 45 acres and vegetables on around 4 acres of land in Netrakona.

A Phulpur-based voluntary organisation, HELDS Foundation, has also come forward and joined hands with the effort.

Their volunteers are preparing floating seedbeds for Aman saplings for distribution among flood-affected farmers in Phulpur upazila of

Mymensingh, said Tasfique Haque, secretary of the organisation.

"We came forward to assist the local agricultural department as about 1,500 farmers in the upazila, which is still under floodwater, had not been able to prepare seedbeds for Aman cultivation."

Local farmers helped them make the floating seedbeds and local agriculture officials advised them on how to prepare the beds with banana tree and water hyacinth.

The saplings on the seedbeds would be ready for planting within 25 days and those would be those would be handed over to the affected farmers for free, he said.

Contacted, Abdullah Al Mamun, agriculture officer in Phulpur upazila, said seedbeds on eight acres of land were damaged in recent floods in the upazila.

With support from farmers and volunteers, they used three acres of land to make 12 floating seedbeds, which they named "Community Seedbeds," he said. "Affected farmers also helped us prepare seedbeds on 416 trays."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Manikganj Sadar, District: Manikganj.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. LGED/UE/Manik/2020/548 Date: 20.08.2020

Invitation for e-Tender Notice No.-01/2020-21 (NOTM)

e-Tender are invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following work as stated below.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work	Tender Last selling (Date & Time)	Last Date & Time of Security Submission	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
01.	483836	e-Tender/PEDP4/MNK/SAD/2019-20/W14.1006	Construction Boundary wall including Gate of KAFATIYA Govt. Primary School under Manikgonj Sadar Upazila District Manikganj.	13-09-2020 15.00 PM	14-09-2020 10.30 AM	14-09-2020 11.00 AM
02.	484959	e-Tender/PEDP4/MNK/SAD/2020-21/W1.09956	Construction of Additional class Room of SHANBANDHA Govt. Primary School under Manikgonj Sadar Upazila District Manikganj.	13-09-2020 15.00 PM	14-09-2020 10.30 AM	14-09-2020 11.00 AM

These are 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 required in the National e-GP Portal (<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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) Contract Number (01716366825).

(Md. Zahidul Islam)
Upazila Engineer
LGED, Manikganj Sadar
e-mail No.ue.manikganj-sa@lged.gov.bd

GD-1299

GAZI WIRES LIMITED
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation)
28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.

Tender Notice (NCT)

1	Procuring Entity Name	Managing Director, GAZI WIRES LIMITED (BSEC), 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.
2	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram.
3	Invitation for	(1) Uniform for Workers and Staffs (2) Wall Calendar and Desk Calendar
4	Invitation Ref. No	(1) GW/PUR/74/OTM(NCT)/2020-2021 Dated: 20-08-2020 (2) GW/PUR/071/OTM (NCT)/2020-2021 Dated: 20-08-2020
5	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (NCT)
6	Budget and Source of Funds	Gazi Wires Limited's Own Fund.
7	Tender Publication Date	20/08/2020
8	Tender Last Selling Date	08/09/2020 (During Office Time)
9	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date: 09/09/2020 Time: 11.30AM (Bangladesh Betar time)
10	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date: 09/09/2020 Time: 11.45 AM (Bangladesh Betar time)
11	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address: BSEC Bhaban, 102-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. 1) Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering, BSEC Bhaban, 102-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. 2) Cash Section, Gazi Wires Limited, 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.
	(a) Selling of Tender Document	
	(b) Receiving and Opening of Tender Document	
12	Price of Tender Document (Each)	BDT. 1,000.00 (One Thousand)
13	Brief Description of Goods	
	Tender Package No.	Description of Goods and works
	GW/PUR/74/OTM(NCT)/2020-2021	Uniform for Workers and Staffs
	GW/PUR/071/OTM (NCT)/2020-2021	Wall Calendar and Desk Calendar
14	Regarding Tender Document	The Tender Document may be purchased by the interested tenderers on the submission of a written application to the addresses as mentioned in serial no. 11(a) and upon payment of a non refundable fee BDT. 1000.00. The method of payment will be in the form of cash in favour of Gazi Wires Ltd. No Tender will be sent by Courier or mail. One tender document cannot be used for submission of tender proposal (s) by more than one tenderer.
15	Special instruction	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without showing any reason.

(Md. Akter Hossain)
Deputy Chief Executive (Mechanical)
Head of Commercial
For-Managing director

GD-1297

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump wanted to 'swap' Puerto Rico for Greenland

President Donald Trump wanted to sell Puerto Rico or swap it for Greenland because he viewed the US territory as dirty and poor, a former senior administration official said Wednesday.

Google services restored for users around the world

Popular Google services including Gmail, Docs and Drive were down for many users around the world yesterday, but were restored after a few hours, the US technology giant said.

US formally ends three accords with Hong Kong

American authorities on Wednesday formally notified Hong Kong that the United States has withdrawn from three bilateral deals with the semi-autonomous Chinese city on extradition and taxation.

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP



Flames surround Lake Berryessa during the LNU Lightning Complex fire in Napa, California, on Wednesday. Thousands of people fled their homes in northern California on Wednesday as hundreds of fast-moving wildfires spread across the region, burning houses and leading to the death of a helicopter pilot.

PHOTO: AFP

Harris accepts VP nod

Obama says Trump never took presidency 'seriously'

REUTERS, Washington

US Senator Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic nomination for vice president on Wednesday, imploring Americans to elect Joe Biden in November and accusing President Donald Trump of failed leadership that had cost lives and livelihoods during a pandemic.

Making history as the first Black woman and Asian-American on a major US presidential ticket, Harris said Trump's divisive leadership had brought the country to an "inflection point" and made a direct appeal to the party's diverse electorate whose vote is crucial to defeat Trump on Nov. 3.

"The constant chaos leaves us adrift, the incompetence makes us feel afraid, the callousness makes us feel alone. It's a lot," the California senator and former prosecutor said, speaking from an events center in Biden's hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, that was largely empty because of the coronavirus outbreak.

"We must elect a president... who will bring all of us together — Black, White, Latino, Asian, Indigenous — to achieve the future we collectively

want. We must elect Joe Biden," she said.

Former US President Barack Obama, speaking just before Harris, also delivered a sharp rebuke of his Republican successor, saying Trump had used the power of his office only to "help himself and his friends."

Obama, whose vice president was Biden from 2009-2017, said he had hoped that Trump would take the job seriously, come to feel the weight of the office, and discover a reverence for American democracy.

"For close to four years now he has shown no interest in putting in the work... no interest in treating the presidency as anything but one more reality show that he can use to get the attention he craves,"

Obama said, in unusually sharp criticism of a sitting president by a former president.

Biden leads Trump in opinion polls, bolstered by a big lead among women voters. Biden, 77, would be the oldest person to become president if he is elected, leading to speculation he will serve only one term. The nomination for vice presidency would make Harris, 55, a potential top contender for 2024.



REIMPOSITION OF UN SANCTIONS ON IRAN

US to trigger controversial 'snapback' mechanism

Iran unveils new ballistic and cruise missiles

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will activate a controversial mechanism aimed at reimposing UN sanctions on Iran, escalating a row with European allies that has huge repercussions for the Iranian nuclear deal.

Pompeo was in New York yesterday to notify the United Nations Security Council that the US is triggering the so-called "snapback" procedure, which Britain, France and Germany say it doesn't have the right to do.

"It's a snapback, not uncommon," Trump told reporters, despite the contested measure having never been used before.

The move comes after the United States suffered a humiliating defeat at the Security Council last week when it failed to muster support for a resolution to extend a conventional arms embargo on Iran.

"Snapback" aims to restore all international sanctions against Iran that were lifted as part of the 2015 accord with Tehran that sought to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons.

Trump withdrew the US from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2018 and introduced American sanctions on Iran as part of a "maximum pressure" campaign against the Iranian regime.

Despite pulling out of the deal, America claims that, as a "participant" of the original agreement, it has the power to unilaterally reimpose UN sanctions on Iran.

The "snapback" procedure is supposed to

lead to the re-establishment of sanctions after 30 days, without the possibility of Russia or China wielding their vetoes.

Experts say the snapback threatens to plunge the Security Council into crisis.

"Most of the council will reject the US argument that it retains the right to trigger snapback despite leaving the JCPOA. They will write off this process as a sham," UN expert Richard Gowan told AFP.

"The real winners in this process will be



China and Russia, who will argue that they are defending the UN from US unilateralism, while the Europeans distance themselves from Washington," added Gowan, who works at the International Crisis Group think-tank.

Meanwhile, Iran displayed a surface-to-surface ballistic missile yesterday that Defence Minister Amir Hatami said had a range of 1,400 kilometres and a new cruise missile, ignoring US demands that Tehran halt its missile programme. "The surface-to-surface missile, called martyr Qassem Soleimani, has a range of 1,400 km and the cruise missile, called martyr Abu Mahdi, has a range of over 1,000 km," Hatami said in a televised speech.

Thai cops arrest 4 anti-govt protesters

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thai police yesterday said they have arrested four anti-government activists over a July 18 protest that triggered a wave of student-led demonstrations demanding a new constitution and elections.

Three of the activists were arrested late on Wednesday and a rapper who performed at the protest was detained early yesterday, as police step a crackdown on a countrywide movement behind the biggest rallies seen in Thailand since a 2014 military coup.

Their arrests come after police detained human rights lawyer Anon Nampa on Wednesday for a speech he made at another protest calling for the reform of the powerful monarchy. It was the second time he has been arrested this month.



Israeli soldiers detain a Palestinian demonstrator during a protest against Jewish settlements near Tulkarm in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

No Israel deal without Palestinian peace

Says S Arabia; Pakistan says won't recognise Israel

AGENCIES

Saudi Arabia has said it will not follow the United Arab Emirates in establishing diplomatic ties with Israel until the Jewish state has signed an internationally recognised peace accord with the Palestinians.

The UAE last week 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 including Saudi Arabia.

But after days of conspicuous silence and in the face of US pressure to announce a similar deal, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan ruled out the possibility until the Palestinian issue is resolved.

"Peace must be achieved with the Palestinians" on the basis of international agreements as a pre-condition for any normalisation of relations, Prince Faisal told reporters during a visit to Berlin.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said his country will not recognise Israel until there is a Palestinian state acceptable to the Palestinians.

In an interview with local broadcaster Dunya News, Khan said on Tuesday Islamabad would not follow suit in recognising Israel as a state, in a thinly veiled reference to the United Arab Emirates which struck a United States-brokered deal last week to normalise ties with Israel.

In another development, a source who was part of the UAE-Israel deal said the United States was eyeing the sale of stealthy F-35 fighter jets to the UAE in a side agreement.

UAE could get F-35 jets in side agreement to Israel peace deal

Israeli troops kill one Palestinian as tanks shell Gaza

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, citing a need to maintain Israeli military superiority in the region, said on Tuesday his country would oppose any US F-35 sales to the UAE.

Meanwhile, Israeli tanks shelled Hamas positions in the Gaza Strip overnight in response to continued waves of incendiary balloons across the border, the army said yesterday. There were no casualties reported.

Yesterday, Israeli soldiers killed a Palestinian teenager who, according to Israeli military sources, was part of a group preparing to attack Israeli cars in the occupied West Bank.

Junta, opposition close ranks in Mali

REUTERS, Bamako

Mali's opposition coalition yesterday dismissed efforts by regional powers to block a coup-driven change of government, saying it would work with the junta that ousted the president to restore stability to the country.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which is convening over the crisis, suspended Mali, shut borders and halted financial flows in response to Tuesday's overthrow of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. The M5-RFP coalition of anti-Keita opposition groups said it was working alongside the mutineers, and labelled the ECOWAS sanctions an over-reaction stemming from some regional leaders' fears that the coup could set off political unrest in their countries.

"(The leaders) are on an all-out drive to set ECOWAS against Mali," said M5-RFP spokesman Nouhoum Togo. "...M5-RFP and CNSP are currently working. At 10am they should present the conclusions, which will be brought to the attention of the press this afternoon."

The capital Bamako was calm for the second straight day, a Reuters reporter said, as people appeared to heed earlier calls from junta spokesman Colonel Ismael Wague to return to work and go about their daily lives.

The coup, which has rocked a country already in the grip of a jihadist insurgency and civil unrest, has been met with almost universal condemnation abroad.

It has fuelled concerns it could disrupt a military campaign against jihadists linked to al-Qaeda and Islamic State operating in northern and central Mali and West Africa's wider Sahel region.

Heads of state from all 15 members of ECOWAS were due to discuss fallout from the coup in a virtual session yesterday.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) featuring a logo, contact information, and a table of shipping routes and schedules.



Ribana Haque discusses order details with the team members of Bunon.



The Bunon team working together in Naogaon.

PHOTOS: COURTESY



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Proposals: Asia-Pacific Story Grants 2020-21

Applications are open for Asia-Pacific Story Grants 2020-21. With the world undergoing dramatic social and environmental change, Earth Journalism Network believes it is increasingly important for journalists to dig deep into stories that uncover the various drivers of this degradation, point out the actors and push decision-makers to respond.

DEADLINE: August 27, 2020 | Grants

Become a Hult Prize 2020/2021 Campus Director

The US\$1 Million Hult Prize is coming directly to college campuses around the world and they want YOU to apply to become a 2020/2021 Campus Director. They are recruiting college students who have the drive and desire to lead change at their universities and organize localized editions of the Hult Prize on campus.

DEADLINE: August 31, 2020 | Awards

Facebook Fellowship Program 2021 (Receive \$42K Grant & Visit Facebook HQ)

The Facebook Fellowship Program is designed to encourage and support promising doctoral students who are engaged in innovative and relevant research in areas related to computer science and engineering at an accredited university.

DEADLINE: October 1, 2020 | Fellowships



Valiant women contributing to culture and economy

Bunon is an online-based social business that aims to economically support women through the production of crochet handicrafts. Founded by architecture student Ribana Haque in 2014, the initiative has been empowering 256 underprivileged women (200 locals in Naogaon and 56 Bihari women in the Dhaka Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur), who weave crochet handicrafts for the platform.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Ribana started Bunon with only an investment of BDT 500 and a pair of crochet sticks without any concrete planning. She had to visit the Dhaka Geneva Camp to conduct a survey for academic purposes. This is when the struggles of the women from the Bihari community residing there, especially in terms of gaining economic stability, came to her knowledge. With Ribana's determination and relentless efforts from her team, Bunon gradually gained ground as a proper e-commerce platform on social media. It also helped the members to establish their own identities, in their respective circles.

As a social business focused on economically uplifting women, Bunon actively trains and employs them, making them financially stable, while lending a hand in the national economy. "It takes us two to five days to teach the basics of crochet arts to a girl. We have five trainers who are always available to our beginners," mentions Ribana when asked

about their vocational training structure. "The trainers help them through this process, which is enough to start working. Then, we slowly introduce the design-based work to them."

Girls who gain expertise in the weaving technique eventually become trainers and help the novices. "I have been with Bunon from the beginning. After joining this organisation, I could support myself financially and even contribute to my family," shares Khaleda Binte Alam, a trainer at Bunon. "Besides, I enjoy working with others and learning new things. I hope to stay with this initiative for as long as I can."

Bunon, as an organisation, brought huge changes in the lifestyles of these women, allowing them to walk with their heads held high. "Before joining Bunon, I faced many obstacles with work and was struggling to provide proper education for my children," says Forida Begum, the lead worker at Bunon. "But now, they are studying and the other women in my family have started working too. We are no longer fully dependent on our family. Instead, we have become a support system

for them."

Even as the world is grappling with the coronavirus pandemic, the members of Bunon are working from home and sending out handmade products through home delivery services. Working equipment with detailed briefing and raw materials are delivered to the workers' homes once a week, and collected by the end of the week. Ribana personally calls each of the workers from time to time, while the trainers ensure that they understand the designs and colour preferences, as per the orders' details.

Ribana aspires to reach out to a lot more women who want to be financially independent, but are struggling to find such opportunities. She dreams of opening an outlet in the city and extend her measures, to be able to employ at least 2,000 women. She had also started taking up online orders to ship abroad. However, those are on hold for the time being. "I believe that in the next 30 years, the women in Bangladesh will be economically empowered through their own skills," concludes Ribana.



An affordable solution to combat COVID-19

Young researcher Mohsinul Bari Shakir has built an ultraviolet (UV) janitor to combat COVID-19 in Bangladesh. He is also the shareholder and Chief Operating Officer at the IT-based company, Aqualink BD. Born in Dhaka, Shakir's hometown is in Sylhet. He completed his BSc in Computer Science from BRAC University in 2018. As his father is a government official, Shakir had to travel a lot and attend different schools at different points of his life. He has three internationally published researches, and is currently working on two more journals.

SHARMIN JOYA

Ever since the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China, Shakir was concerned about the spread of the virus. For precautions, he thought of using the ultraviolet type C light that has been used for many years for sterilisations in developed countries. "In China, they used UVC lights to germicide. It was quite effective," Shakir says, "with that idea, I thought of making such a product from a sense of responsibility towards my country." Sterilising with UV light is one of the most effective methods of disinfection. It is also approved by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, USA.

Shakir, along with four others, formed a research and development team. The other members are Syed Mohammad Kamruzzaman (Quality Assurance Engineer), Shahriar Sakib (Senior Embedded System Engineer), Sazzatuz Zumma Ismam (Production Engineer) and Tanvir Ahmed (Embedded System Engineer). "We developed some prototypes based on UV light to slow down the spread of COVID-19," shares Shakir. It took them three months to complete the project.

"Usually, such devices are very expensive. However, we have used local technologies to minimise the cost and keep it affordable," explains Shakir. "Developing the UV janitor at an affordable price was amongst the biggest challenges, as was importing materials amidst all the travel restrictions." Shakir is grateful to his father, for his guidance in the process. The Bangladesh Army and most government offices are currently using the machine. "Ours is the first UV janitor to be available for all kinds of consumers in Bangladesh," adds Shakir. "It comes in a compact box, in which cellphones, wallets, sunglasses, masks, keys rings, helmets, files, food



(From left) Sazzatuz Zumma Ismam, Fahim Shahriar Sakib, Mohsinul Bari Shakir, Syed Mohammad Kamruzzaman and Tanvir Ahmed. PHOTO: COURTESY

packages, wrist watches, bags and most importantly, cash, can be disinfected in just a few minutes." The machine has two versions, the UV Janitor and UV Janitor Pro. They differ in size and intensity of light, with different UVC light-based solutions for homes, offices, hospitals, airports, hotels, resorts and restaurants. The researchers have also developed disinfecting machines, using the same UVC light, for factories. They have tried their best to maintain international standards, with this project. "Our Managing Director, Abdul Gafur Bashir, supported us the most, as being a technology company, we had many IOT products and research to do," shares

Shakir. "He supported us with research and development for the UVC based solution. He told us that we should do something for people with the technology available right now."

The team struggled to find the UVC light with the wavelength of 253.7 nanometer, which is effective in destroying the SARS and MARS group viruses and is being used to combat COVID-19 now. Their UVC light has CE certification. "The light is harmful for the human eye and body. Keeping that in mind, our product has a smart safety system - whenever its door is opened, the light automatically turns off," concludes Shakir.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA FRIDAY AUGUST 21, 2020, BHADRA 6, 1427 BS

Irregularities in govt's flood response must be avoided

Denying they don't exist is not enough

ACCORDING to the agriculture minister, Tk 1,323 crore worth of crops have been damaged on 1.58 lakh hectares of land in 37 districts by floods, and a further deterioration of the situation could deal a severe blow to the country. The minister also claimed that the government has taken ample measures to mitigate the damage and loss that have occurred and unless things take a turn for the worse, food production will not be impacted.

Contradicting the minister, a CPD study on the ongoing flood found a number of problems in the government's response, including delays in repairing embankments and irregularities in relief distribution. The study also revealed that more than four kilometres of embankments have been damaged in 97 unions, two to four kilometres of embankments have been damaged in 53 unions and up to two kilometres have been damaged in 70 unions. While revealing these figures, experts criticised the government's amnesia when it comes to building and repairing embankments, despite the need to do so being discussed year after year. The government starts to repair the embankments just before monsoon or during monsoon, and in a way that leads to a huge amount of public money being wasted.

The government's relief distribution measures were also censured by experts, who said that favouritism and corruption are yet to be neutralised. Surprisingly, the state minister for disaster management for relief and rehabilitation denied any of this, and in a sweeping statement said that: "There is no irregularity or inadequacy in relief distribution."

What about all the newspaper reports last October as well as a TIB survey finding irregularities in the government's flood relief distribution? Did the minister investigate the allegations and find them to be false? If so, would he care to share his findings? And what about the year before, when corruption in relief distribution once again surfaced, particularly in places like Moulvibazar? Is the minister not aware of these allegations? We expect that he must be, so when were these allegations investigated? If the minister is going to say that they are false, he must be doing so based on some facts, which we would also like to know about.

We must caution the government to be careful in its relief distribution and ensure that corruption does not eat away at it—as it so often has this year during the Covid-19 relief distribution drives. Furthermore, we must also remind the government to work on building and repairing embankments in their proper times, in the hopes that this time the authorities will not forget to do so again.

Amendments to Road Transport Act: In whose interest?

Govt should not give in to the pressure of transport lobbies

IN an unfortunate development in the transport sector, a committee formed with three ministers to look into how the Road Transport Act-2018 could be implemented has come up with some suggestions of change to the Act. The committee held a meeting on August 19 with the transport owners and workers associations and came up with these changes. Although it has not yet disclosed the proposed changes, what we have learnt is that changes include reducing the fines for different traffic rules violations while there will also be some changes in the rules of the Act. The National Road Safety Council will take the final decision on the amendments being sought after the committee submits its reports.

The associations of transport owners and workers were demanding amendments to some sections of the Road Transport Act-2018 ever since it was passed in parliament. Amid mounting pressure from these associations, the government could not enforce the law in time. And when the government finally took the initiative to do so in November last year, Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation called strikes demanding changes to several sections of the law which included making all offences under the Act bailable, scrapping of the provision for fining a worker Tk 5 lakh for involvement in a road accident, reducing the minimum educational qualification requirement for obtaining a driving licence from class-VIII to class-V, ending harassment by police on roads, etc. Amid their pressure, the government could not yet enforce several sections of the Act—parts of nine out of 126 sections of the law are currently ineffective. And now the transport owners and workers are lobbying for further changes!

Clearly, these changes in the law will only make it weaker and it will hardly help in making our roads safe. We urge the government not to bow down to the pressure from the lobbyists and discuss these legal issues with experts and all the stakeholders concerned before coming to a decision on the amendments. Only holding meetings with the transport owners and workers associations, leaving behind other stakeholders, will not help in disciplining the sector.

Indian foreign secretary's visit and the state of Bangladesh-India relations



SHAMSHEER M CHOWDHURY

HISTORY shows that the strength of relations between states, particularly among neighbouring ones, lies in withstanding tests and, if done right, comes out looking

better, both perceptively and in substance, in the end. The recent sudden and previously unannounced visit by Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Dhaka needs to be seen in that context.

Understandably, the format of the visit has raised eyebrows among observers on both sides of the border. Traditionally, and in conventional diplomatic practice, such high-level visits are preceded by visible preparations and a formal announcement of the dates and other details of the visit. All of this was conspicuously missing in this particular instance.

That being said, if one were to focus on the substance of the visit and analyse it from available soundbites, its impact on the current state of our bilateral relations—especially in terms of taking it forward on the basis of mutual benefit and respect—was tangible.

In the prevailing global coronavirus situation, the issue of combatting this scourge through an effective and beneficial mechanism of collaboration between countries, using scientists and medical experts, has come to the fore. This

is now a global phenomenon in which countries with known and perceived scientific and technical knowhow are rushing against time to come up with vaccines to prevent the spread of the virus and cure those infected. In fact, the word "vaccine diplomacy" has been firmly injected into the lexicon of global diplomacy, as the numbers of infections and deaths keep mounting exponentially. From his comments at a brief informal

fact, President Xi Jinping of China, in a phone conversation with Sheikh Hasina as early as May this year, reassured her that China would stand by Bangladesh as a "truest friend" in this all-out war against Covid-19.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, in his comments to the media before his meeting with his Indian counterpart, had said that Bangladesh would explore all the avenues to get

visit by the Indian foreign secretary, given the history, nature and spread of bilateral relations between the two South Asian neighbours, it would be safe to assume that the visit was aimed to give greater boost to these relations. This was indicated in a statement from the Indian High Commission in Dhaka soon after his arrival on Tuesday, which said: "He is currently on a visit to Dhaka to discuss and take forward cooperation on matters of mutual interest."

In comments to the media by the foreign secretary of Bangladesh, made after the bilateral discussions, he highlighted two issues that found prominence from Bangladesh: the killing of Bangladeshis on the border by BSF firing and an expectation from Bangladesh of a more positive role by India on the Rohingya repatriation issue at the United Nations, especially now that India is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Apparently, on the former issue, a follow-up meeting between the relevant players of both sides is expected to be scheduled in the coming days. India also proposed the creation of an "Air bubble" to restart air travels between the two countries. There was, however, no mention of Teesta, or the sharing of any other common river. In a departure from traditions, there was no meeting between the Bangladesh foreign minister and the Indian foreign secretary.

Relations between neighbours are usually characterised by undulations in their form and content. The ties between Bangladesh and India are no exception. However, placed on a broader canvass, an upward curve in their relations is visible. The disbursement of India's credit line, of which Bangladesh is the biggest recipient, has gained momentum. Recently, ten locomotives have been procured for Bangladesh Railway from India as a grant. Bilateral connectivity has also seen visible forward movement.

The visit of Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, dramatic as it might have been, also had a great symbolic value. This was his first visit to any country in the era of Covid-19-enforced global travel restrictions. It was also well-timed, from an Indian perspective, coming as it did in the backdrop of misgivings among the people of Bangladesh because of certain domestic developments in India and a flurry of speculative and bizarre media activities—mostly emanating from India—touching on unfounded domestic issues in Bangladesh. Of late, sections of India's civil society have been urging New Delhi to be conscious of the sensitivities in its most trusted ally in the neighbourhood. The foreign secretary's visit would, whether by design or default, go a long way in addressing that.

Shamsheer M Chowdhury, BB, is a former foreign secretary of Bangladesh.



Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

interaction with some Bangladeshi media personalities on Wednesday morning, the Indian foreign secretary, a person who is well-known here, indicated that he had delivered a message to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from her counterpart Narendra Modi—that on the issue of combatting Covid-19, India is not only going to stand by Bangladesh but, importantly, will also give priority to Bangladesh when it comes to getting access to the vaccine once it becomes available and is considered fit for use. He also reiterated this message while answering questions from the media after his meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart in the afternoon. This is indeed reassuring to hear, as we continue to grapple for ways to save our people from this menace that still shows no sign of letting up. It is not known what else was discussed at the hour-long meeting at Ganabhaban.

One may recall that similar offers have come from China as well, where the virus was first detected and whose pharmaceutical lab Sinovac has already carried out substantial research and trials on a vaccine. It is waiting for clearance from Bangladesh authorities to conduct its Phase III trials here. In

a quick access to a Covid-19 vaccine and choose the one that will be safer and useful for Bangladesh. "As part of discussions with others, we'll discuss the issue (vaccine) with India. We should have all options and we'll head for that one which'll be safer and useful for us," he had told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the day before the meeting. The question that may follow from his comments is if he was pre-empting what Mr Shringla would be saying, indicating that Bangladesh would keep its options open and, wisely, not rely on one source only.

It is known that the King Edward Memorial (KEM) and Nair hospitals in Mumbai are all set to start Phase II/III clinical trials of the Oxford's coronavirus vaccine candidate. This is backed by British-Swedish pharmaceutical AstraZeneca and will be launched under the brand name COVISHIELD in India. The vaccine candidate was formulated by researchers of Oxford's Jenner Institute and developed in a record-breaking time of just three months. It is already in the last stages of clinical trials in Brazil, South Africa and the UK.

While "vaccine diplomacy" may have been a major thrust of the just-concluded

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

How cash transfers prevent lockdown tragedies



SANIA NISHHTAR

IN 2017, I was a candidate to become the next Director-General of the World Health Organization. At the 70th World Health Assembly, I stood before health ministers from around the

world and warned that three things could destroy the planet: a celestial event, a third world war, or a pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic may not have destroyed the planet, but it is certainly putting public and private institutions to a harsh test. In addition to its dire health consequences, the pandemic has decimated livelihoods worldwide, squeezing the middle class and pushing low-income households into abject poverty.

In Pakistan—the world's fifth-largest country by population—24 million breadwinners rely on daily wages or are self-employed in the informal economy. For them, life came to a standstill with the implementation of a lockdown in March, causing a widespread loss of income that began fuelling civil unrest and rioting.

To mitigate the pandemic's socioeconomic damage, Pakistan's government created the Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme, the largest social-protection programme in the country's history. Rolled out ten days after the lockdown began, it is delivering one-time cash grants totalling more than USD 1.2 billion to more than 16.9 million households, covering around 109 million people—approximately 50 percent of the country's population. Recipient families are given Rs 12,000 (USD 75) to cover their immediate subsistence needs.

Prior to the delivery of Ehsaas cash, I saw unspeakable suffering among people from many walks of life. There were day labourers and hawkers, hotel and restaurant staff, and domestic servants, security guards, and drivers. There were also laid-off public-transport employees, fishermen and miners, beauticians and barbers, and millions of shopkeepers—all

on the verge of hunger, with their savings used up. They, along with private-school teachers, electricians, welders, painters, carpenters, plumbers, car mechanics, taxi drivers, and construction workers, did not know where their next meal would come from.

These stories were repeated across industries and regions, with even those used to earning a decent living suddenly wondering if their finances would ever add up again. But the handouts brought stability and comfort to millions of families, and the whole country watched as countless tragedies were averted.

Beyond the immediate crisis, the success of Ehsaas Emergency Cash offers Pakistan and other middle- and low-income countries invaluable experience in speedily delivering a massive national programme in a complex and uncertain

into its design, offers lessons about how to leverage personal identification systems. By combining phones, Internet connectivity, and national IDs, a digital, demand-based social-protection system can be created to enable those in distress to seek support during crises. And it demonstrates how cash transfer programmes can be deployed to counter the adverse socioeconomic consequences of external shocks such as Covid-19.

For Pakistan, this was a watershed moment in terms of government functioning. The crisis compelled the government to be more responsive, data-driven, experimental, and ambitious. Cost-effective digital methods of working, new ways to coordinate the activities of multiple stakeholders, and a whole-of-government approach have been institutionalised. These measures



Cash transfer programmes are an effective way to counter the adverse socioeconomic consequences of external shocks like Covid-19.

PHOTO: REUTERS/ADNAN ABIDI

context. In order to share this knowledge, the government recently released a report describing the knowhow we gained through the programme's design and implementation, as well as the operational challenges we encountered and how they were addressed.

The programme's end-to-end digital approach, with transparency hardwired

will transform policymaking in a post-Covid-19 world.

Finally, the legacy of the programme goes beyond short-term relief. Built into its design are long-term goals to strengthen the safety net and increase financial inclusion, both of which will bring lasting benefits to recipients and to Pakistan as a whole. Alongside this

History shows that disasters and their tragic consequences can be a catalyst for large-scale social change. Covid-19 has presented Pakistan with an urgent and unprecedented challenge, which could be met only by a programme with the scale and ambition of Ehsaas Emergency Cash.

is a commitment to transparency and accountability, which is the underlying motivation for the publication of the report. In order for democracies to ensure progress, a culture of integrity and openness must be ingrained in government institutions and processes.

History shows that disasters and their tragic consequences can be a catalyst for large-scale social change. Covid-19 has presented Pakistan with an urgent and unprecedented challenge, which could be met only by a programme with the scale and ambition of Ehsaas Emergency Cash.

In the wake of the pandemic, we must embrace the once-in-a-generation chance to replicate this ambition globally and build a fairer world that overcomes poverty, inequality, and the climate crisis, with social protection as a core pillar of that effort.

The world has not faced a more difficult challenge since the end of World War II. But in our darkest hour, we can find a way forward by collectively deciding to move toward a fairer, greener, and more sustainable world for all.

Sania Nishhtar is Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety to the Prime Minister of Pakistan with the status of a federal minister.

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(Exclusive to The Daily Star)

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK

When politics exposed its ominous fangs

MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA

FOR a blissfully long period of time, much of subcontinental politics had been kept alive and rather exciting by a mix of erudite or frothy politicians who could be credited with sustaining people's interest in public affairs. In undivided India, elections to the local bodies date back to the late 19th century. In fact, many public-spirited individuals took active interest in local body election and the union boards saw the grooming of quite a number of prospective political leaders. Common people from all faiths and denominations including those living in rural areas evinced keen interest in local politics and developmental matters. Later, when political activities expanded to the national level along with mass participation, the situation still remained relatively convivial. Major political violence was rare. Even during the time of heightened communal tension in the 1940s, there were noticeable signs of harmony at the barricade lines. Opponents certainly were treated as competitors and not enemies. The 1960s saw intense political activism but the historic election of 1970 passed off without a major disturbance. However, independent Bangladesh witnessed political convulsions and violence on a disturbing scale. In early February 2004, experts expressed concern about the then government's credibility in dealing with the crimes of political nature. It was feared that the issue of tackling political terrorism would cause a serious headache in the days to come. The continuing politics of confrontation was further aggravated by the addition of manifest ferocity and subversion. There was an ominously distinct shift in the mode of

political protests while our pluralist existence faced a serious threat. Against such a backdrop, the mayhem of August 21, 2004, while extremely shocking, did not come as a total surprise to political observers. It laid bare the perilous contours of our confrontational politics. One had to accept the fact for some quarters, extreme actions leading to the annihilation of political adversary became a strategy. Violent incidents that include murder of politicians and political activists are symptomatic of deep polarisation in a society as well as its weak political institutions. Most incidents of violence in today's Bangladesh can be linked to a political context. Overt and visible violence coexists with invisible violence that destroys the identity of human beings. The visible violence, being situational and physical, can be dealt with through law and order solutions. Cynical observers of our social scenes are of the view that violence has a functional utility for politicians. Such opinions derive legitimacy from suspected state complicity in the perpetration of organised acts of violence and the inordinate delays suffered by victims in securing justice. This delay is alarming as it sends a clear message to criminals and potential criminals that no harm will come to them in the event of a recurrence of criminal activities. The grenade assault on August 21, 2004 was clearly an attempt to wipe out the entire leadership of Bangladesh Awami League. The damage that was caused and its far-reaching ramifications cannot be ignored. The tragic deaths and crippling injuries caused by the explosions make us wonder if the state organs investigating the incident and the then



File photo of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and late President Zillur Rahman grieving for the victims of the August 21, 2004 attack at a rally held on October 3 that year. Rahman's wife Ivy Rahman, a Mohila Awami League leader, was also killed in the blast. PHOTO: STAR

political authority realised the enormity of the attack. We may also recollect that the investigation of the incident was not taken in the right earnest. The first indication of that was the failure to preserve the scene of the occurrence. There were allegations that physical evidence was tampered with or destroyed, and the field units did not act with the desired speed and circumspection. The question is, did this happen because of a so-called instruction from above? If then, the culpability of all concerned, high and low, needs to be

established. In Bangladesh, we need to seriously question authoritative approval or condoning of violence because such action is often construed as social approval. The so-called political circumstances have often obstructed attempts to establish accountability of the culpable individuals. There is a good reason to believe that a considerable number of officials abnegated their responsibility to protect all citizens regardless of their identity. The disturbing reality in Bangladesh is that with the change of a political regime,

the faces of the criminals and their sources of patronage change, too. At times the same criminals who had terrorised the community under the patronage of the outgoing ruling party continued their depredations with a renewed mandate from the incumbent ruling party. Another disconcerting socio-political reality is that quite often the reasons for deteriorating law and order could be traced to the continuing patronage of criminals and bullies by the incumbent ruling party. Practically speaking, what the people see is the end result of a cumulative process of criminalisation patronised by successive regimes. One may suspect that the systemic deficiency is located within the political parties and the machinery of law enforcement. The corrective action that people want to see cannot be taken unilaterally by the ruling party. It calls for a bipartisan approach with the active involvement of civil society. The remedy lies in cleaning our politics through a decriminalisation policy backed by the depoliticisation of law enforcement as well as the administration. Events that unfolded after the August 21 incident indicate that the attack on the Awami League rally was an act of supreme brinkmanship that has, at least in the immediate aftermath and for quite some time in the days to come, unalterably affected the tone of political discourse in the country. The already existing trust deficit among politicians then reached a new low. The ghastly attack of August 21, 2004 has been a turning point in the politics of our perilously polarised polity. Muhammad Nurul Huda is a former IGP.

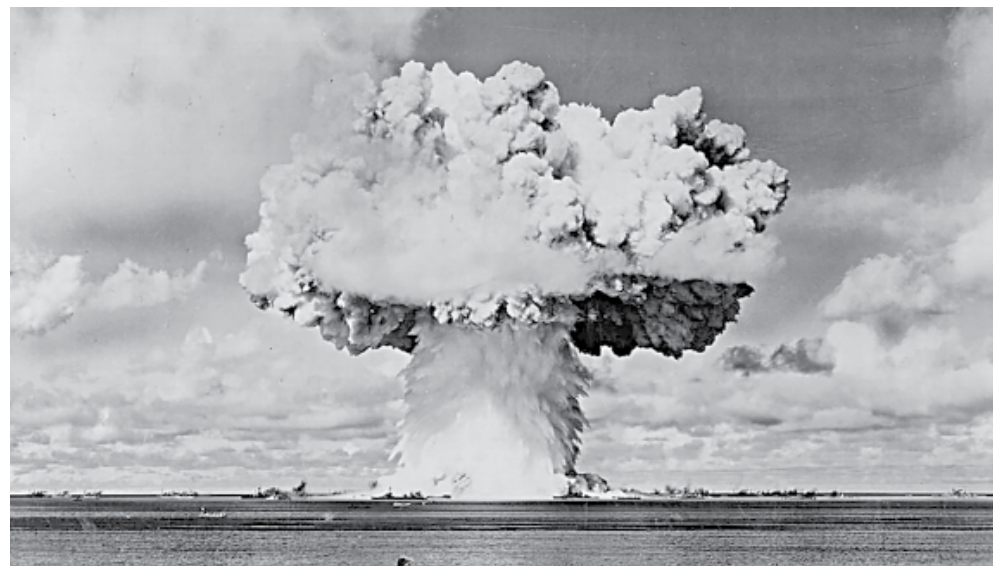
After Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Paths taken by three protagonists of the Manhattan Project



THE 6th and 9th of this month marked the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively, that killed an estimated 120,000 people instantly. Radiation exposure would kill tens of thousands more. Much of the work toward building the bombs was done by the elite scientists and engineers at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. After three years of intensive research, calculations and brainstorming by them, the test bomb of the Manhattan Project—code name of the bomb-making effort—was detonated just before sunrise at the Trinity Site located in a parched landscape near Alamogordo, 400 kilometres south of Los Alamos. It created an enormous mushroom cloud some twelve kilometers high and ushered in the Atomic Age. Since then, our life became inextricably linked forever to the awesome power stored in the nucleus of an atom. "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds." These words from the Hindu scripture Bhagavad Gita were chanted by a despondent Robert Oppenheimer, scientific director of the Manhattan Project, after witnessing the mind-boggling destructive power of his creation. The energy released by the bomb was compared by him "to the radiance of a thousand Suns." The fireworks from the explosion stood out in the minds of everyone within hundreds of miles of the site that morning. According to residents in faraway neighbourhoods, the Sun rose twice on that day. The Trinity test was only a hint of the raw power of the bomb that was to come. Less than a month later, as the news of death and destruction at Hiroshima and Nagasaki

reached Los Alamos, earlier exuberance of the scientists and engineers turned introspective. Some even questioned the morality of dropping the bombs without warning "against an enemy which was essentially defeated." Three months later, with an overwhelming feeling of guilt, Oppenheimer told President Harry Truman, "Mr. President, I have blood on my hands." Oppenheimer had roped in some of the best minds of the scientific community

Soon after the war, Oppenheimer left Los Alamos and became director of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He also became a peace activist and vehemently opposed further proliferation of nuclear weapons on the grounds that they are more destructive than mankind could responsibly control and, thus, is a threat to civilisation. Furthermore, as an advisor to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), he became an "apostle" for nuclear arms disarmament.




The Trinity test was only a hint of the raw power of the bomb that was to come.

Oppenheimer made a number of personal enemies, among them Edward Teller, who was instrumental in scuttling his career. Their relationship had been rocky for a long time, but it came to a head in 1954. Miffed at his opposition to the development of the even more powerful hydrogen bomb, Teller convinced the AEC to try Oppenheimer before a tribunal of the commission for his past involvement with communist organisations and the possibility that he was a Soviet spy. At the hearing, Teller delivered the knockout blow by asserting, "I would like to see the vital interests of this country in hands which I understand better, and therefore trust more." The trial ended with the revocation of Oppenheimer's security clearance, leaving his reputation in tatters. He was vindicated, albeit posthumously, after the transcript of the hearings, declassified in 2014, confirmed that he was never a security risk. Teller may have won then, but it was a Pyrrhic victory. He was immediately declared a *persona non grata* at Los Alamos and became a pariah among the scientists who respected Oppenheimer. In the last years of his life, Oppenheimer wrote about the problems of intellectual ethics and morality, particularly the dilemma he had faced when the interests of the nation and his own conscience collided during the war. Until his death from throat cancer in 1967, he lectured around the world, and was awarded the Enrico Fermi Award in 1963. Hans Bethe returned to Cornell to resume his teaching career. However, the appalling images of death caused by the atomic bombs made him realise that he carried a heavier share of responsibility than most of his colleagues for contributing to the development of the fearful weapon of mass destruction. To extirpate his feeling of guilt, he made a deal with his conscience to work for a happy outcome of the "nuclear gamble" and to show to mankind the practical benefits of nuclear energy. Indeed, after the war, he vigorously pushed for peaceful use of nuclear

energy. In his later life, he opposed President Ronald Reagan's space-based Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) missile system. His post-war work on the discovery of nuclear fusion, which fuels the Sun and the stars, earned him the Nobel Prize in 1967. The remorseless Edward Teller instead became personification of Stanley Kubrick's Dr. Strangelove. He made a deal not with his conscience but, as his critics would say, with Mephistopheles, and invested his entire post-war professional life working to keep the United States ahead of the Soviet Union in the nuclear arms race. Teller was fiercely anti-Communist and strongly believed that scientists at Los Alamos were too ambivalent about developing the next generation of nuclear weapons. Hence, he embarked on a forceful campaign to convince President Truman that an independent facility was needed for developing thermonuclear weapons. Consequently, in 1952, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory was established in California's Bay Area, which was used by Teller to develop the first hydrogen bomb. In the 1980s, he was a staunch advocate of SDI, aka Star Wars programme, at times overselling the feasibility of the programme. And what about the scientists whose moral qualms deepened after the bombs were dropped? They left the weapons lab for the sanctuary of university labs and classrooms. Seventy-five years after the carnage at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we still shudder at the images of extraordinary destruction and grotesque form of collective dying of innocent civilians. Peace-loving people all over the world marked the anniversary by expressing their amorphous fear of a full-scale nuclear war. They highlighted the threat of a world that continues to produce nuclear weapons, and appealed to everyone to wage a nuclear "moral revolution."

Quamrul Haider is a professor of physics at Fordham University, New York.

QUOTABLE Quote



KHALIL GIBRAN
(1883-1931)
Lebanese-American philosophical essayist, novelist, poet, and artist.

You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Burn with water
- 6 A lot of
- 10 Broadcast sound
- 11 Underway, to Holmes
- 13 Used a crowbar
- 14 List separator
- 15 Diner dessert
- 16 "Well, that's obvious!"
- 18 Fellows
- 19 Carly Simon song
- 22 Mine rock
- 23 Formerly
- 24 Accords
- 27 Helped
- 28 Singer Guthrie
- 29 PC key
- 30 Cole Porter song
- 35 Merriment

DOWN

- 1 Overly sentimental
- 2 Knick
- 3 French farewell
- 4 Tell whoppers
- 5 Walks unsteadily
- 6 Overly virile
- 7 X-file topic
- 8 Order
- 9 Advantage in a hockey game
- 12 Like some lifeguards
- 17 Take advantage of
- 20 Engine part
- 21 Tenor's pride
- 24 Cover the cost of
- 25 Woke up
- 26 Dilapidated car
- 27 Smoker's need
- 29 Seventh Greek letter
- 31 Snowy bird
- 32 Lesson leader
- 33 Without break
- 34 Does some modeling
- 39 Dry - bone
- 41 In the style

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

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

1	ALTO	BAHS
2	CLEAN	ADEPT
3	ABAFT	SOLAR
4	REDTAPE	IRE
5	DIE	REDROSE
6	STRAIN	USED
7	LOANS	
8	FREE	NETTLE
9	REDFACE	RIM
10	ELI	REDWINE
11	TIBET	LOVER
12	SELES	EVERY
13	DENY	SETS

RMG worker

FROM PAGE 12
said Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Model Police Station.

They were sent to the court to have their statements recorded, he said.

The girl was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, a schoolgirl was raped allegedly by one of her neighbours in Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila on Wednesday evening.

Her mother filed a case with Abhaynagar Police Station accusing Shamim Hasan, 18, son of Shahidul Hasan.

Police held the alleged rapist yesterday after the case was filed.

According to the case statement, Shamim, who used to stalk the girl on her way to and from school, entered the victim's home when nobody else was home and raped her.

Hearing her screams, another neighbour rushed to the house and Shamim fled the scene, police said. The girl was sent to Jashore General Hospital for medical tests yesterday.

Abhaynagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (investigation) Milon Kumar Mandal confirmed the arrest of Shamim.

Meanwhile, in Faridpur town, police over the last two days arrested four youths in connection with the gang-rape of a 14-year-old girl.

The arrestees are: Asibur Rahman, 24, Imran Sheikh, 24, Papan Sheikh, 23, and Nannu Sheikh, 24, of Bihari Colony area in Faridpur town.

The victim's father lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station against five -- the four arrested and Malek Sardar, 24, around 1:00pm yesterday. The victim is now under treatment at Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

According to the case statement, on August 11, the victim went out to buy medicine for her sick father around 7:00pm. The accused took her to a secluded area where two of the accused raped her while the other two helped them.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (Sadar Circle) of Faridpur Rasedul Islam said, "The incident came to the notice of the police when the victim was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday. After talking to the victim, police arrested four youths ..."

[Our Narayanganj, Benapole, and Faridpur correspondents contributed to this report]

Chocolate

FROM PAGE 12
morning, the powder spread around the immediate vicinity of the factory, leaving a fine cocoa dusting.

The company says one car was lightly coated, and that it has offered to pay for any cleaning needed -- but hasn't yet been taken up on the offer.

Factory production was able to continue as normal and the company says the particles were completely harmless to people or the environment.

The ventilation system has now been repaired.

The incident was tweeted by a Twitter account for Olten with the caption: "Cocoa rain in the Olten industrial quarter: the ventilation system is to blame."

One replied to say "What a treat", while another wrote: "Ooooh I wish I was there."

"2020 is turning around," one Twitter user wrote. "Chocolate snow ... surely only in the next life?" another wrote.

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladesh's application for membership until it releases all Pakistani prisoners of war and other detainees.

CABINET BODY REVIEWS FOOD POSITION

The Cabinet sub-committee on foodstuff and commodities under the chairmanship of acting Prime Minister Nazrul Islam meets today to review the stock of food grains and other essential commodities in the country. The sub-committee meets every alternate day to review the food position and take necessary decisions. An emergency operation room headed by a senior officer has been working since June 1, 1972 to deal exclusively with food price and the law and order situation in the country. The cell is located at the prime minister's secretariat.

SOURCES: August 22, 1972 issues of *Bangladesh Observer*, *Dainik Bangla* and *Dainik Ittefaq*.



Fire crew members and municipal workers make a concerted effort to pump out water from a flooded road underpass following monsoon rainfalls in Gurgaon on the outskirts of New Delhi, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

A curious list for old-age allowance

FROM PAGE 12
allowance for around five years. His allowance is still being withdrawn, alleged Fakhar Uddin Ahmed, a resident of Ranchap village.

Fifty-year-old Vobendra Dey of the same village died three years ago. He had been getting old age allowance for around seven years and his allowance is still being withdrawn.

Some people, who have been listed before reaching their age limit, are Abdul Monaf, 56, Ummar Ali, 62, Shashank Malakar, 48, and Jyotirmoy Malakar, 53, Pankaj Rudrapal, 56, Sujan Mia, 62, Abul Mia, 63, Asik Mia, 58, Shailesh Dey, 64, Abdul Karim, 64, Abdul Karim, 52, Ashkir Mia, 52,

Maleka Begum, 50, Anil Roy, 54, and Parmesh Chandra Dey, 55.

Shafiq Mia, 60, Panua Rabidas, 50, Siraj Mia, 53, Abdul Mukit Chowdhury, 50, Mahmud Ali, 64, Niranjan Malakar, 64, and Abdul Rahim, 54, Abdul Bachit, 53, Khalik Mia and Mansur Mia, 55, and Panmati Das, 55, are also on the list.

Usually, the elected member of a union parishad ward prepares the list of aged poor of his or her area. Then, the member sends the list to the chairman of that union parishad. After giving approval, the chairman forwards it to the Department of Social Services.

Joyaln Abedin, a resident of Ismailpur village, recently filed a

complaint with the office of deputy commissioner over irregularities in distributing old age allowance.

In his complaint, Joyaln alleged that a local union parishad member, Sheikh Abdul Rauf, has included names of some persons in exchange of bribe though they don't fulfil the criteria.

Following the complaint, local social service officer has started probing it.

Contacted, Kulaura social service officer Ibrahim admitted that some people are taking the allowance by providing false information.

He hinted that these names were included by the UP member.

"We have already suspended

allowances to around 15 to 20 persons for providing false information," he told The Daily Star.

Sheikh Abdul Rauf, member of ward-4 of the union parishad, denied the allegations of his involvement in such irregularities. These names were included by some previous members and chairmen of the UP, he claimed.

Abdul Bachhit, the incumbent chairman of the UP, claimed that he knew nothing about the irregularities. It may have been done by the previous UP chairman.

Contacted, immediate-past UP chairman Mahmud Ali denied the allegations and said he knew nothing about it.

Ex-Trump aide Steve Bannon arrested

FROM PAGE 12
Brian Kolfage, Andrew Badolato and Timothy Shea "received hundreds of thousands of dollars in donor funds from We Build the Wall, which they each used in a manner inconsistent with the organization's public representations."

The initiative began in 2018 as a GoFundMe campaign to raise money organizers said would go towards the border wall Trump had promised during his 2016 campaign, which Bannon orchestrated.

Kolfage, a 38-year-old based in

Florida, had vowed that all funds raised would go to the wall and he would not take compensation -- but according to the indictment, he took more than \$350,000 for his own use and worked to hide his actions.

'LAUNDER DONATIONS'

After calling the effort a "volunteer organization," Bannon, 66, received over \$1 million of the donations which he funneled through a non-profit he controlled, using some of it for his personal expenses, prosecutors said.

All four men are charged with one

count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

"Not only did they lie to donors, they schemed to hide their misappropriation of funds by creating sham invoices and accounts to launder donations and cover up their crimes, showing no regard for the law or the truth," said Philip Bartlett, head of New York's division of the US Postal Inspection Service which worked on the investigation.

Prior to leading Trump's 2016 presidential bid, Bannon -- a brash,

aggressively conservative voice of US nationalism -- headed the far-right outlet Breitbart News.

Once a prominent voice in the president's ear, Bannon was behind some of Trump's most controversial moves, including his ban on some travelers from abroad and the decision to pull the United States out of the Paris climate change agreement.

After frequent clashes with others in the White House including Trump, Bannon was pushed out in August 2017.

Putin critic in coma

FROM PAGE 12
said he.

The Kremlin said it was aware that Navalny was ill and wished him well, but said there was no evidence yet to back claims he had been poisoned.

British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab said he was deeply concerned by reports that Navalny has been poisoned. "My thoughts are with him and his family".

There is a long history of Kremlin foes being poisoned or falling ill after suspected poisonings.

They include Alexander Litvinenko, who died in London in 2006 after drinking tea laced with polonium-210, and Sergei Skripal, a former double agent who was poisoned with a nerve agent in 2018 in Salisbury, England.

The Kremlin has repeatedly denied involvement in those and other incidents, calling them anti-Russian provocations.

Yarmysh did not say who she believed may have poisoned Navalny but said police had been called to the hospital.

A regional health ministry spokeswoman, Tatyana Shakirova, confirmed that Navalny has been hospitalised in Omsk and said doctors

assessed his condition as serious.

"Doctors are doing everything possible to stabilise his condition," she said. "The poisoning version is one of several versions being considered. It's not possible now to say what the reason was."

Navalny, a 44-year-old lawyer and anti-corruption activist, has served many stints in jail for organising anti-Kremlin protests and has been physically attacked in the street by pro-government activists.

He has helped investigations into what he has said are outrageous examples of official corruption, with his videos on the subject garnering millions of views.

Russia holds regional elections next month and Navalny and his allies have been working to increase support for candidates whom they back.

SCREAMING IN PAIN

Passenger Pavel Lebedev posted an account of what he saw on social media.

"At the start of the flight he went to the toilet and didn't come back. He started feeling really sick. They struggled to bring him round and he was screaming in pain."

Navalny's plane later made an

emergency landing in Omsk. Footage posted on social media showed a motionless Navalny being stretchered into an ambulance by medics.

S7, the airline he was travelling with, said Navalny had started feeling very ill soon after take-off and the captain had decided to make an emergency landing at a nearby airport.

He had not eaten or drunk anything on board, it said.

Navalny had a cup of tea at a Tomsk airport cafe before boarding his flight, Yarmysh said.

She drew a parallel with an incident last year in which Navalny suffered an acute allergic reaction that one doctor said could have resulted from poisoning with an unknown chemical.

"Obviously the same has been done to him now," Yarmysh said.

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 12
the rejoinder said.

We regret that we quoted him incorrectly. However, we maintain that no exaggerating and confusing words were in the news.

Migrant dies in mass border crossing into Spanish enclave

AFP, Madrid

One African man died and eight people were injured when around 300 migrants tried to storm the border fence separating the Spanish enclave Melilla from Morocco yesterday, local authorities said.

The man, whose identity and nationality were not known, appears to have died from "natural causes", the Spanish government's local delegation said in a statement.

He fell from a height of about five metres (16 feet) and emergency services on the ground were not able to revive him, a local police spokesman said.

"It was dark, the area was unknown and it seems like he fell," the spokesman said, adding it was not clear if the migrant died from injuries sustained in his fall or from a heart attack.

Another eight migrants were lightly injured, mainly with bruises, as well as three police officers, including one who dislocated his soldier, he added.

"It was not a violent assault, there was just the typical pushing of those trying to get in who we did not let through," the police spokesman said.

About 30 of the roughly 300 migrants who stormed the triple barbed wire fence which separates Melilla from Morocco managed to get into the tiny Spanish territory, the statement said.

The rest were "intercepted and rejected" by Moroccan security forces, it added.

It was one of the largest such mass attempts to cross over the border into Melilla, which along with Spain's other North African enclave of Ceuta, have the European Union's only land borders with Africa and are regular flashpoints for African migrants.

UK accused of ignoring warnings over virus-hit exams

AFP, London

The British government came under fresh pressure yesterday over its botched policy for grading exams cancelled during the coronavirus lockdown, as a new set of results showed a surge in top marks.

Schools minister Nick Gibb admitted he was warned weeks ago about the risks of using an algorithm to moderate assessments made by teachers, which the government abandoned this week after an uproar.

He insisted the model, which was intended to protect against potential widespread grade inflation, was fair but said it was implemented incorrectly.

The government said it would revert to teacher assessments after pupils took to the streets in protest at last week's A-level results, sat by 17 and 18-year-olds.

The "standardisation" process saw 40 percent of results downgraded, with children in disadvantaged areas particularly affected.

But a new set of results published yesterday, for GCSE exams sat by 16-year-olds, seemed to confirm fears that the unmoderated system would lead to grade inflation.

Some 25.9 percent of pupils received top marks -- up from 20.6 percent last year. The pass rate was 76 percent, up from 67 percent.

Gibb apologised to all students for the "pain and anxiety" they have suffered because of the chaos.

However, he could not say when another cohort of young people waiting for their Btec vocational qualification would get them, after the results were delayed at the last minute.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government has been criticised for many aspects of its response to the coronavirus outbreak, which has killed more than 41,000 people in Britain -- the worst toll in Europe.

But the exams chaos risks being particularly damaging, affecting voters who do not normally follow politics.

While Johnson's Conservatives have led the main opposition Labour party in opinion polls throughout the virus crisis, a new YouGov poll found this slipped from nine points to two in the past week.

Labour education spokeswoman Kate Green said the government was "warned again and again about the problems with the grading algorithm" but did nothing.

Europe can

FROM PAGE 12
the country could experience the types of spikes and continued infections witnessed in the United States and Europe, said KCDC deputy director Kwon Jun-wook.

"Consider the Covid-19 pandemic now to be in full-swing."

INDIA REGISTERS NEW PEAK

India has recorded nearly 70,000 new cases in the past 24 hours, which is the biggest single-day spike so far. According to the Health Ministry update yesterday morning, the country saw 69,651 new cases over the past 24 hours.

With the nearly 70,000 new cases, India's coronavirus tally now stands at 28,36,925. Apart from the case spike, 977 deaths were also recorded on Wednesday, taking the Covid-19 death toll to 53,866.

In the United States, the country's top infectious diseases official, Anthony Fauci, said the government would not make any future Covid-19 vaccine obligatory for the general public.

But he said local jurisdictions could make it mandatory for some groups, like children.

"You don't want to mandate and try and force anyone to take a vaccine. We've never done that," said Fauci, a member of the White House coronavirus task force, during a video talk Wednesday organised by George Washington University.

His comments came hours after Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that coronavirus vaccines, once approved, would be mandatory for everyone in his country barring medical exemptions.

The pandemic has killed at least 787,918 people worldwide since surfacing in China late last year, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP yesterday.

More than 22.4 million cases have been registered.

VACCINE DEAL

The EU said yesterday it has concluded talks with German pharmaceutical firm CureVac, aiming to secure 225 million doses of a potential coronavirus vaccine.

It is the fourth agreement the bloc has reached with companies working on a potential vaccine against the virus, after deals with Sanofi-GSK, Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca.

"The envisaged contract with CureVac would provide for the possibility for all EU member states to purchase the vaccine," the European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, said in a statement.

An agreement to buy the vaccine will come once it has been shown to be safe and effective, the commission said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Jail Super
Jamalpur District Jail
jailsuperjamalpur@gmail.com

Memo No. 58.04.3900.097.01.001.20-১৪৪২ ৯ ১৪৪২ Date: 19-08-2020

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing date & time
01	485680	Supply of Unnatamaner(Mashur Dal (Mota) for the period of October/2020 to September/2021.	19-Aug-2020 16:00:00 06-Sep-2020 10:30:00
02	485681	Supply of Unnatamaner(Cholor Dal) for the period of October/2020 to September/2021.	19-Aug-2020 16:00:00 06-Sep-2020 10:45:00

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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Moklesur Rahman
B.J-02669200128
Jail Super
Jamalpur District Jail

GD-1301

Over half of Lebanon 'trapped in poverty' even before blast: UN

AFP, Beirut

Lebanon's economic crisis doubled poverty rates to more than half the population even before this month's cataclysmic explosion at Beirut's port, a United Nations agency said Wednesday.

"Estimates reveal that more than 55 percent of the country's population is now trapped in poverty and struggling for bare necessities," the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) said.

That figure for May 2020 was almost double the rate of 28 percent for last year, it said.

Extreme poverty had shot up to an estimated 23 percent of the population, up from eight percent in 2019, it added.

Lebanon's economic and political crisis deepened on August 4 when a massive blast at Beirut's port killed 181 people, wounded thousands and ravaged huge areas of the capital.

The disaster came on the heels of the country's worst financial crunch in decades, which had already seen tens of thousands lose their jobs or much of their income, even as the novel coronavirus pandemic hit.

SPORT

What to WATCH

SONY SIX
England v Pakistan
Third Test, Day 1
Live from 4:00pm

TEN 2 UEFA Europa League
FINAL
Sevilla v Inter Milan
Live from 1:00am (Saturday)



Bayern Munich forward Serge Gnabry (L) scored twice while Robert Lewandowski took his tally in this season's Champions League to 15 goals in a 3-0 win over a wasteful Lyon in their semifinal on Wednesday. The result brought their fans worldwide great joy as the Bavarians set up a final showdown with PSG on Sunday. PHOTO: TWITTER



SHOOTING IN BANGLADESH

Dissolution the only solution to infighting

In the final part of a multi-part report by The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman, incumbent Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF) president Nazimuddin Chowdhury and general secretary Intekhabul Hamid explain what went on behind the scenes that led to a breakdown in their relationship. Meanwhile former shooters and officials lobby for the dissolution of the existing executive committee.

Asked why their relationship had suddenly deteriorated after running the federation in tandem for nearly six years, Nazimuddin and Intekhabul blamed each other. "The fact is that Intekhabul wanted to do business with the federation but I interrupted him. That is why the relationship soured. He started this business in 2017 as per the probe committee report. I personally brought Tk 3.5 crore from the government to renovate the shooting range and install electric target changers. We later heard that his company provided each target changer for Tk 26 lakh but the federation itself changed each electronic target changer for only 6.33 lakh. That is a big difference," Nazimuddin told The Daily Star last month.

"The probe committee submitted their report on March 21 during the lockdown. At the time we could not do anything. However, we discussed the report through a Zoom meeting on June 6 and asked the secretary general for an explanation, which he placed in early July. We will decide on it at the next meeting," added Nazimuddin, who has been involved in shooting since 1986, barring a four-and-a-half-year period from 2009 to 2014.

Asked why general secretaries always faced allegations, Nazimuddin said: "I did not resign in face of allegations. I resigned following an argument with then-president [Major General Ashab Uddin]. The only allegation against me was when shooter Asif Ahmed was beaten by the police in 2006 and I was blamed because I could not protect him. Some vested groups provided false information to the media to spin the incident. At the moment, the NBR called on shooters but I am being blamed for not protecting them," said Nazimuddin.

Having termed Nazimuddin the instigator, Intekhabul provided a defence against the allegations he faces. "He [Nazimuddin] brought me into shooting because he needed a man against [former general secretary Isteaque Ahmed] Bablu bhai. Many people told me that he used me against Bablu bhai," Intekhabul told The Daily Star last month. "Nazim bhai doesn't spare anyone who goes against his opinions. That is his character. He never makes those persons understand and bring them back to work. Instead, he always chops those who go against him. He is now acting against me because I went against his opinions."

Asked about his business with the federation, Intekhabul said: "I'm not doing business with the NSC from today. Our company -- Delco -- has been involved in developing all the cricket stadiums in the country. Delco was awarded the work by the NSC as the lowest bidder," explained Intekhabul. "You can ask the NSC why they bought each electronic target changer at Tk 26 lakh instead of Tk 6 lakh."

Intekhabul further claimed: "The BSSF president actually brought the allegations against me after I did not agree to pay additional bills worth more than Tk 2 crore to a company that he is familiar with, which was awarded the works ahead of three companies recommended by the Tender Evaluation Company. It renovated the BSSF's four-storey building at an original agreement of Tk 2.72 crore."

"After being elected secretary general, I personally provided approximately Tk 40 to 50 lakh per year behind shooting. The

BSSF president is trying to convict me by bringing allegations to keep me away from the upcoming elections."

Both of them may have fierce arguments to defend themselves, but it would be better to see that zeal in answering why shooting has not progressed and in identifying obstacles in the development of shooting.

"We are using the older model air rifles and pistols during training, which are inaccurate. So how will the young shooters improve? I think the BSSF should persuade the government to allow the clubs to import guns and bullets, similar to what India is doing," said a former national coach seeking anonymity.

Often shooters have struggled to train properly due to a shortage of bullets. To solve the ongoing problems, former officials and shooters see no ways but to dissolve the existing committee and appoint an ad-hoc committee, comprising real organisers and former shooters.

"It is a master plan to destroy shooting and it is happening due to some old organisers," Commonwealth Games gold medalist Ateequr Rahman told The Daily Star. "We are ashamed by the present condition of shooting, which could not win a single gold medal in the SA Games in December. We once beat our Indian counterparts regularly."



"Bangladesh shooting has been suffering due to a battle of interest among officials, who never think about the country. We don't need this committee. It should be dissolved immediately," Ateequr said, demanding that former shooters be inserted into the ad-hoc committee so they can look after the interest of shooters.

Urging the dissolution of the existing committee, former general secretary Isteaque Ahmed said: "As it is a federation of arms and ammunition, the president needs to be an army official as they understand the use of the arms and bullets. The appointment of an army official as president will bring balance to the committee."

"It has been proven that shooting won't benefit from bureaucrats or businessmen. It needs real organisers and an army official as president. Shooting has all but vanished due to internal conflicts. A lot of money is being spent but there are no results," said another general secretary asking not to be named.

Although the youth and sports ministry's move to form an ad-hoc BSSF committee allegedly came to a halt after lobbying from some quarters, many believe it is high time to revive shooting by taking immediate steps as the national shooting team now depends heavily on BKSP and Bangladesh Army instead of rifle clubs across the country.

Unstoppable Bayern ride on 'outstanding Gnabry, bit of luck'

AGENCIES

Bayern Munich head into Sunday's Champions League final against Paris St Germain in extraordinarily dominant form and with a real chance to become the first team to win the competition with a 100 percent record.

Bayern coach Hansi Flick admitted after their 3-0 win that his side needed a bit of luck and the quality of Serge Gnabry to survive early Olympique Lyonnais pressure and book their spot in the final. Winger Gnabry scored twice before Robert Lewandowski added a late third goal but the Bavarians had to survive early



Lyon forward Memphis Depay surprised everyone as he squandered a golden chance to get the lead in the fourth minute, firing into the side-netting from an awkward angle. PHOTO: COLLECTED



Ekambi hit the post as Lyon dominated Bayern in midfield and found space in the back of the Germain team's defenders.

Cameroon forward Ekambi also missed a sitter after the break. "We're all very sad. It's not easy to lose in a Champions League semi-final but we exit the competition with our heads high," said Lyon sports director Juninho.

"We knew that we were up against a better team but we stuck to our game plan but to beat such a team, you need to score when you have the chance. Maybe it would have been different if we had converted our early chances."

Bayern will bid for their sixth European Cup triumph when they come up against Neymar and Kylian Mbappe on Sunday and after convincingly beating Chelsea, Barcelona and now Lyon, Hansi Flick's side will surely start as favourites.

But Lyon forward Ekambi issued a warning as he said he didn't think Bayern were "unbeatable" despite 3-0 loss.

It's a hallmark of this edition of Bayern to play with freedom and creativity, to also be ruthlessly efficient in front of goal. The eight they scored against Barcelona told its own story, and while this was a different performance against Rudi Garcia's more organized Lyon, the same traits were visible.

In fact, 'doubt' is a word that hardly seems applicable to Bayern -- at least since they replaced Niko Kovac with Flick in November.

"In the past 30 years they have never played at such a high level tactically as they are at the moment under Hansi Flick," Ralf Rangnick, the experienced former Bundesliga coach, told Kicker magazine after the game.

Olympique Lyonnais were left ruing missed chances as the French side, who finished seventh in Ligue 1 after it was cut short amid the COVID-19 crisis and will therefore not play in Europe next season, had the first two opportunities to score at the Estadio da Luz. But Memphis Depay shot just wide and Karl Toko

"A physio told me before the game that a ball can't go in if you don't shoot it. Luckily, I shot it and it went in."

SERGE GNABRY

pressure from the French side who hit the post.

"It was an intense game and we knew it would be like that. Lyon had a great performance, pressured us and we survived it with a bit of luck especially at the start," Flick said.

"Serge's individual performance settled our nerves. The 1-0 was outstanding. His finish and his run, just outstanding," he added.

There were just 58 seconds between Lyon's Karl Toko Ekambi hitting the post and Serge Gnabry unleashing a rocket into the top corner. It was a goal of the highest quality from one of Europe's finest and a brutal lesson in finishing.

'Main prep will be in SL'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Chief Selector Minhajul Abedin hinted yesterday that the most important aspects of the team's training following the long coronavirus-induced break will take place in Sri Lanka.

"We have a few practice matches in Sri Lanka and we will be announcing the main squad after we go there. A preliminary squad is going there but the training sessions in Sri Lanka are going to be very important since the break of five months was a long one. How they can cope and get ready for international cricket will be evaluated," said Minhajul.

"We're taking 20 to 22 players and the squad will be ready by the first week of September. The main squad of 15 will be selected there. Three [Covid-19] tests will be done in the Bangladesh and then the players will be tested again in Sri Lanka," Minhajul added.

Meanwhile, BCB is still waiting for batting consultant Neil McKenzie's confirmation for the Tigers' upcoming tour of Sri Lanka.

"McKenzie has not yet confirmed to us if he will join the side. Everything will be clear within the next two-three days. And even if he cannot join Bangladesh on the Sri Lanka tour, we still have a few options in hand," informed cricket operations committee Chairman Akram Khan yesterday.

Clubs want payments resolved before committing to next season

SPORTS REPORTER

A majority of Bangladesh Premier League clubs have given the initial nod to start the new season, but they first want to settle last season's payment issues with players.

The Professional Football League Committee (PFLC), headed by BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy, sat with the clubs at the BFF House yesterday in line with directives from the executive committee.

All clubs aside from Mohammedan and Brothers Union attended the meeting to give opinions in favour of starting the new season.

"The clubs want to play but the environment has to be created. It is true that all clubs are not ready to play within a few days. The clubs have to prepare for play as the situation is different this time around due to Covid-19," Abahani manager Satyjit Das Rupu said after the meeting.

"There is a pending issue with the players regarding last season's payments. What will happen to players who received more than 80 per cent payment of their contracts last season, which was closed due to the coronavirus pandemic," said Rupu, who is also a member of BFF executive committee, adding that it is very important that the players co-operate with clubs to start the new season.

Clubs were asked to send written opinions about the start of new seasons as well as the payment issue with the players before the next league PFLC meeting, which is likely to take place on August 26 and finalise issues.

It was also decided that they would sit with the representatives of the players by Tuesday and get their opinion on payments. Some players have received the maximum money as stipulated in their contracts while others received nominal payments from clubs as the season was cancelled.

The BFF has already sent a draft plan for next season, with the transfer window scheduled to open in late September and the season starting in November.



INTER'S FOURTH OR SEVILLA'S SIXTH?

Romelu Lukaku will look to continue his fine scoring run when Inter Milan meet Sevilla in the Europa League final tonight. The teams have never met in UEFA competition. Sevilla have lifted the title a record five times, including a 'three-peat' in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The Italians however know what it is like to win this title too, having won it three times (1991, 1994 and 1998).

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM



A different kind of TV series on RTV

This time, a completely new kind of TV series is going to be screened on RTV. Based on true stories, this TV series will give viewers a whole new experience. Stories of thirteen adolescent married girls are portrayed in this TV series, where they tell their own stories. Initiated by the IMAGE Plus project and produced by RedOrange Media and Communications, the 13-episode series titled Amio Achi (আমিও অঁচি) shows the life struggles of these thirteen victims of early marriage, and how they turned their lives around, while also playing a major role in preventing child marriage in their communities.

Regarding the naming of Amio Achi ('I am also there' in Bangla), the producers said that there are many like them

Advertorial

who do not have any identity, even though they are a part of society. Even when they are right in front of us, they are invisible! This is especially true for girls who are married at a very early age. They drop out of school, lose hope and their own individuality. Despite hundreds of obstacles faced by them, they did not disappear. They are still there. This is why the TV series is called Amio Achi.

The team of Amio Achi travelled day and night in all the remote districts of North Bengal to bring out these stories. The stories of change inspired them to feel encouraged and give their best effort. At the same time, they faced several challenges and new experiences.

For the last six years, the IMAGE Plus project, initially known as IMAGE, has been working to improve the lives of married adolescent girls in three districts in Bangladesh: Nilphamari, Galbandha and Kurigram. The project is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by Terre des hommes Netherlands as the lead and RedOrange as the strategic partner. Other implementing partners are SKS Foundation, Terre des hommes Foundation, and Polissire. Presented by Farzana Ahsan Mhir, the series will be aired every Friday and Saturday at 7:10pm starting August 21, 2020 on RTV.

Furthermore, the episodes will be made available on YouTube and Facebook.

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A curious list for old-age allowance

Names of dead people on it; many below the required minimum age getting benefit

MINTU DESHWARA

Forty-three-year-old Khairun Begum, a resident of Hajipur union in Moulvibazar, has been getting old-age allowance over the last few years.

But the minimum age limit is 65 for men and 62 for woman to be entitled for the allowance, as per the government rules.

The Daily Star has got a copy of the list of Hajipur union under Kulaura upazila. There are 722 names in the list and Khairun's serial number is 272.

Lakshmi Rani, 41, Malakar is also listed for the allowance. Her serial number is 647.

Like Khairun and Lakshmi, at least 30 persons have been included in the list before reaching their age limit. Even, allowances are being withdrawn in the name of some dead persons.

Ummar Ali of Ranchap village had been getting the allowance for around seven years. He died around 16 months ago when he was 63, but his name is still on the list and someone is taking his allowance regularly. His serial number is 189, said Abdul Aziz, a neighbour.

Gopesh Chandra Malakar died around 18 months ago when his age was 44. He had been receiving old-age

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Grabbing the land of the Turag river along Mirpur-Ashulia-Beribandh road, traders pump in sand although there is a signboard, inset, that strictly forbids sand trading on the spot. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RMG worker gang-raped in N'ganj

5 arrested; 2 more raped in Jashore, Faridpur

STAR REPORT

Five youths were arrested in connection with the gang-rape of a garment worker in Narayanganj yesterday.

In a case filed with Fatullah Model Police Station, the 18-year-old victim said she was waiting for a boat at Pagla ghat to cross the Buriganga around 1:15am yesterday after finishing her work at a factory in BSCIC Industrial Area, said Sanjay Kumar Sarkar, inspector (operation) of Fatullah Police Station.

Seven youths abducted her, took her to a nearby secluded place, and raped her, the police official said.

Police, raiding different areas in Pagla, arrested five of them until yesterday afternoon, the inspector said.

During primary interrogation, the youths admitted raping the girl,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Putin critic in coma after 'poisoning'

REUTERS, Moscow



ALEXEI NAVALNY

Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny was in a coma in a Siberian hospital yesterday after drinking a cup of tea that his spokeswoman said she believed was laced with poison.

A fierce critic of President Vladimir Putin, Navalny started feeling ill when returning to Moscow from Tomsk in Siberia by plane on Wednesday morning. He was carried off the plane on a stretcher after it made an emergency landing at Omsk.

He was in intensive care and on an artificial lung ventilator in an Omsk hospital, his spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said.

"We assume that Alexei was poisoned with something mixed into his tea. It was the only thing that he drank in the morning. Alexei is now unconscious," Yarmysh said.

Doctors gave contradictory information about his condition, saying it had stabilised but also that there was still a threat to his life and they were working to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu reaches Geneva

August 21, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU IN GENEVA

Following his gallbladder surgery on July 31, Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman flies to Geneva on a chartered plane from London today for convalescence in Switzerland as a guest of the Swiss Government. Bangabandhu is greeted on his arrival in Geneva by the Swiss observer at the UN Ambassador Umberto. In London, before the prime minister's plane took off, a Bangladeshi spokesman says that Bangabandhu would not be willing to meet Pakistan President ZA Bhutto without formal recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan. Informed sources, however, say that efforts are underway to bring about a meeting of the two leaders through their common friends not connected with the Pakistani administration.

Bangladesh officials inform that the length of the prime minister's stay in Geneva would depend on the advice of his doctors but it is thought that he would be in Switzerland for about two weeks. Meanwhile, Bangladesh envoys to Paris, Bonn, Stockholm, East Berlin, Moscow, Warsaw and Belgrade are converging in Geneva for the conference of the Bangladesh envoys to the European countries. Bangabandhu will address the conference.

PAK APPEAL TO THE UN

Pakistan asks the UN Security Council today to disregard

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FRAUD CASE Ex-Trump aide Steve Bannon arrested

AFP, New York

Former top Trump aide Steve Bannon was arrested yesterday and charged along with three others for defrauding hundreds of thousands of donors in a Mexico border wall fundraising campaign -- a blow to the Republican incumbent.

The online crowdfunding campaign known as "We Build the Wall" raised more than \$25 million, prosecutors said, which the defendants said would be used on construction but was instead used for their own profit.

The arrest is the latest in a string of high-profile legal battles faced by members of Trump's inner circle as the Republican runs for re-election in November.

Manhattan federal prosecutors said Bannon, the organization's founder

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Chocolate snow falls on Swiss town



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Residents of a Swiss town got a bit of a shock when it started snowing particles of fine cocoa powder after the ventilation system at a chocolate factory malfunctioned.

The Lindt & Spruengli company confirmed local reports on Tuesday that there was a minor defect in the cooling ventilation for a line for roasted "cocoa nibs" in its factory in Olten, between Zurich and Basel.

The nibs, fragments of crushed cocoa beans, are the basis of chocolate.

Combined with strong winds on Friday

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Rejoinder

Md Mostafa Kamal, additional secretary of the health ministry, has objected to a report published in The Daily Star on August 20 under the headline "Govt set to okay rapid testing". In a rejoinder yesterday, he said the report contained some "exaggerating and confusing" words which might create confusion. Mostafa also said he spoke on the process of finalising the "draft of Covid-19 laboratory testing regulation", which was interpreted as the government's decision to use rapid testing kits. No such decision was taken,

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 21
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-30 4-45 6-38 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-41 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A plaintive cuckoo is spotted sitting on a tree branch on Begum Rokeya University campus in Rangpur. This small bird is seen almost everywhere in the country. It feeds on invertebrates and lays its eggs in other birds' nests.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF TUHIN WADUD

Europe can fight virus without lockdowns

Says WHO; S Korea fears fresh outbreak as India records nearly 70,000 new cases in a day

AGENCIES

Europe can combat the coronavirus without full lockdowns now that authorities are better prepared and have gained knowledge about how to fight it in recent months, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday.

"With the basic nationwide and additional targeted measures, we are in a much better position to stamp out these localised virus flare-ups," the head of the WHO's European branch, Hans Kluge, told reporters.

"We can manage the virus and keep the economy running and an education system in operation," he added.

Europe has seen a steady rise in the number of cases for the past two months, he said.

In the first week of August, 40,000 more cases were reported than in the first week of June when cases were at their lowest.

"But we are not in February, we can manage the virus differently now than we did when Covid-19 first emerged," Kluge said.

In addition to calling for good hand hygiene, social distancing measures and national testing and tracing programmes, the WHO recommended that additional

measures be adopted locally when clusters arise.

On average, 26,000 new cases are being reported everyday in Europe, according to the WHO. Young people, who tend to experience milder symptoms and lower mortality rates, account for a growing share of cases.

However, Kluge stressed the importance of reopening schools as countries gradually return to normal, noting the negative consequences that school closures have had on children.

In South Korea, authorities said coronavirus infections are back "in full swing" and spreading nationwide after members of a church attended a political demonstration, threatening one of the world's Covid-19 success stories.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) reported 288 new cases as of midnight on Wednesday, marking a week of triple-digit daily increases, although down slightly from the previous day's 297.

"This is a grave situation that could possibly lead to a nationwide pandemic," Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip told a briefing.

Without aggressive contact tracing,

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