

## Padma bridge not before June 2022

Feasibility study 2003 to 2005 Cost estimated in 2007 Tk 10,161cr	After preparing detailed design, cost rises to Tk 20,507cr as rail lines included in plan; deadline fixed at 2015	Deadline extended last year to December 2019; cost goes up to Tk 30,193cr
Work for detailed design starts in 2009	Cost reviewed in 2015 rises to Tk 28,793cr; deadline fixed at 2018	Another extension of deadline. Govt wants to complete the bridge by June 2021

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The deadline for finishing the Padma bridge is going to be extended by more than a year largely due to the pandemic.

The current deadline of the fast-track project is June 2021

There is also a possibility that costs of the project may escalate as delays usually go hand in hand with cost increase. But the project implementing authority maintains that it will not increase from the current Tk 30,193 crore.

"It [construction of Padma bridge] would be completed within 2022," Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said yesterday after a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase that approved time extension for a supervision consultant of the bridge.

Construction of the bridge started in November, 2014, to connect the country's southwestern region with the capital via road and rail. Once in service, the 6.15km-long bridge will connect the capital with 21 southwestern districts. It is expected to boost the country's gross domestic product by 1.2 percent.

The minister said construction work could not go on properly due to the pandemic and unprecedented flood. So, the deadline for construction supervision consultant had to be extended. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Alauddin, a 58-year-old cancer patient from Laxmipur, waiting in front of Mugda Medical College and Hospital in the capital to finally give his sample for Covid-19 test yesterday. Since August 12, he has been denied treatment for cancer, as he could not have the test done for various reasons.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

শোক সংবাদ 🛴

আমরা গভীর দুঃখের সাথে জানাচ্ছি যে, বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, এলিট পেইন্ট এন্ড

কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড -এর ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান এবং সুপার গ্রুপ অব

কোম্পানীজ –এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব সেলিম আহমেদ –এর সহধর্মিনী ও সুপার

গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানীজ -এর মাননীয়া চেয়ারম্যান মহোদয়া জনাবা লুৎফুন্রেসা আহমেদ,

জিমি (৬০) ব্যাংককের বামরুনগ্রাদ হাসপাতালে ২৬ অগাষ্ট, ২০২০ ইং, রোজ বুধবার,

তাঁর মৃত্যুতে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত। মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা

#### Liaqat, two other cops sued over extortion

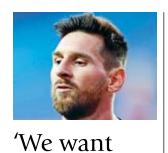
Court orders probe into murder claims against OC Pradeep, 22 others

#### STAR REPORT

A businessman of the port city yesterday sued seven people, including Major (retd) Sinha murder accused suspended subinspector Liaqat Ali and two other policemen, for allegedly extorting Tk 2 lakh from him and threatening to "kill him in a crossfire.

Jasim Uddin, the owner of Suchana Enterprise in the city's Sagarika BSCIC area, complained with the court of Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Salem Md Noman.

The court ordered the Deputy Commissioner (DB-North) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police to investigate the complaint and submit a report to it, said plaintiff's lawyer Jewel Das. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Messi to stay

Barca say in first

official response

Lionel Messi has not

informed Barcelona

AFP, Madrid

The **Baily** Star

## REFUGEE CAMPS IN COX'S BAZAR **Rohingyas tangled** up in crimes

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, back from Cox's Bazar

Three years on, crimes like murder, abduction, extortion and narcotics smuggling continue to multiply at the world's biggest refugee settlement in Cox's Bazar

Following the largest-ever influx of Rohingyas in August 2017, at least 76 criminal cases on various charges were filed against the members of the community in the last quarter of the year.

In 2018, this figure was 208 cases, and in

of the iceberg, as a large number of crimes -- including murder, abduction, and sexual harassment -- that take place inside the camps go unreported.

"We receive at least 10 to 12 complaints daily, including of murder, from the Rohingya camps but we fail to take any action as the Rohingyas are not interested to file any cases," said Md Hemayetul Islam, commanding officer of Armed Police Battalion (APBn-16). Hemayetul said they received a

complaint that a Rohingya man killed his

#### 'MURDERED' GIRL FOUND ALIVE IO closed over forced confession **OUR CORRESPONDENT**, N'ganj

Police yesterday closed the investigation officer (IO) of a case that showed a teenage girl of Narayanganj murdered while she was alive in real.

A three-member factfinding committee was also formed to conduct probes into the disturbing developments following recovery of the "murdered girl″.

সকল কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ

বিনীত



according to the club's newly-appointed sporting director, Ramon Planes. Messi asked Barca Tuesday to leave the club SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

coaches he will not attend

training on Wednesday,

2019, rose to 263.

In the first seven months of this year, 178 cases have already been filed against Rohingyas.

But law enforcers claim this is just the tip

wife last week but they failed to take any action as the victim's family did not want to register a case.

The majority of the Rohingyas are not SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Al Mamun of Sadar Model Police Station, the IO of the murder case, has been closed to ensure an SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Sub-inspector Shamim

এলিট পেইন্ট এন্ড কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড এবং সুপারগ্রুপ অব ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ

(ইন্যালিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্যা ইলাইহি রাজিউন)।

বাংলাদেশ সময় বিকালঃ ৩.৩০ ঘটিকায় ইন্তেকাল করেন।

করছি ও সকলের নিকট বিনীতভাবে দোয়ার দরখাস্ত জানাচ্ছি।

### Elite Paint

SUPER GROUP Quietly Developing the Mation



২৪ আগস্ট, ২০২০, একটি জাতীয় দৈনিকের প্রথম পৃষ্ঠায় 'ডিজিটাল ব্যবসার নতুন ফাঁদ ইন্ড্যালি' শিরোনামে প্রকাশিত সংবাদটি আমার দৃষ্টিগোচর হয়েছে। সংবাদে বাংলাদেশের সেরা ই-কমার্স প্রতিষ্ঠান ইজ্যালি সম্পর্কে নানা ধরিসংখ্যান তুলে ধরা হয়েছে। সংবাদটি আপাতত দৃষ্টিতে খুব বেশি নেতিবাচক মনে না হলেও, চটকদার শিরোনাম দিয়ে বিস্রান্তি সৃষ্টি করা হয়েছে। সংবাদে কোমাও স্পষ্ট করে কোনো অভিযোগ না থাকলেও, 'হতে পারে', 'আশঙ্কা করছেন' বলে অনেক আশস্কার কথা বলা হয়েছে। কিছু জায়গায় পরিসংখ্যানগত ভুল তথ্যও দেয়া হয়েছে। ইত্যালি নিয়ে পত্রিকাটির প্রকাশিত সংবাদের ব্যাখ্যা এখানে উপস্থাপন করছি।

ইন্ড্যালি'র পেইড অ্যাপ ক্যাপিটাল ইতোমধ্যে ১ (এক) কোটি টাকা করা হয়েছে। চলতি বছরের মার্চ মাসে এটা করা হয়েছে আমাদের অফারগুলো দেওয়া হয় নতুন একটি স্টার্ট-আগ হিসেবে বাজারে জায়গা করার জন্য। কারণ, স্টার্ট-আপ এবং প্রযুক্তিগত প্র্যাটফর্মের সাথে সাধারণ মানুষ পরিচিত ছিল না। 'গ্র্যাব' বা 'গো-চে'কের মতো রাইড শেয়ারিং প্র্যাটফর্মগুলো প্রথমে গ্রাহকদের বিনামূল্যে রাইড অফার করেও গ্রাহক আকৃষ্ট করতে পারছিল না। আমরা ইড্যালিতেও প্রথম দিকে যখন অফার দেই, তখনই গ্রাহকেরা ইড্যালি'তে মুর্চ্মুত্ব অর্ভার দেওয়া তক্ত করে বিষয়টি মোটেও এমন না। গ্রাহকদেরকে নতুন একটি প্র্যাটফর্মে নিয়ে আসা, প্রযুক্তির সাথে পরিচিত করানোর মতো উদ্দেশ্যই ছিল অফার দেওয়ার মল কারণ। ভিন্নরকম কোনো উদ্দেশ্য আমাদের কখনই ছিল না, এখনও নেই।

সংবাদে একজন স্বনামধন্য সরকারি কর্মকর্তার ফেসবুক স্ট্রাটাসকে একটি বক্তব্য আকারে উপস্থাপন করা হয়েছে। উক্ত স্ট্রাটাসটি এই কর্মকর্তার একটি 'ব্যক্তিগত অভিমত' ছিল যা তার নিজস্ব ধারণাপ্রসুত। স্ট্রাটাসটি বক্তব্য আকারে নেওয়ার আগে তার সাথে আলোচনা করা হয় নি।

কিছ পণ্য গ্রাহকদের ডেলিডারি দিয়ে বাকি বেশিরভাগ পণ্যই গ্রাহকদের দেওয়া হয় না এমন যে বিষয়টি প্রতিবেদনে উপস্থাপন করা হয়েছে সেই বিষয়টিও সত্য নয়। কারণ এমনটা হলে, আমাদের আজ যে অগ্রগতি সেটা আমরা অর্জন করতে পারতাম না। ব্যবসার অন্যতম মূল চালিকাশক্তি গ্রাহক। আমরা যদি বেশিরভাগ গ্রাহককেই পণ্য না দিতাম তাহলে গ্রাহকেরাই আমাদের থেকে মুখ ফিরিয়ে নিতো। এত বিশাল সংখ্যক গ্রাহক শ্রেণী আমরা অর্জন করতে পারতাম না।

ক্যাশব্যাকের ফরম্যাট এই কারণেই করা হয়েছে যে, ইড্যালি একটি মার্কেটপ্লেস, যেখানে ক্রেতা-বিক্রেতার সমাগম দরকার হয়। প্রায় সবধরনের পণ্য ও সেবা বিক্রেতাদের বিক্রয় নিষ্ঠিত করার জন্যই 'ক্যাশব্যাক'-এর মতো অফার দেওয়া হয়েছে। ক্যাশব্যাকের যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী গ্রাহকদের জন্য সর্বদা উন্মুক্ত। ইত্যালি'তে এখন যে পরিমাণ সেলার তথা বিক্রেতা আছেন, তা আমাদের মতো সমসাময়িক অনেক দেশি-বিদেশি ই-কমার্স প্রতিষ্ঠানের নেই। মাত্র দুই বছরেরও কম সময়ে আমরা এই সফলতা অর্জন করেছি। এদের মাঝে প্রায় দুই হাজারের মতো এক্সপ্রেস শ ব্যবসায়ীরা আছেন। করোনাকালীন সময়ে ফিজিক্যাল শপ যেখানে বন্ধ হয়ে যাচ্ছিল তখন আমাদের প্র্যাটফর্মের মাধ্যমে এসব সেলাররা তাদের ব্যবসা অব্যাহত রাখার পথ খুঁজে পান। এছাড়াও দেশের বিভিন্ন স্বনামধন্য এবং বড় পরিমাপের প্রতিষ্ঠানসহ প্রায় ২০ হাজার বিক্রেতা আছেন। যার মধ্যে দেশীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক স্বনামধন্য বড় প্রতিষ্ঠান যেমন বসুন্ধরা গ্রুপ, ওয়ালটন, ফেয়ার ইলেন্ট্রনিকস, এসিআই, স্বপ্ন, টিভিএস, নিটল ইত্যাদি রয়েছে।

সেলাররাও অনেক সময় ই-কমার্স প্র্যাকটিসের সাথে পরিচিত না। ফলে কিছু সময় আমাদের পণ্য ডেলিডারি হতে সময় লেগেছে। তবে পণা বা পণ্যের মূল্য কোনটিই গ্রাহক ফেরত পান নি এমন ঘটনা ঘটে নি। পত্রিকাটির উক্ত প্রতিবেদন অনুসারেই, আমরা প্রায় ১৫০০ কোটি টাকা মূল্যের পণ্য বিক্রি করেছি অর্থাৎ পণ্য দিয়েছি। আরেকটি বিষয় হচ্ছে, অর্ডারের সংখ্যা অনেক বেশি হওয়াতে কিছু গ্রাহক আগে এবং দ্রুত পণ্য পেয়ে যান। আর কিছু গ্রাহক হয়তো তুলনামূলকভাবে দেরিতে পান। তবে এর মাঝে গ্রাহক তাদের অ্যাকাউন্টে ইড্যালি ব্যালেঙ্গ পেয়ে যান এবং সেই ব্যালেন্স ব্যবহার করতে পারেন। এমনও দেখা গেছে, গ্রাহক অর্ডারকৃত পণ্য পাওয়ার আগেই ক্যাশব্যাকের টাকা দিয়ে অন্য কোনো পণ্য কিনে ডেলিভারি পেয়ে গেছেন। অর্থাৎ অর্ডারকৃত পণ্যের মূলোর সমপরিমাণ অন্য কোনো পণ্য গ্রাহক সহজেই ভোগ করছেন। আর দেরিতে পণ্য পাওয়ার যে অভিযোগ তা আমাদের অর্ডারের তুলনায় খুবই কম: যা ১ শতাংশের নিচে।

ইভ্যালি থেকে গ্রাহকেরা কেনাকাটা করলে ইভ্যালি বিক্রেতাদের কাছ থেকে একটা কমিশন নিয়ে থাকে। যেহেতু একসাথে অর্ডারের সংখ্যা অনেক বেশি থাকে তাই কমিশনের অংকটাও বড় সংখ্যায় হয়। এই কমিশনকেই আমরা ক্যাশব্যাকের মতো অফারে দিয়ে থাকি। অনেক বড় বড় ব্র্যান্ড কোম্পানি তাদের পণ্যের মূল দামের থেকে ছাড় দিতে

সেসব ব্র্যান্ডের পণ্য বিক্রি করতে তাই ক্যাশব্যাক ছাড়া আর কোন ছাড় দেওয়ার সুযোগ থাকে না। সেটাকে আমরা 'কাস্টমার আকুইজেশন কষ্ট' থেকে বিনিয়োগ আকারে খরচ করি। ক্যাশব্যাকের টাকা বিনিময়যোগ্য মুদ্রা নয়। এটা দিয়ে তথু ইভ্যালি'তে পন্য ক্রয় করা যায়।

যা আমরা অন্য কোনো পণ্য ক্রয়ের বিপরীতে বোনাস আকারে দিয়ে থাকি। আমাদের আইনজীবীদের পরামর্শ অনুযায়ী, এই অফার পলিসি দেশের কোম্পানি আইন এবং অন্যান্য সকল প্রচলিত আইনকে ভঙ্গ করে না।

পদ্য সরবরাহ নিয়ে আবারও বলতে হচ্ছে যে, এখানে হাজার হাজার বিক্রেতা এবং লাখ লাখ গ্রাহক রয়েছেন। প্রতিদিন আমরা হাজারের অংকে সফল ডেলিভারি দিচ্ছি গ্রাহকদের। এরপরেও এ বিষয়ে যে অভিযোগ আছে, তা পৃথিবীর অন্যান্য উন্নত দেশেও প্রতিষ্ঠিত বড় বড় ই-কমার্সগুলোতে থাকা অভিযোগের মতোই। আমাজন বা ফ্লিপকার্টের ফেসবুক পেইজে গিয়েও দেখা যায় সহজেই। বিশ্বের খনামধন্য এবং প্রতিষ্ঠিত ই-কমার্স প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলো যেভাবে রিটার্ন-রিফান্ড পলিসি নিয়ে কাজ করে আমরাও সেভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছি।

### ৩৭ লক্ষ নিবন্ধিত গ্রাহক দেশ সেরা ই-কমার্স



এরপরেও গ্রাহকদের সেবা বিশেষ করে ডেলিডারি এবং রিফান্ড ইস্যু সমাধান করার জন্য আমরা প্রতিনিয়ত আমাদের লোকবল বাড়িয়ে যাচ্ছি। বিপুল সংখ্যক গ্রাহকদের লাখ লাখ অর্ডার সম্পর্কিত বিষয় সমাধানের জন্য বিশাল লোকবল, অফিস স্পেস দরকার। আমাদের যাত্রাকাল দুই বছরেরও কম সময়। তারপরেও আমরা আমাদের কলেবর বৃদ্ধিতে কাজ করে যাচিহ। বর্তমানে আমাদের কল সেন্টারে ৭০ জন, কোয়েরি ম্যানেজমেন্টে ৭০ জন এবং সামাজিক যোগাযোগ মাধ্যম তদারকির জন্য ৫০ জনের একটি টিম কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। আমরা অনুধাবন করি যে, এই লোকবল অপ্রতুল। তবে আমরা প্রতিনিয়ত চাকরি প্রার্থীদের ইন্টারভিউ নিয়ে যাচ্ছি। আমরা কথা দিচ্ছি, আগামী ৫ মাসের মধ্যে চার গুণ করার চেষ্টা করব।

ভোক্তা অধিকারে আমাদের নিয়ে যেসকল অভিযোগ আসে সেগুলোর মধ্যে যেগুলো সমাধানযোগ্য, আমরা দ্রুতই সেগুলো সমাধান করে দেই।

তারপরেও আমরা দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছি। তবে আমরা বাস্তবতা অনুধাবনের আবেদন করছি যে, মাসে ১০ লাখ অর্ডার নিয়ে কাজ করা প্রতিষ্ঠানে দিনশেষে কিছু অভিযোগ থাকবেই। প্রায় দুই দশকের কোম্পানি আমাজনেও এধরনের সমস্যা আছে। তার বিপরীতে একটি দেশীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং নতুন একটি স্টার্ট-আপ হিসেবে আমরা এই বিষয়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সহযোগিতা কামনা করছি।

ই-কমার্স নীতিমালা নিয়ে যে বিষয়টা প্রতিবেদনে উঠে এসেছে আমরা সেটিকে সাধুবাদ জানাই। এর আগ পর্যন্ত আমরা ই-ক্যাবের সদস্য প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে তাদের দেওয়া দিক নির্দেশনা অক্ষরে অক্ষরে পালন করে কাজ করে যাচ্ছি। ভবিষ্যতে কোনো নীতিমালা আসলে আমরা সেটাকে সাধুবাদ জানাই। এটা সামগ্রিক ইন্ডাস্টির জন্য ভাল হবে বলে আমরা মনে করি

ইভ্যালিকে 'এমএলএম' কোম্পানি আখ্যা দেওয়ার চেষ্টা করা হয়েছে প্রতিবেদনে। আমরা স্পষ্টভাষায় এর প্রতিবাদ করছি এবং নিন্দা জানাই। মান্টিলেভেল মার্কেটিং তথা বহু স্তর বিশিষ্ট বিপদনের কথা যেটা বলা হয় তার সাথে ইন্ড্যালির কার্যক্রমের কোনো ধরনের মিল নেই। বরং পণ্যের উৎপাদক বা সরবরাহকারী পর্যায় থেকে সরাসরি গ্রাহক পর্যায়ে যেন বিভিন্ন স্তর কমে যায় সেটাই আমাদের বিজনেস মডিউল। স্তর কমিয়েই আমরা পণ্যে অফার দিয়ে গ্রাহক পর্যায়ে পৌছাতে পারি। অর্থাৎ ইত্যালির বিজনেস মডিউল এবং এমএলএম পদ্ধতি সম্পূর্ণ আলাদা। আমরা পণ্য বিক্রি করিয়ে দেওয়ার শর্তে কাউকে কোনো ধরনের কমিশন দেই না। ক্রেতা-বিক্রেতা নিজেনের মধ্যে সরাসরি পণ্য কেনাকাটা করেন। আমরা শুধু একটি প্ল্যাটফর্ম হিসেবে কাজ করি, যে প্ল্যাটফর্ম ক্রেতা-বিক্রেতার মাঝে সেতুবন্ধন হিসেবে কাজ করে। গ্রাহক এবং বিক্রেতার মধ্যেকার স্তর কমিয়েই যে মুনাফা আমরা করি সেটাকেই আমরা অফারের আলোকে বিনিয়োগ করি।

মানি লভারিং এর মতো অপরাধ ইত্যালি প্রাটফর্মে হওয়ার কোনো সুযোগ নেই। আমাদের এখানে গ্রাহক তথু ভিজিটাল মাধ্যমে মূল্য পরিশোধ করতে পারেন। এখানে কোনো প্রকার ক্যাশ টাকার লেনদেন নেই। মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং, কার্ড পেমেন্ট অথবা সরাসরি ব্যাংক ডিপোজিট করতে পারেন। অর্থাৎ প্রতিটি টাকা ট্রেসেবল এবং প্রতিটি টাকার হিসেব থাকে। এখানে প্রতিটি টাকা কোথা থেকে আসছে এবং কোথায় যাচ্ছে তার হিসেব যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ সহজেই নিতে পারেন। তাই আমরা মানি লন্ডারিং-এর সাথে ইন্ডালির নাম জড়িয়ে প্রতিষ্ঠানের সুনাম ক্ষুন্ন করার প্রয়াসের নিন্দা জানাই

প্রকাশিত প্রতিবেদনে ইন্ড্যালি ব্যালেন্সকে 'ইন্ড্যালি ওয়ালেট' বা ডিজিটাল ওয়ালেট আকারে দেখানোর চেষ্টা করা হয়েছে। আমরা স্পষ্টভাষায় বলতে চাই যে, নীতিমালা এবং আইনের আলোকে 'ওয়ালেট' এর সংজ্ঞা আছে তার সাথে আমাদের 'ব্যালেন্স' এর কোন মিল নেই। ওয়ালেটের অন্যতম শর্ত হচ্ছে, ওয়ালেটধারী চাইলেই টাকা ক্যাশ করে অন্যত্র নিয়ে যেতে পারেন বা রিচার্জ করতে পারেন। ইন্ড্যালি ব্যালেন্সে এই সুযোগই নেই। তাই ইন্ড্যালি ব্যালেন্স ওয়ালেট না।

সব শেষে বলতে চাই, এই সংবাদে ই-কমার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশন ই-ক্যাব, বেসিস বা সংশ্লিষ্ট মন্ত্রণালয়ের কোনো বক্তব্য নেয়া হয়নি। ইড্যালি একটি দেশীয় উদ্যোগে এবং বিনিয়োগে পরিচালিত প্রতিষ্ঠান। প্রায় ৭০০ কর্মী সরাসরি এই প্রতিষ্ঠানে কাজ করছেন। এছাড়াও প্রায় চার হাজার ইন্ড্যালি হিরো ফ্রিল্যাঙ্গ ভিত্তিতে কাজ করছেন। ইন্ড্যালির কর্মীদের মাঝে প্রায় ৪২ শতাংশ নারী কর্মী। ইত্যালি যে তথু মধ্যবিত্ত আয়ের মানুষদের নানান ধরনের পণ্য কেনার স্বপ্ন পূরণ করেছে তাই নয় বরং অনেক মেধাবী তরুপের কর্মসংস্থানের ব্যবস্থা করেছে। করোনার মতো সময়ে অর্থনীতির চাঁকা যখন স্থবির অবস্থায় ছিল তখন অফলাইন সেলারদের অনলাইনে আসার মাধ্যমে আয়ের পথ সৃষ্টি করে দিয়েছে। বিভিন্ন সামাজিক প্রয়োজনে সামাজিক দায়বদ্ধতা থেকে ইন্ড্যালি নিজ অবস্থান এবং সামর্থ্য থেকে অবদান রাখার চেষ্টা করেছে। এমন একটি দেশীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান যার বয়স দুই বছরও নয়, তার বিষয়ে আমরা সকলের সংবেদনশীল প্রতিক্রিয়া আশা করছি। আমরা বিশ্বাস করি, আমাদের প্রতি সকলের সহযোগিতা অব্যাহত থাকলে ইত্যালি আরও বড় হবে, সফল হবে। যার সুফল পাবে এই দেশ, এই দেশের মানুষ।

> মোহাম্মদ রাসেল ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, ইভ্যালি ডটকম লিমিটেড



## 6-point demand brainchild of Bangabandhu alone: PM

#### UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the historic six-point demand was solely the brainchild of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and nobody else was involved in formulating this crucial political programme that led the to the county's independence.

"Many people want to say many things regarding the six-point demand ... some say it was done following suggestions from that person, some others say it was formulated with the advice from those persons. But I know for sure, it was his [Bangabandhu] brainchild," she said.

addressing a PM was The programme marking the distribution of awards among the winners of a quiz competition, organised on the occasion of the Six-point Demand Day (June 7).

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Birth Celebration National Centenary Implementation Committee organised the event at the capital's International Mother Language Institute. The premier joined the programme virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said Bangabandhu was arrested in 1958 and released on December 17, 1969. At that time, politics was banned. Bangabandhu could not go outside Dhaka, and he joined Alfa Insurance Company.

She mentioned that Tajuddin Ahmad was also under arrest at that time. After release, he went to Fatulla of Narayanganj to join his job. Bangabandhu himself went to Narayanganj, brought Tajuddin back to Dhaka and gave him a job at the insurance company.

The premier, who was studying at Dhaka University then, said the Father of the Nation had appointed Mohammad Hanif as his PA at Alfa

#### Insurance Company.

"Bangabandĥu úsed to think, write down those and gave those write-ups to Hanif for typing out. Here only Hanif knew about this [six-point demand] as he typed out that ... nobody else would know about it."

Hasina said the six-point demand came from thoughts of Bangabandhu after the 1965 India-Pakistan war that lasted for three weeks and the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) was totally left defenseless.

She also said after the arrest of Bangabandhu and other frontranking Awami League leaders due to the announcement of the six-point demand, Begum Fazilatunnesa Âujib had played a great role in publicising and advancing the movement over these demands.

The PM said the August-15, 1975, massacre had stopped Bangladesh's advancement.

Talking about the August-15 brutal killings of Bangabandhu and his family members, Hasina said the defeated force had emerged in the country through those killings and they tried to diminish its victory.

"I think there's no scope for that now ... history takes its own course . Nobody can erase that and that is established today.'

The PM said the government wanted to advance the country following the

path shown by the Father of the Nation. State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak also spoke on the occasion.

A documentary on Bangabandhu and the six-point demand was also screened at the programme.

Some 100 competitors received certificates, signed by the PM, and prize money for securing various positions in the quiz competition under different categories.



Paiksha Maijhail Government Primary School in Tangail lies in ruins after being ravaged by the Jamuna. Many school buildings in the district have suffered a similar fate due to river erosion and ongoing floods. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

### 'We want Messi to stay'

FROM PAGE 1

he has been with for 20 seasons, since he was 13 years old.

"Messi has not informed us that he was not going to show up to training," Planes said during the official unveiling of Portuguese striker Joao Trincao. "But all exchanges will remain between the two parties and out of respect we will not communicate on what is said because we are putting all our efforts in this dialogue.

Planes took over his post from Eric Abidal, who was sacked a day after manager Quique Setien was released following the humiliating 8-2 Champions League quarter-final defeat by Bayern Munich, which left

Barca without a trophy for the first time since 2007.

Messi, Planes insisted, in the first official club reaction to the Argentinian's want-away demand, was "important news".

"But what we think, and we've said it many times, is that we see Messi as a Barca player".

Planes added: "Barca has rebuilt itself several times in its history, and it has always come back more powerful. Our idea is to do it once again, around the best player in the world. You have to have enormous respect for what Messi is and for his history."

When pressed about the clause that would allow Messi to leave the Nou

Camp for no fee at all despite his contract featuring a 700-million-euro buyout clause, Planes said: "We're not thinking about any clause in his contract. Messi's marriage to Barca has brought a lot to both, a lot of joy to the supporters and, internally, we are working to convince Messi to find the best solution for Barca and for Messi.'

Planes stressed that there was "not an argument between Messi and Barca neither deserves it".

"We are working to make Barca a winner. There is no division within the club over Leo. Anyone who knows football wants him to stay here to win again. He's a winner."

## Padma bridge

#### FROM PAGE 1

'The tenure of the consultant -- Korea Expressway Corporation and Associates -- is going to expire this August [this month]. So, we have given approval for 34 months' extension [from September 2020 to June 2023] at the cost of Tk 348.1 crore," the minister said.

In November 2014, the government signed a four-year deal with the joint venture firm for supervising the construction of the bridge and river training at a cost of Tk 383.15 crore.

Asked if the cost for extending the consultancy service would increase the cost for the bridge, the finance minister said, "No. The [consultancy] cost would be adjusted in the total project cost."

Replying to another question on whether the project deadline would be extended, he said yes and added that they had a plan to complete the project within 2021 but Covid-19 turned everything upside down.

#### PROGRESS HALTED

When work of most development projects was suspended due to the pandemic, Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project work continued.

But it suffered due to lack of workers

As of December last year, the overall progress of the project was 76.5 percent. It reached 81 percent in the last seven months, project documents say.

The progress of the main bridge and river training was 85.5 percent and 66 percent in December. Until July, it was 89.25 percent and 74 percent, the documents claim.

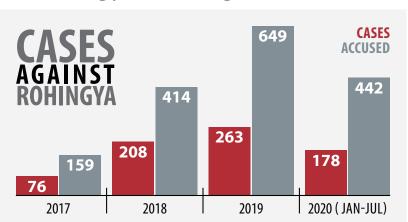
Contacted, Belayet Hossain, secretary of bridges division, said, "Deadline of the Padma bridge project would be extended. We are considering to extend

it for one more year." Asked whether the project cost would increase, he said, "We don't think the project cost would increase if we adjust cost of different sectors [of the project]."

Prof Khan Mahmud Amanat of civil engineering department of Buet said escalation of project cost mostly depends on the contract with the contractors.

"As the contractors didn't seek review of the contract cost so far, that's why the project authority can say that the project cost will not increase," he said. "If contractors seek review of the contract cost due to the time extension, then the issue of the rise in project cost will arise It can't be said right now," he told this correspondent yesterday.

## Rohingyas tangled up in crimes



FROM PAGE 1

officially recognised as refugees by the Bangladesh government -- meaning they have no legal rights in the country and that's why filing a case can be daunting.

"They hold internal meetings led

superintendent of police of Cox's Bazar, told The Daily Star that they have two special battalions (APBn-14 and APBn-16) to oversee law and order in the camps.

"We only investigate the cases filed

Rohingyas in relation. Hemayetul Islam, CO of APBn-16,

said that they are working closely to address the crimes and ensure security but often face difficulties as they have

no outpost inside the camps. "We have already held meetings several times with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and placed requisitions for an outpost and vehicles to ensure full-fledged security in the camps," he said.

Once an outpost is installed and police can stay inside the camps around the clock, then they will be able to monitor activities closely and address these issues, he added. UNAUTHORISED SHOPS,

#### **INFORMAL WORK**

According to sources, there are around 10,000 unauthorised shops inside the Rohingya camps.

These sell daily essentials such as with police stations. Still, we are on vegetables and meat, as well as more luxurious products such as electronics These shops, run without trade licenses and which do not pay tax, are owned by locals and Rohingya leaders such as majhis who collect tolls. Clashes often ensue inside the camps when extortionists harass shop owners, according to locals and police sources. Bazlur Rahman, head majhi of camp 26, told The Daily Star on Friday that they have learned about the involvement of some majhis in yaba smuggling and collecting tolls with criminal groups.

#### Daily deaths from Covid go up again

54 die in a day; cases cross 300,000-mark

MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN

The death from Covid-19 jumped yesterday after a month, according to the health directorate data.

The directorate reported that 54 people breathed their last in 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday.

The number of confirmed cases also passed the 3-lakh mark.

Yesterday's death toll is the third highest daily death since the government reported the first casualty in the country on March 18.

Earlier, July 26 saw the same number of deaths, while July 5 and 7 saw the second highest deaths -- 55.

The highest 64 deaths were reported on June 30, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

The number of deaths from the highly infectious virus rose to 4,082 -around 1.35 percent of all confirmed cases.

With 2,519 more people testing positive for Covid-19, the confirmed cases reached 3,02,147, which is 20.34 percent of all people tested since January 21.

Some 15,070 samples were tested in he 24 hours.

According to a DGHS press release, the positivity rate was 16.72 percent yesterday, a significant reduction in nore than a month.

Experts say it indicates that the ransmission may be decreasing in hotspot cities.

The majority of the tests are being done in Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Chattogram cities, and the positivity rate is now low there. So, it can be said the transmission is slowing down there, said Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist, told The Daily Star yesterday.

#### IO closed

FROM PAGE 1

impartial investigation into the incident, said Zayedul Alam, superintendent of Narayanganj police.

Family members of murder and gang-rape accused said SI Shamim intimidated three accused in the case of making confessional statement before the court. The incident surfaced as the girl was found alive after 51 days since

she went missing. Zahed Parvez, additional superintendent of police (Detective Branch), was made the head of the factfinding committee.

Talking to The Daily Star Zahed Parved said that Additional Superintendent Of Police (Crime) KM Mossaraf Hossain would submit the probe report against SI Shamim.

He also said that they visited the crime scene and also talked to the family members of the victim.

"We will talk to every one for the sake of a proper investigation. But it will take time," said Zahed Parvez.

Meanwhile, Abdul Hia, the new IO of the case, said that he got all the documents related to the case and was not in a position to say any further details. A team of police rescued the teenage girl who was said to have been murdered alive on Monday, 51 days after she went missing from Kushiyara area of the upazila and brought her to Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station.

Chinese and local -- and poor supply of construction materials since January, said officials involved with the project.

The project authority was able to bring back pace after Chinese nationals returned to work in May following the end of the two-month shutdown. But strong currents in the Padma started causing problems, they said.

No span could not be installed after June 10, when the 31st span was installed, due to strong currents, officials said.

Besides, at least 192 railway stingers and 220 roadway decks, supposed to be used for construction of the bridge, went into the Padma on July 31 due to erosion at a yard.

Although the erosion would not affect the bridge, which was nearly 2km off the bridge site, it might cause some delay as the stingers would have to be imported from Luxembourg, they added.

The original cost -- Tk 10,161 crore for the bridge was estimated in 2007 on the basis of a feasibility study. After several revisions, the cost rose to Tk 30,193 crore.

The World Bank withdrew its \$1.2 billion loan in 2012 over allegations of corruption conspiracies, which the government refutes.

Bangladesh then moved to build the bridge with its own funds.

Meanwhile, the purchase committee also approved five more proposals involving Tk 447 crore.

Two of the proposals are for procuring furniture and home appliance for residential facilities at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project while the other three are for contracts for publishing textbooks to be distributed among students for free.

Das, over killing a man in the name of

deceased, filed the complaint yesterday.

the court directed the incumbent OC

Nurul Hossain, 45, brother of the

After a hearing over the compliant,

by majhis [Rohingya leaders assigned to help maintain order in the camps] and just perform the burial [of the victim]," he told The Daily Star last week.

Shalish-style informal justice mechanisms led by majhis take place in many cases and do not reach the police or even the camp in-charge.

On August 21, a Rohingya "criminal group" suddenly came out from the hills and started firing at Unchiprang camp 22. As law enforcers started gathering in the camp, the "criminal group" again went into hiding after firing 15 to 20 rounds, according to sources

During the firing, two Rohingya men -- Block C residents Shukur, 20, and Nur Hossain, 45 -- suffered bullet injuries and needed treatment.

However, no case has vet been registered with the police.

Abdur Rahman, Abu Sadek, Md Amin and Jafor Alam -- all living in Wykong Puthibonia Rohingya

Two pistols, seven bullets and machetes were recovered from their possession, said Anwar Hossain, camp-in-charge of APBn.

"Some unruly Rohingya men were trying to establish supremacy in the Rohingya camp by creating chaos," he said, adding that they fired blanks to create panic.

A case was, however, filed in this connection.

Due to crime incidents such as these, locals living in Teknaf and Ukhia -- where the camps are located have expressed concerns over their safety.

Chowdhury, Kabir Jahangir chairman of Rajapalong union parishad, told The Daily Star on Thursday, "We are in fear as they [Rohingyas] are organised and they are gradually spreading to various parts of the district.

"We often find thousands of Rohingyas moving outside the camps. If they attack us, then who will protect us from them?"

The government does not permit Rohingyas to move freely outside the camps -- though this has been unevenly enforced over the years, restrictions have tightened recently. ABM Masud Hossain,

alert and take action whenever any specific information reaches us," he and gold ornaments. added

#### MAJOR CRIMES

Police and local sources said crimes inside the refugee camps mainly take place over sexual harassment cases, including rape and that related to extramarital affairs, narcotics smuggling, and hundi.

A high ranking police official who works inside the camps said many Rohingyas living in other countries send money to their families in Bangladesh.

"But they mainly send money through hundi as they have no direct account service. The receiver sometimes does not pay the full amount to the family after receiving the money," he said.

For this reason, cheated family members often hire local criminal groups to abduct the person and take them away in the hilly areas and hold them there until they give up the rest of the money, said the official.

According to the police database, nine abduction cases were registered against 39 Rohingyas in 2018, six cases against 40 Rohingyas in 2019, and one against three Rohingyas so far this year.

Besides, some members of the Rohingya community often get locked in clashes -- sometimes fatal -- over narcotics smuggling, claimed several police sources.

The police database shows 22 narcotics cases filed in 2017, which jumped to 95 cases in 2018, 152 cases in 2019, and 136 cases in the first seven months of this year.

Lt Col Ali Haidar Azad Ahmed, commanding officer of 34 Border Guard Bangladesh Battalion, told The Daily Star on Friday, "Total control of the yaba trade has gone into the hands of the Rohingya. They now have investors and carriers inside the camps.

"They have their syndicate members on the other side of the border [Myanmar]. Through the syndicates, they smuggle yaba inside the camps.'

According to the database, around 67 Rohingyas were killed in gunfights with law enforcers in the last two years for their alleged involvement in narcotics smuggling and robbery.

From January 1 to August 20 this year, the 34 BGB battalion has recovered around 14.20 lakh yaba tablets and detained some 21

"We are working with law enforcers and the local administration to address the situation and make the camps crime-free," he added.

Rohingyas are also hired by locals to work outside the camps -- mostly as day labourers in the fields or as domestic help.

During a visit to the Cox's Bazar area, this correspondent met a local who claimed that he would be able to provide Rohingya domestic help "of any age".

He said, depending on the employer, he charged between Tk 2,000 and Tk 5,000 for this service.

Rohingya men also work as day labourers in various parts of Cox's Bazar district.

Every morning, they go out of the camps for work and come back in the evening, claimed a district ruling

party leader, requesting anonymity. Mohammad Shamsuddoza, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, told The Daily Star on Sunday that the number of crimes reported is high because there is close monitoring but the situation is actually not that bad

in the camps. "Still, we are holding meetings with law enforcers regularly and asked them to take control so that not a single incident is reported from the camps," he said.

"We have also taken steps to ensure APBn requirements that they placed for duty in camps and it is already under process," said Shamsuddoza.

Regarding the unauthorised shops and movement and work outside the camps, Shamsuddoza said all law enforcement -- police, APBn, Rapid Action Battalion, and the NSI -- are working to address the issues.

[Our Cox's Bazar correspondent Mohammad Ali Jinnat contributed to the report]

#### JKG's Sabrina Errant officials to face action for issuing her two NIDs

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will take action if any of its officials is found involved in handing two National Identity cards to JKG Health Care's Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury, who is now in jail on charge of issuing fake Covid-19 certificates

"Action will be taken against the officials and other staffers if found involved in issuing the two NIDs, EC Senior Secretary Md Alamgir said yesterday, while replying to reporters' questions.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has been looking into illegal assets of Sabrina and her husband JKG Chief Executive Officer Ariful Chowdhury.

During the investigation, ACC officials found that Sabrina had two NIDs, said sources at the anti-graft watchdog.

The ACC, on July 13, had begun he enquiry against Sabrina and her husband.

On August 19, ACC Deputy Director Selina Akhter Moni in a letter requested the EC to inform her whether anyone could have two NIDs.

The EC secretary said they received the ACC's letter. "The NID wing of the EC looks after the matter. We've asked them to send them a reply by today," he said.

"If the matter of dual NIDs turns out to be true and if any EC official is found involved, we'll take action," he said.

Sources said Sabrina got two NIDs for two different areas. She gave different particulars in the two NIDs.

In one NID, she said her date of birth is December 2, 1978, while it is December 2, 1983, in the other. She also used different names as her spouse.

On August 20, a Dhaka court framed charges against eight people, including Sabrina and Arif, in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates.

The trial of the case is scheduled to begin today.

#### Liaqat, two other cops sued FROM PAGE 1 of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar

"gunfight".

#### The accused are: suspended SI Liaqat,

Nazrul, sub-inspector of Satkania Police Station, former SI Hannan, SM Sahabuddin, Bishnupad Palit, Kajol Kanti Baidya and Ziaur Rahman.

Sahabuddin, Bishnupad, Kajol and Ziaur Rahman are the business rivals of the plaintiff, said Jewel.

Jasim Uddin, 55, is the son of late Nekbar Ali Sikdar of Patenga area in the city

According to the case statement, Jashim filed a case after a burglary took place at his office in June 2014.

SI Liaqat, who became the investigation officer of the case, initially took Tk 50,000 from Jashim during the investigation, the statement reads.

On June 14, 2014, Liaqat asked Jashim to come over at Laldighi DB office and requested him to "compromise" the case.

As he refused to do so, Liaqat demanded Tk 5 lakh from him and tortured him inside the police station, the statement reads.

Later, Liaqat took him Patenga Police Station and threatened him to "kill him in a crossfire," Jashim claimed in the case statement.

Later, Jashim gave Liaqat Tk 2 lakh and was taken to Sadarghat Police Station where he was shown arrested in an extortion case, it said.

Jashim was sent to jail in the case and he got bail after 19 days, the statement savs

#### COMPLAINT AGAINST PRADEEP

A complaint has been filed with a court in Cox's Bazar against 23 people, including former officer-in-charge (OC)

of Teknaf Police Station to submit detailed report of the cases that were filed by police following the "gunfight" incident. Judge of the Cox's Bazar Senior

Judicial Magistrate Court-3 Mohammad Helal Uddin came up with the directive yesterday.

Of the accused, 16 are policemen. Of them, some are still working at Teknaf Police Station, while some others have been transferred.

In his complaint, Nurul said his brother Mahmudul Haque was a Saudi expatriate. After returning to Bangladesh in 2019, police demanded Tk 10 lakh from him as extortion.

As he did not pay the money, police on March 28, 2019 picked up Mahmudul. Later, the victim's family members paid Tk 5 lakhs to police. But police killed Mahmudul on March 31, 2019 in the name of "gunfight", the complaint read.

Contacted, Nurul said, "My brother was not accused in any case. He was killed in a planned way in the name of a gunfight. Following the killing, police kept threatening our family members."

"We did not dare to file any compliant due to the insecurity of our lives. Now, the opportunity has come. That is why, we have filed complaints now," he added.

#### On Tuesday, police arrested six Rohingya men in possession of arms following a raid at a refugee camp in Teknaf. The arrestees are Nur Hossain, Mohammad Alam,

Refugee Camp.

#### BANGABANDHU CORNER JS body formed to probe graft in procurement RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary watchdog yesterday formed a sub-committee to investigate alleged widespread corruption in purchasing books for setting up Bangabandhu Corner at all government primary schools.

The parliamentary standing committee on primary and mass education has asked the four-member sub-committee, headed by ruling Awami League MP Nazrul Islam Babu (Narayanganj-2) to submit its report before the committee within a month.

The other members of the subcommittee are AL MP Ali Azam (Bhola-2), JSD's Shirin Akhter (Feni-1) and BNP's Mosharraf Hossain (Bogura-4).

At the beginning of the meeting -- held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, a number of MPs including Shirin Akhtar and Mosharraf Hossain raised the alleged irregularities in purchasing books for around 65,000 primary schools across the country.

They demanded that the parliamentary body form an investigation committee to inquire into the matter and identify persons involved in the massive corruption. Other SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A mobile court of the monitoring and enforcement unit of the Department of Environment yesterday fined MM Accessories in Mirpur's Pallabi area Tk 2 lakh, for setting up a plastic factory in a residential area.

рното AMRAN HOSSAIN

## EC Mahbub now opposes separate law for party reg

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar is now opposing Election Commission's move to have separate law for political parties getting registered.

The EC prepared the draft of "Registration of Political Parties Act-2020", repealing the chapter VIA of the Representation of the People Order-1972

The RPO until now deals with the process of registration of political parties.

In a "note of dissent", Mahbub Talukdar yesterday differed with the EC's move saying that if the separate law was made, RPO 1972 would turn into a "handicapped law".

"I am utterly opposing the move to make a separate law by repealing the chapter VIA of the Representation of the People Order-1972. This is a thoughtless decision," Mahbub said in the note.

The "note of dissent" was submitted at an Election Commission meeting yesterday, held at the Nirbachan Bhaban in the capital's Agargaon with Chief Election

Commissioner KM Nurul Huda in the chair.

The meeting was held to discuss the draft of "Registration of Political Parties Act-2020".

Mahbub said that RPO 1972 is a historically important document, and unique memorabilia of the country's independence. If the separate law was made RPO would lose its organ and turned into a cripple one.

RPO can be amended if necessary, he said, adding that "proposal of new position and position holders at the draft law was unnecessary and there are some debates on the issues".

Mahbub said working paper of yesterday's meeting cited that draft was prepared on the basis of decision of an EC meeting held earlier.

There were differences of opinions within the Election Commission regarding the law in the primary discussion. Further discussion was needed. Two large political SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

six-day remand COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Regent Group Chairman Mohammad Shahed on a six-day remand in a case filed against him on charge of misappropriating Tk 45 lakh from a house owner.

MISAPPROPRIATING TK 45 LAKH

Shahed placed on

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Masud-Ur- Rahman passed order after Md Farukuzzaman Mollick, a subinspector of Pallabi Police Station and also the case's investigation officer, produced him before his court with a 10-day remand prayer.

In the remand prayer, the IO said the accused on May 8, 2016 rented four floors measuring 16,148 square feet for running his "Regent Hospital Limited" in Pallabi area in the capital.

The house-rent was fixed at Tk 2,50,000 per month. But the accused did not pay house-rent which stands an amount of Tk 45,5000 from May 8, 2016 to March 12 this year.

So he needs to be remanded to find out more information about his fraud and to know whereabouts of others

responsible for committing such offences, the IO added. On the other hand, the defence submitted a petition along with cancellation of the remand prayer.

After hearing both sides, the magistrate turned down his bail petition and issued the remand order.

## Tk 504.31cr KCC budget focuses on development

INT'L CONFERENCE ON 3YRS OF EXODUS

Continue pressure on

Myanmar to repatriate

the Rohingya: speakers

Marking the third anniversary of the latest round of massive Rohingya

exodus from Myanmar to Bangladesh, ActionAid Bangladesh in

collaboration with, Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of

Dhaka; Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ), Brac University organised a

two day long international e-conference titled, "Connecting the Rohingya

The inaugural session of the conference started at 6 pm on Tuesday.

Manzoor Hasan OBE, executive director, Centre for Peace and Justice,

Foreign Secretary Masud bin Momen was present in the conference as

"By connecting the Rohingya diaspora living all over the world, we can

learn how they can step in to fight the systematic persecution and injustice

against Rohingya people. To exert pressure on Myanmar and to ensure

justice for the Rohingyas, the world needs to hear more from them. The

Rohingya diaspora can serve as the voice of the refugees who fled from

genocide and are now leading measurable lives in the refugee camps," said

community to exert pressure on Myanmar to repatriate the Rohingya

Foreign Secretary Masud bin Momen appealed to the international

chief guest and Cherno Marenah, solicitor general and legal secretary at

Diaspora: Highlighting the Global Displacement."

Brac University, made the opening remarks in the session.

Gambia's ministry of justice was the guest of honour.

#### No fresh taxes imposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cherno Marenah.

refugees.

#### **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Khulna

Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque yesterday announced a Tk 504.31 crore budget for the current fiscal year 2020-21, without imposing fresh taxes. In the budget, revenue expenditure has been estimated at Tk 166.95 crore while the expenditure for development sector from

government allocation and development partners at Tk 337.35 crore.

In the last 2019-20 FY, the budget target was Tk 865.54 crore and the revised one Tk 582.71 crore.

While announcing the budget at KCC's Shaheed Altaf Auditorium, the city mayor said no new taxes have been imposed, considering the present pandemic situation. He said the budget focused on development of roads and drainage system, waste management, parks, religious places, educational institutions, expansion of civic amenities, mosquito control,

coronavirus prevention, improvement of backward people's living standards, and modernisation of various departments of KCC

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

In the proposed budget, Tk 39.49 crore has been allocated for the revenue sector, Tk 12.15 crore for infrastructural maintenance, Tk 6.95 crore for conservancy sector and mosquito eradication.

The bulk allocation for the annual development programme is Tk 70.28 crore of which Tk 42.25 crore is for construction, Tk 50 lakh for the veterinary, Tk 10.2 crore for the public health and Tk 15.8 crore for conservancy sectors.

Sheikh Mohammad Gausul Azam, chairman and councillor of the Standing Committee on Finance and Establishment of KCC, presided over the programme KCC panel mayors, councillors, civil society representatives, business leaders, government officials, senior KCC officials and media representatives were present ...



Stay vigilant to protect our natural resources

Says Prof Anu Muhammad marking Phulbari Day

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** *Dinajpur* 

Yesterday, residents began the day by Development projects that negatively placing flowers at the memorial built in remembrance of the day on the riverbank of Small Jamuna in Phulbari town. Later, they held a rally there around 10:30am.

granted anticipatory bail to Toufique Imrose Khalidi, editor-in-chief of online news portal bdnews24. com, for eight weeks in a corruption case.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order after hearing a bail petition. He appeared before the HC bench during the hearing

Mahbub Shafique, a lawyer for Khalidi, told The Daily Star that the HC granted bail to his client considering the argument that his client has not committed any corruption.

Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan said ACC will move an appeal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

affect people's livelihoods and harm the environment should not be allowed anywhere, and people have to remain alert to protect the country's natural resources, said speakers vesterday.

They said this at an event in Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur, marking 14th anniversary of Phulbari Day.

National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports organised the programme, participated by activists, residents of Phulbari and members of left-leaning organisations.

This year, however, the programmes were held on a limited scale due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

On August 26, 2006, people of Phulbari and its surrounding upazilas brought out a procession, protesting the proposed openpit Phulbari coal mining project. Law enforcers opened fire on the protesters, killing at least three people and injuring more than 200.

Since then, people of Phulbari upazila have been observing the day as a "black day".

As representatives from the national committee could not be present physically, a written speech by Prof Anu Mohammad, member secretary of the committee, was read out at the gathering.

In the note, Anu Mohammad said, "People of the country are owners of its resources. Projects in the name of development that are harmful to people and the environment will not be allowed to be implemented anywhere."

He said not just people of Phulbari, they are all in this fight together.

Anu Muhammad alleged that the government has plans to implement the Phulbari coalmine project by hiring a Chinese company. The letter urged people to take lessons from the day and stay alert and united to protect natural resources.

Speakers at the event also urged the government to implement the six-point demand signed 12 years ago on August 30 SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Right underneath a sign of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Traffic (North) division clearly stating "No rickshaws to stand here", a group of rickshaw pullers have parked their vehicles, waiting for passengers. Vehicles often have a hard time taking a turn on the road under the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover, due to the chaos created by the blatant disregard for rules. The photo was taken earlier this week. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## 'Nothing else left to grab, so rivers have become the target'

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National River Conservation The Commission (NRCC) was formed to protect rivers, but it doesn't have the executive power to punish those who are grabbing and polluting rivers, speakers at a webinar said yesterday.

organisations Non-government Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), Arannyak Foundation, Waterkeepers Bangladesh and Brotee jointly organised the programme titled "Implementation of court order 2019: National River Alliance".

Supreme Court lawyer Manzill Murshid explained the court order. He said the Supreme Court declared the NRCC the legal guardian of rivers.

"The court declared a river as a person and a living entity and NRCC as the legal guardian, so when a river will become polluted, the river can stand as a petitioner; and it's a landmark verdict," said the lawyer.

"We have many strong laws and regulations, but the main problem is nonimplementation. If we can implement the laws, it's absolutely impossible to even create pollution, let alone grabbing," said Prof Asif Nazrul, a teacher of law at Dhaka University.

Noted jurist Shahdeen Malik said there is nothing left to grab around the country, so rivers are now the prime target. Chief guest of the webinar, NRCC

Chairman Dr Muzibur Rahman Howlader admitted that they have a number of limitations.

"It is true that we do not have any statutory power of implementation, but what we can do is instruct various authorities to enforce the law."

He said authorities do not feel encouraged to take action against grabbers and polluters in many cases, because they are politically powerful and influential. UNOs, assistant commissioners (land), even DCs fear that if they take action against the grabbers, they might be transferred. He asked especially MPs and DCs to exercise their authority to conserve the rivers.

At the event, organisers delivered presentations about grabbing scenario of Khoyai, Tista, Boral, Andharmanik and other rivers.

The webinar was conducted by Sharmeen Murshid, founder of Brotee. General Secretary of Bapa Sharif Jamil, executive vice-president Md Abdul Motin, Naripokkho member Shirin Haque and executive director of Sheba Sayeda Rokhsana Khan attended.

Money Laundering Suspended DGHS official Abzal sent to prison COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Abzal Hossain, a suspended accountant of the medical education department under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), to jail in connection with two separate money laundering cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after Abzal surrendered before it seeking bail in the cases. On June 27 of 2019,

ACC deputy director Md Towfiqul Islam filed the two cases with ACC Integrated District Office-1 of Dhaka, accusing the couple of committing the corruption.

### UNIPAY2U FRAUD HC questions authorities' failure to refund Tk 3.05cr

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the authorities' failure to refund Tk 3.05 crore to a depositor of multilevel marketing company unipay2u Bangladesh Limited in line with a trial court verdict.

In response to a writ petition, the HC issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why their inaction and failure to refund the money to depositor Md Mazur Hossain should not be declared illegal.

In the rule, the court also asked the respondents to show causes why they not be directed to refund the money including its interest since 2010 to Manzur Hossain.

Secretaries to the ministries of finance, law and home, governor of Bangladesh Bank and the head of its money laundering prevention departments, chairman of unipay2u Bangladesh Limited and representatives of Brac Bank, City Bank and NCC Bank, where the money has been deposited, have been made respondents to the rule, writ petitioner's lawyer Saifuzzaman Tuhin told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Mohammad Ali came up

with the rule following the writ petition filed by depositor Manzur Hossain, seeking necessary directives on the respondents to refund his money deposited to unipay2u.

Saifuzzaman Tuhin said a Dhaka court on January 23, 2019 sentenced six officials of unipay2u, including its chairman and manager, to 12 years' rigorous imprisonment each in a case filed for laundering around Tk 1,351 crore through multi-level marketing sham.

The trial court also directed the authorities concerned to take steps to refund the money to the depositors. But, the respondents are yet to take any step to refund the money, he added.

In the verdict, the Dhaka court has also fined them around Tk 2,702 crore and directed them to pay the fine in favour of the state within 180 days, in default legal actions will be taken against them.

On January 25, 2011, Taufiqul Islam, an assistant director of Anti-Corruption Commission, filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station against the officials of unipay2u, a so-called multilevel marketing company, for amassing money by cheating people.

#### DU STUDENT RAPE Charge framed against accused

#### COURT CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday framed charges against Md Majnu in a case filed over the rape of a Dhaka University student in the capital's Kurmitola area.

Majnu, now in jail, pleaded not guilty after Judge Quamrunnahar of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka read out charges to him through videoconferencing.

The tribunal fixed September 9 for starting trial of the case.

On March 16, Detective Branch Inspector Abu Bakar Siddique, also the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet against Majnu, the lone accused in the case, to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

On January 5, the student was raped while walking from Kurmitola in

the capital. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

different banks.

"fake documents".

#### Continue pressure

FROM PAGE 3

"There is visible lack of political will and decisive action in the part of Myanmar government to improve the situation in Rakhine and to repatriate the forcibly Rohingyas. International displaced community should pressure Myanmar time-bound government to start repatriation programme, to allow civilian observers in Rakhine to monitor and guarantee security of the returnees and to ensure that Myanmar government does not erase the evidence of genocide and human rights violations," said Masud bin Momen. Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, professor of

International Relations and director of Centre for Genocide Studies delivered a presentation at the conference.

"Altogether around 1,000 national and international stakeholders will be connected in the two-day conference over Zoom. Thousands more will join via social media. In the closing ceremony of the conference, Dhaka Declaration-II (2020) will be presented and shared among the stakeholders for the way forward in the Rohingva issue toward justice," he added.

Farah Kabir, country director, ActionAid Bangladesh delivered vote of thanks to all participants at the inaugural session.

The inaugural session was followed by two panel discussions titled "Rohingya Diaspora: Canada, Saudi Arabia and

Japan" and "Rohingya Diaspora: UK, USA and Thailand" that consisted of Azeem Ibrahim, director, Center for Global Policy in Washington DC, and KAM Morshed, senior director, Brac respectively.

Azeem Ibrahim said, "It is not easy for the Rohingya diaspora to go back to their country. Their repatriation is a very complex process. They have been subjected to abuse for over half a century. The Rohingya Diaspora have to unite with other minority communities to resolve this issue"

Bangladesh should pursue Myanmar in an aggressive way together with international community to settle the Issue, he urged.

Besides, the first day of the conference saw participation from representatives of the Rohingya diaspora, teacher and researchers from Saudi Arabia, Japan, United Kingdom, United States of America and Thailand, who presented their views and research papers.

The discussants focused on violation of human rights, violence, genocide committed by the Myanmar government and their relations with the other countries. The discussants also spoke on the socioeconomic background and political situation of the Rohingya diaspora, and the process of inclusion in the host countries and their future plans to solve the issue.

## JS body formed

FROM PAGE 3

members of the committee also supported the proposal, sources at the meeting said.

AL MP Mostafizur Rahman, chief of the parliamentary watchdog, then formed the four-member sub-committee to enquire into the alleged corruption incident.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone, Mostafizur Rahman said Tk 150 crore was allocated to purchase 30 different books on Bangabandhu to set up "Bangabandhu Corner" at all government primary schools.

"Different media recently reported widespread corruption in purchasing of those books. It was reported that those books were purchased at a high rate compared to their original price. We have asked the sub-committee to enquire and reveal the truth," added Mostafizur. He said the standing committee also asked the secretary to the primary and mass education ministry to submit a detailed report on the purchase process before the committee's next meeting.

Mostafizur Rahman said allegations have also been raised that copyright act has been violated while reprinting two books on Bangabandhu. Names of the two books are 'Bangabandhu means independence and '3053 days'-a book on Bangabandhu's life in prison.

Allegations were raised against a senior reporter of a private television channel of violating the Copyright Act while reprinting and delivering those two books for Bangabandhu Corner.

### HC questions

#### FROM PAGE 3

In the case, it was alleged that the accused lured people into investing in gold, promising high profit against the purchase. After getting registration from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms on November 22, 2009, the accused started collecting money from people, which stands at around Tk 1,351 crore.

They deposited the money in three banks. The accused withdrew over Tk 270 crore and transferred some in their personal accounts. They also sold land in the company's name, which is tantamount to laundering money.

After an investigation, ACC on June 22, 2011 pressed charges against the six, which was framed on July 6, 2015.

### BDnews24

#### FROM PAGE 3

with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the HC order, as there are specific allegations against him of depositing Tk 42 crore, which have no legal source, in different banks ...

ACC on July 30 filed the case against Khalidi, for allegedly depositing Tk 42 crore which have no "legal source" in

#### EC Mahbub FROM PAGE 3

parties and others are also protesting the draft law, he said in the note of dissent.

After the meeting, Mahbub told reporters that he submitted the note after failing to get any ways of compromise regarding the matter.

EC senior secretary Md Alamgir was not available for comments after repeated attempts over phone regarding the note of dissent.

While briefing reporters after the meeting, Alamgir said the commission has finalised the draft of the law that will now be sent to the law ministry for their vetting.

When the RPO was passed at first there were no provisions for registration of political parties. The provision of registration of political parties was included in 2008.

"Then [in 2008], there was discussion on having separate law [for registration of political parties]... but it did not happen due to time constrain. Now current commission feels necessity of a separate law," Alamgir said.

The Election Commission in June prepared a draft of a law with stringent rules for political parties getting registered. According to the proposed law, political parties will have to fulfill at least two conditions out of three to get registered with the EC.

Gulshan Anwar Pradhan, deputy

director of the anti-graft watchdog, filed

the case with ACC's integrated district office

Dhaka-1, saying that Khalidi earned the

money through illegal means by creating

allegations of corruption against him.

Khalidi, however, has denied the

The three conditions are: a party needs to secure at least one seat with its electoral symbol in two previous parliamentary elections; securing of five percent of total votes cast in the constituencies in which its candidates took part in any of the aforesaid parliamentary elections; it needs to set up a functional central office, by whatever name it may be called with a central committee, having offices at least in one-third administrative districts, and offices at least in 100 upazilas or metropolitan thanas; and the party must have a minimum 200 voters as its members in each upazila.

Till now, a political party needs to meet at least one condition out of the three to get registration.

Earlier, Mahbub Talukdar on Monday in a separate "note of dissent", also differed with the EC's move to revise the Representation of the People Order, 1972, and the election-related laws of local government bodies.

#### Stay vigilant FROM PAGE 3

It will place a wreath at

the poet's grave and offer a

fateha and dua at 9:00AM.

AL central leaders as

secretaries of Dhaka south

and north city units and

its associate bodies will

while maintaining social

Vice-Chancellor Professor

Dr Aktaruzzaman, teachers

employees of the university

poet's grave after a procession

at 7:15AM on the campus.

discussion will be held

at the Professor Abdul

Matin Chowdhury Virtual

Classroom at 10:30AM with

the DU VC in the chair and

National Professor Dr Md

Rafiqul Islam will address

Besides, Bangladesh

the discussion.

will place a wreath at the

students, officers and

Later, a virtual

Led by Dhaka University

join the programme

distancing.

well as presidents and

in 2006. The demands include withdrawal of cases against leaders of the Phulbari movement.

They said if implemented, the project - which covers four upazilas, including Phulbari, Birampur, Nawabganj and

Parbatipur -- will displace around 4.60 lakh people. Among others, Mosharraf Hossain Nannu, general secretary of Bangladesh

United Communist League; and Rabindranath Soren, president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, adressed the event.

### Bhutto called | Making masks from garment scraps

FROM PAGE 12 She has been making around 100 Minister Abdus Samad says masks a day from the scraps and that his visit to Iraq would getting Tk 4 per mask. "The amount is way better than the salary I would get normalisation of relations through teaching. between Bangladesh and "My husband has been coordinating Arab countries. Iraq, which is the only Arab country to

the process here -- collecting the scraps, arranging additional materials, and sending the ready masks to the capital," she added.

Like Johora, three other teachers of a local private school and a madrassa and six homemakers in her area are earning around Tk 400 a day through this initiative.

According to the organisation, Ella masks are standardised as per the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

Mamunur Rahman, founder of ELLA Pad, said the organisation has been trying to develop a new supply chain for the women manufacturing the masks.

"We are connecting them with different institutional buyers. For instance, officials of the US Embassy and UN agencies such as UNFPA, UNDP, UNIDO, and UNCDF, are currently purchasing their masks, while USAID is also planning to buy through bulk orders. ELLA is

Currently, 30 micro female entrepreneurs of Mouchak Mohila Unnayan Sangstha, a national awardwinning organisation in Melandaha upazila, have been producing Ella masks since April and making a significant contribution to their household incomes.

Nazma Akter, for example, has been sewing around 100 masks a day, while also doing her regular household chores.

"I even make masks on Fridays, as my husband who is a construction worker has been idle since the shutdown. If I didn't have this gig, it would have been difficult for us to survive during that time," she said.

"By dint of these masks, I was able to afford private tuition for my two children, as they were at home without lessons since schools closed." Earlier, Nazma would earn some income from making handicraft clothes where she would get around Tk 350 for a three-piece suit -- but one would take around 10 days to make. She stopped receiving any orders during the shutdown, when there was less demand for clothes.

"Now, I'm hopeful that I can support my family until things get back to normal," said Nazma.

Sahera Akter from Melandaha has

"I usually work at my office from 9:00am to 2:00pm. In the afternoon, I start making masks at the Mouchak Mohila Unnayan Sangstha's factory, and bring back some scraps for stitching at night using my own sewing machine," said Sahera.

Shamsul Alam, Ella mask coordinator at Melandaha and the founder of the Mouchak Mohila Unnayan Sangstha, said they try to involve women who lack financial independence.

Earlier, these women would do handicraft work on nakshikantha, three-piece suits, two-piece suits, and bedsheets, through which they would receive a small amount for their weeklong labours, said Shamsul.

"It takes around 15 days for two women to stitch a nakshikantha and they get a remuneration of around Tk 1,500-2,000 altogether.

"However, in mask-making, they are earning Tk 400 each day, without any additional expenses or hassle. We usually collect the scraps from factories in Gazipur and Narayanganj, and they just do the manufacturing, said Shamsul.

Currently, Mamunur is aspiring to diversify the products from the garment scraps, once the demand for masks slows down -- into home

#### enforcers arrested Sumon, the OC said. Shamim Kabir, resident medical officer at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital, said they conducted medical tests on the

Superintendent of Police Zahidul Islam said they would

According to the research, the average monthly income of 96 percent of the families decreased while 91 percent respondents found themselves in economically unstable

Incomes of 47 percent families had gone below the global poverty level (Tk 160 or \$1.9 per day).

crisis or could not take at least one meal a day.

In terms of mental health, the research found that frustration among the women of the low-income groups have increased. Around 68 percent of the respondents said

experiences of mental and physical torture in family surroundings said such torture had increased during the shutdown.

JD Hamadani, chief researcher and emeritus scientist of icddr,b, said the findings would help policymakers in Bangladesh and other developed countries to take measures and successfully implement poor- and womenfriendly stay-at-home orders.

Australia National Health and Medical Research Council funded the research, the release said.

FROM PAGE 12

Betar, Bangladesh Television and other private television channels and radio stations will air special programmes,

#### conditions.

FROM PAGE 12

Nazrul's death | Women now even deeper

Moreover, 70 percent of the families have been facing food insecurity and 15 percent families either faced food

their levels of anxiety have increased.

Also, more than half of the women who had previous

#### Two sisters gang-raped

victims and sent their reports to Dhaka.

FROM PAGE 12 Bangladesh Foreign

improve the chances of

recognise Bangladesh, can

serve as a bridge between

the 75 million people of

Arab countries, he adds.

PERSPECTIVE POWER

for power generation is

being prepared, declares

Mofiz Chowdhury today

committee in the ministry

is engaged in compiling

recommendations which

will include the amount

of electricity needed at

different stages such as

mode of production of

SOURCES: August 28,

electricity.

1975-1985 and onwards.

The report will also suggest

Resources Minister Dr

in Dhaka. A planning

Power and Natural

PLAN UNDER

PREPARATION

Bangladesh and that of the

A national perspective plan

while national dailies will publish special supplements.

Kazi Nazrul was a poet, lyricist, musician and philosopher.

The nation found inspiration in Nazrul's poems and songs during the 1971 Liberation War and all other democratic movements and struggles.

Nazrul wrote nearly 3,000 songs and composed many of them which, known as Nazrul Geeti or Nazrul Sangeet.

After the independence of Bangladesh, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman brought poet Nazrul Islam to Dhaka from Kolkata along with his family and made arrangements for his living with state honour. Bangabandhu also

provided a residence for the family of the poet in the capital's Dhanmondi area.

#### নাম পরিবর্তন

এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানে যাচ্ছে যে, আমি পূর্ববর্তী নাম পিপ্লু বড়য়া এবং পরিবর্তিত নাম মোঃ আয়ান ফারি স্বজ্ঞানে নিজের ইচ্ছায় ধর্ম পরিবর্তন করে ইসলাম ধর্ম গ্রহণ করেছি। আমার পরিবর্তিত বর্তমান নাম মোঃ আয়ান ফারিস, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ২৬৯৯২৩৮৬০৮৫৪৭। যাহা মেজিস্ট্রেট কোৰ্ট কৰ্ত্তক এফিডেভিড বা সংশোধন করা হয়েছে, রেজিঃ ৭৯৬, তারিখ ১৯ আগস্ট ২০২০।

GD-1340

take further necessary steps upon receiving medical reports. "Operation is being carried out to arrest the other accused in the case," he added.

Meanwhile, a group of criminals gang-raped an eighth grader in Barguna's Amtali upazila.

Police arrested two accused -- Jisan alias Sohel, 18, and Sagar, 21 -- for their alleged involvement in the incident. According to police, Sohel established friendship with the girl over phone and took her to a private hotel in the town. There, he and his four others gang-raped her overnight on Monday.

Next morning, they boarded the girl on a Amtali-bound bus. Returning home, the victim shared her experience with her mother who later filed a case with Amtali Police Station. Conducting raids, police arrested the two accused from different upazilas in the district, said Helal Uddin, officer-

in-charge of Amtali Police Station. The law enforcers are trying to arrest the rest of the

accused, he added. The victim was sent to Patuakhali General Hospital for medical tests.

Our Kushtia and Patuakhali correspondents contributed to this report

#### Trove of early Islamic gold FROM PAGE 12

Robert Kool, a coin expert with the antiquities authority, said an initial analysis indicates the coins date from the late 9th century, considered the golden age of the Abbasid Caliphate that controlled most of the Near East and North Africa.

The discovery was among the largest caches of ancient coins found in Israel. In 2015, amateur divers found around 2,000 gold coins off the coast of the ancient port city of Caesarea dating to the Fatimid period in the 10th and 11th centuries.

"It was amazing," said Oz Cohen, one of the volunteers who found the treasure.

"I dug in the ground and when I excavated the soil, saw what looked like very thin leaves. When I looked again I saw these were gold coins. It was really exciting to find such a special and ancient treasure.'

Pahartali, Chattogram

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Chief Controller of Stores **Bangladesh Railway** Pahartali, Chattogram-4202 No. P6/Bearing/Source Enlistment/2020 24/08/2020 Corrigendum-1 The following amendment is being carried out in respect of the "Date of opening" of this office LTM (ICT) Tender No. P6/Bearing/Source Enlistment/2020 date: 01/07/2020: <u>Read</u> <u>For</u> Existing entry. Date of opening: 22/09/2020 All the other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unaltered. Md. Anwar Hossain Assistant Controller of Stores/P-2 For Chief Controller of Stores **Bangladesh Railway** S(20)(170)

1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Ukhiya OC

FROM PAGE 12 The constable had met the plaintiff in a room of Khuniapalong Union Parishad building. Following that, he discontinued contacting her for some days.

The two talked again on July 7 when Sumon asked her to meet him on that day. Accordingly, the college

student met the constable in Ukhiya and asked him to marry her. At one stage, Sumon left the area, leaving her alone on a road around 10:00pm.

The plaintiff then went to the police station around 11:30pm to lodge a complaint against Sumon. She informed OC Morjina about the incident. But the OC assaulted her physically instead of recording the complaint, said the case statement.

She alleged that several other cops, who were present there, also beat her up, leaving her injured. She was released from the police station the following day.

The college student said she primarily received treatment at a hospital in Chakaria and later at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital on July 9.

Speaking to journalists on Tuesday, she said, "I have taken the legal steps as I was tortured by the police personnel. Now I want justice.' On Tuesday, the Cox's

Bazar court took the case into cognisance and ordered the additional superintendent of police at Police Bureau of Investigation in the district to investigate the case and submit a report to it, said the plaintiff's lawyer Advocate Ekramul Huda, also a special public prosecutor at the court. Despite repeated

attempts, this newspaper could not reach OC Morjina over phone for comments as she did not pick up the calls.

just working as a matchmaker," said Mamunur.

deluged by orders.

also been earning some extra bucks organisation.

textile items for one. This way, these from making masks, alongside her women will continue to have regular The women of Jamalpur have been regular job as a trainer at a local social employment, even beyond this time of crisis.

## Abu Dhabi immigration authorities

this month, Expatriates Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad said measures would be taken to send back the expatriate Bangladeshis who were directed back from Abu Dhabi airport after the filing of a report by Caab in this regard.

instructions Following by the civil aviation ministry, Caab formed a five-member investigation committee to probe the matter.

Revealing the investigation report at a briefing at the Caab headquarters, Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal Mafidur Rahman vesterday said due to the Abu Dhabi immigration authority's fault, 112 Bangladeshi expatriate workers were denied entry to the Gulf country.

## Two shot dead

FROM PAGE 12

door, according to a bystander video that went viral. Three of his young sons were in the car, witnesses said.

Blake was hit by four of the seven shots fired and left paralyzed and "fighting for his life," his family and lawyers said on Tuesday, hours before the latest round of civil unrest broke out in the lakefront town between Milwaukee and Chicago.

Earlier Blake's mother Julia Jackson called for calm and urged peace ahead of a national protest planned for Washington this weekend.

She said the damage caused on previous nights in Kenosha "doesn't reflect my son or my family," and issued a powerful call for unity and denunciation of racism in America.

"Clearly you can see by now that I have beautiful brown skin. But take a look at your hand. And whatever shade it is, it is beautiful as well," she said.

recommended that the government informed about it. should take necessary measures so that the 112 Bangladeshis can fly to the UAE again.

Regarding the investigation report, the Caab boss said they have already submitted the investigation report to the civil aviation ministry, which will take necessary measures based on the report.

The Caab chairman said Bangladeshi passengers had to return from Abu Dhabi mainly due to immigration complications in Abu Dhabi, but no such incident had taken place in Dubai and Sharjah.

He said Abu Dhabi's immigration department changed their immigration policy on August 10, but Bangladesh was not well

Anti-racism protesters also

clashed with police in Portland,

Oregon, and Louisville, Kentucky,

on Tuesday night, part of a wave

of national protests that have

continued since the May 25 death

of a Black man in Minneapolis,

George Floyd, who was pinned to

the street under the knee of a white

The Kenosha protests have

patrolling the streets with rifles or

standing guard outside businesses

to protect them from looters or

'LIKE A VIGILANTE GROUP'

"They're like a vigilante group,"

Kenosha County Sheriff David

Beth told the Milwaukee Journal

Sentinel, though he said he was

unsure if the man at the center of

the outburst was linked to such a

would be caught, telling the newspaper: "I feel very confident

we'll have him in a very short time."

Kenosha police, a separate agency

Beth predicted the main suspect

self-styled militias,

police officer.

drawn

arsonists.

group

In the changed policy, they said those whose visas had expired must go to the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) website and apply for permission to visit Abu Dhabi.

"But our passengers have missed this point. Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Air Arabia did not get clear information in this regard, because of which the passengers had to return even after going to the airport of that country," said the Caab chief.

He also said not only Bangladesh, passengers of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan had to return to their countries due to the changed immigration policy.

from the sheriff's office, asked for witnesses to come forward.

Devin Scott, 19, told the Chicago Tribune he was in a group chanting "Black Lives Matter" when the gunfire began and that he tried unsuccessfully to revive one of the victims

"This guy with this huge gun runs by us in the middle of the street and people are yelling, 'He shot someone! He shot someone!' And everyone is trying to fight the guy, chasing him, and then he started shooting again," Scott said in the Tribune report.

Scott said he hit the ground during the next burst of gunfire, then tried to aid a person who was lying prone in the street.

"I was cradling him in my arms. I was trying to keep this kid alive and he wasn't moving or nothing. He was just laying there," Scott said. "I didn't know what to do and then this woman starts performing CPR. There was no pulse. I don't think he made it."

## The investigation committee

where he was shot after opening the

## Thousands face river erosion in Panchagarh

Villagers suffer as the lone road connecting the upazila headquarters got badly damaged

#### **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Thakurgaon

Thousands of people of several villages in Panchagarh's Boda upazila are facing extreme sufferings as the lone road connecting the upazila headquarters got damaged badly due to erosion of the Karatoa river.

The villages include Sonachandi, Bandarmoni, Sarcarpara, Nicharghat and Araji Shikarpur in the upazila.

Due to onrush of water from upstream and heavy rain, erosion has taken a serious turn, devouring different establishments, homesteads and croplands in the areas.

On the other hand, schools, mosque, gravevard and houses of over 100 families are under threat of being washed away due to erosion of the river, said locals.

The villagers alleged that despite repeated pleas, the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to resist the river erosion and save the important road from further damage

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that different parts of Fultala-Shalshiri-Manikpir-Garerdanga road have collapsed into the river, causing immense sufferings to commuters. It is the halt due to damage of the road, in fear of losing their homesteads



#### Erosion by the Karatoa river has taken a serious turn, devouring vast tracts of croplands and a number of houses in Panchagarh's Boda upazila. The photo was taken from Shikarpur village in the upazila recently. PHOTO: MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

sufferers.

lone road connecting the upazila causing immense sufferings to headquarters and important haatbazars.

The erosion has begun near Araji Shikarpur Sarcarpara Government Primary School, devouring a number of establishments, houses and croplands.

Asadul Islam, a resident of Sarkarpara area, said traffic movement has almost come to a

and croplands due to the river erosion.

Although the erosion has taken serious turn, the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to resist it, said Razzak.

Abul Kalam Azad, chairman of Banghari Bangram Union Parishad, said in the last financial year, the Water Development Board (WDB) in the district allocated Tk 30 lakh to prevent the river erosion of the site but it did not work actually. Sand bags were dumped only to resist the erosion

Asar Ali, an elderly citizen from Bandarmoni area, said every year the river devours a number of establishments of the village.

He also said that despite repeated promises pledged by public representatives, any sustainable embankment is yet to be built.

If immediate steps are not taken to build the embankment, houses, mosques and schools may go into the river anytime, said Asar Ali.

Thakurgaon WDB Executive Engineer Rabiul Islam said the river has taken a serious turn at various places.

They have already informed the higher authorities about construction of embankment in the erosion-prone area but yet to get any response, said the WDB official.

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 Childbirth at Nilphamari hospitals falling alarmingly

#### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Childbirth at government hospitals and healthcare facilities in the district fell sharply during the past several months amid the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Expecting women have been avoiding visits to the medical facilities out of fear of contracting the virus, said locals.

Various types of medical services, including pre and post-natal care, are available for expecting women at 260 different levels of healthcare facilities and a 250-bed general hospital in Nilphamari.

As opposed to 6,500 natural births administered at the facilities between March and July in the year before, there have been only 4,000 natural births during the same period this year.

Deaths of 19 expecting women and 37 newborn were reported during the period this year in the district where the pandemic fear has been driving people to adopt unsafe childbirth measures at their homes.

Mohammad Shahjahan, deputy director of family planning office in Nilphamari, said, "The number of safe deliveries at hospitals fell from March to July as hospitals and clinics were deemed unsafe by pregnant women and their relatives after the government enforced all out shutdown from the last week of March.

"Our facility offers 24-hour safe delivery service for pregnant women as well as anti-natal and post-natal care. But the number of service seekers has dropped during the novel coronavirus pandemic situation," said Roksana Begum, medical officer at Maa O Shishu Kolyan Kendro, a government healthcare service facility in Nilphamari town.

The situation is worse in flood-affected Teesta chars where communications are poor, said Sarwar Alam, health and family lanning officer in Dimla upazila.

In July, two women died in the areas during childbirth, being administered by untrained midwives, he also said.

Abu Taleb, a resident of the chars, said his wife Morzina Begum died at home on July 20 when he arranged the procedure there with the help of a midwife, who was apparently untrained.

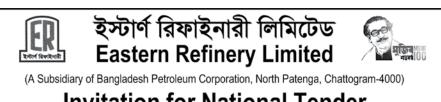
As to why they made such a decision, he said they thought the government hospital would be unsafe for his wife and the unborn as Covid-19 patients were treated there.

Contacted, Nilphamari Civil Surgeon Jahangir Kabir said they would adopt measures to regain people's confidence on government healthcare facilities in their attempt to bring down mother and child mortality rates.



Maa O Shishu Kolyan Kendro in Nilphamari town is among other healthcare facilities that are seeing a decline in the number of childbirths since March this year.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



## New deadline for Lohalia Bridge construction work

The contractor gets six months more to complete the work

#### **OUR CORRESPONDENT**, Patuakhali

The contractor concerned has got six months more to complete construction work of the bridge on the Lohalia river adjacent to the district town.

The authorities concerned have extended the deadline for completion of the bridge construction work till June 2021.

Earlier, the bridge was scheduled to complete construction in December this year but the authorities rescheduled the deadline in response to the contractor's request due to coronavirus situation. Shortage of labourers is hampering the construction work of the bride in the challenging time.

Md Zakir Hossain Akand, secretary of the Planning Commission and a member of the Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural while inspecting the construction work of the bridge on Sunday noon.

Department (LGED) Executive Engineer Md Abdus Salam, its Senior Assistant Engineer Jugal Krishna Mandal, Deputy Assistant Engineer Md Kamal Hossain and Deputy Assistant Engineer Md Moinul Islam, among others, were present at that time.

Md Zakir Hossain, secretary of the Planning Commission, told the local journalists that it was scheduled to complete the construction work of the bridge on the Lohalia river in December this year. But the construction work of the bridge has been extended till June 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He also instructed the contractor to complete the construction work of the bridge within the new deadline.

The contractor got the work order of Organisation, made the announcement Tk 43 crore to construct the 576.25-meter long bridge. After completion of the construction work of this bridge, the

## Honey production in Sundarbans increased amid pandemic

#### **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Bagerhat

locals. The villagers, especially

critically patients, are the worst

said they have to suffer a lot at

the time of bringing agricultural

products to the markets for sale due

people are now passing their days

He further added that local

to dire state of the road.

Abdur Razzak of the same area

It has been seen a significant improvement in the Sundarbans in the last few months amid the pandemic. The production of honey and wax has increased in the Sundarbans due to coronavirus situation and various reasons. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the authorities concerned have stopped giving the visitors passes and permits to enter the world's largest mangrove forest from May 19 this year. The authorities have also increased vigilance here in the crisis time, decreasing tree looting.

The number of trees like Sundari, Gewya and Garan in the Sundarbans has increased during the time, said Mohammad Belayet Hossain, divisional forest officer (DFO) of the Eastern Sundarbans Division, adding that as a result, honey and wax production has increased this year due to the increase in bee habitat.

The DFO said the beekeepers have collected 1,220 quintals of honey from the Sundarbans in the 2019-20 fiscal year. In the 2018-19 fiscal year, the honey production was 742 quintale So 478 quintale of

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#### INTERNATIONAL

## **'SNAPBACK' SANCTIONS ON IRAN UNSC** dismisses US's demand

#### AFP, United Nation

United Nations has blocked a controversial bid by the US to reimpose international sanctions on Iran, with the Security Council saying it could not proceed with the disputed move.

The presidency of the Council, assumed in August by Indonesia, is "not in a position to take further action" on Washington's request, said Indonesian ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani.

In a video conference on the Middle East, he cited the lack of consensus in the UN's highest body on the US strategy as the main reason.

The Trump administration accuses Tehran of failing to comply with the terms of the historic 2015 Iran nuclear deal, and is demanding the Security Council reimpose sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Washington insists on its legal right to trigger the disputed procedure, called "snapback" -- despite pulling out of the deal two years ago.

The move threatens to torpedo the Iran accord and plunge the Council into crisis, while widening the gulf between the US and almost every other member on Iran policy.

Thirteen of the 15 Council members had written to the Indonesian presidency to reject its validity.

One diplomat, on condition of annonymity, said with the sound rejection of the US bid by almost the entire Council, "normally the matter is closed."

Washington has previously accused Council members of "siding with the ayatollahs."

The move, never before used, comes after the US suffered a humiliating defeat at the Security Council earlier this month when it failed to muster support for a resolution to extend a conventional arms embargo on Iran.



to disperse crowd outside the County Courthouse during demonstrations against the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin on Tuesday night. Inset, Residents confront protesters near the Kenosha County Courthouse. Story on page 16.

## Flash floods kill more than 70 in Afghanistan

India's Covid cases top 3.2m Myanmar expands Rakhine virus lockdown to cover one million

#### AGENCIES

India recorded more than 60,000 cases of Covid-19 for the eighth day in a row yesterday, as total cases crossed 3.2 million, data from the federal health ministry showed.

The world's second-most populous country is third behind the United States and Brazil in terms of total caseload, and has recorded the world's highest single-day caseload consistently since August 7, a Reuters tally showed.

Deaths in the last 24 hours stood at 1,059, taking the total number of fatalities from the infection to 59,449 in the country.

West Bengal will be under total lockdown on September 7, 11 and 12 in view of rising number of coronavirus cases in many areas of the state, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said yesterday. Mamata said schools and colleges would remain closed till



September 20 and the decision would be reviewed later.

The pandemic has killed at least 820,180 people worldwide since surfacing in China late last year, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP yesterday. More than 23.9 million cases have been registered in 196 countries and territories.

Meanwhile, Myanmar expanded a lockdown in conflict-wracked Rakhine state to cover four more townships yesterday, halting the movement of about 1 million people as the number

of coronavirus cases climbs steadily.

One hundred new infections were confirmed across Myanmar in the last 24 hours -- bringing the total to 574 -with the northwestern state registering the bulk.

Rakhine is home to about 130,000 Rohingyas displaced by conflict and confined to camps under what Amnesty International describes as "apartheid" conditions. Another 150,000 displaced ethnic Rakhine are scattered across the state h.

Britain yesterday Meanwhile, reversed its policy on wearing facemasks in schools in England, prompting fresh criticism about its handling of the pandemic.

Ministers had insisted face coverings were not necessary when children go back to school next week, but in new guidance the government advised secondary school students and staff should wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas.

#### Agencies

A violent flash flood killed more than 70 people and destroyed hundreds of homes just north of Afghanistan's capital yesterday, officials said.

The floods swept through Parwan province, which borders Kabul, in the early hours of the morning, washing away men, women and children and destroying 300 homes, according to Ministry of Disaster Management spokesman Tamim Azimi.

Rescuers searched through mud throughout the day for bodies, with the confirmed death toll at 72, and at least 90 injured, Azimi added.

Floods had also swept through eight other northern provinces, killing two in Maidan Wardak and two in Nangahar, according to the Ministry of Disaster Management spokesman, who added that climate change was exacerbating the amount of flooding hitting the country.

A spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani said on Twitter that his office had instructed authorities to provide emergency disaster relief to survivors, adding the floods were causing severe financial losses.

Many children were among the dead in Charikar, which was hit by heavy ains overnight, the Ministry of Disaster Management said in a statement. Ahmad Jan, a resident of Shahrak-Malimin village in Parwan province, said most people are still stuck under the rubble of their houses.

"More than 50 houses in his area are completely damaged. Don't know how many have died but most people are under their roofs. It was early morning, so most people were sleeping. Rescue team is helping take out dead bodies and injured," Jan told Al Jazeera.

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

## EU eyes initial vaccination

for 40 pc of population European Union nations, Britain and EU partners have agreed on a blueprint for a Covid-19 vaccination plan envisaging inoculation of at least 40% of their populations, a step that may set back the World Health Organisation's own vaccine blueprint. The EU target for early vaccinations is twice as high as the goal set by the WHO, which is aiming to buy vaccines initially for 20% of the world's most vulnerable people through a global procurement scheme. The EU estimates that the share of its population in need of initial vaccination, should a shot be developed, would be at least 40%, effectively reducing the availability of possible doses for less developed countries. There is so far no approved Covid-19 vaccine, except one authorised in Russia before large-scale trials. EU initially eyes to vaccinate "priority groups" over 200 million of the EU population of 450 million, including people with chronic diseases, the elderly and health workers.

2 lawmakers among

#### dozens arrested in HK

Two prominent Hong Kong opposition lawmakers were among more than a dozen people arrested yesterday in a police operation

focused on last year's huge protests, part of a widening crackdown against the city's democracy camp. Lam Cheuk-ting and Ted Hui were detained after early morning raids on their homes, adding to the mounting prosecutions targeting Beijing's critics in the restless financial hub. Police said yesterday's arrests were related to two anti-government rallies last year -- one on 6 July and the other on 21 July, the latter on a day that saw a notorious attack by government lovalists on protesters in the town of Yuen Long. In late June Beijing imposed a sweeping new security law, tightening Communist Party control over the semi-autonomous city and ending the legal firewall between the two territories. Certain political views -- such as advocating independence or greater autonomy for Hong Kong -- became illegal overnight, and arrests

have followed.

#### Turkey says 'no concessions' in east Mediterranean row

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday warned Turkey would make "no concessions" in the eastern Mediterranean and told Greece to avoid taking steps that could lead to its "ruin". His remarks come just hours after Athens said it would launch military exercises with France, Italy and Cyprus in the region, where tensions between the two neighbours have escalated in recent weeks. Greece and Turkey are already divided on significant issues including migration and Byzantine heritage in Istanbul, formerly Constantinople. But the discovery of hydrocarbon reserves in the eastern Mediterranean has further strained relations, with Turkey rejecting calls from the EU and Athens to immediately stop energy exploration in the region. Turkey sent the Oruc Reis research vessel accompanied by warships to disputed waters on August 10. Its activities were meant to end on last Sunday but were extended to Thursday.

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP



Melania Trump makes plea for racial harmony **REUTERS**, Washington

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার ইলেক্ট্রনিক স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট প্রদানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নিয়ন্ত্রক (সিসিএ) -এর কার্যালয় তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ আইসিটি টাওয়ার, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭ www.cca.gov.bd

A man gestures towards Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant during Tarrant's third day in court for a sentence hearing in Christchurch, New Zealand, yesterday. Tarrant waived his right to speak at his sentencing hearing in Christchurch yesterday, in a dramatic twist after the court heard more than 90 horrific victim statements. Tarrant, who sacked his lawyers last month, had admitted 51 charges of murder, 40 of attempted murder and one of terrorism over the attacks at the AI Noor and Linwood mosques in Christchurch on March 15 last year. The court is expected to deliver its verdict today. PHOTO: AFP

## Sri Lanka will adopt 'India first approach'

#### Says top diplomat, vows to honour Delhi's interests NDTV ONLINE

Sri Lanka will adopt an "India first approach" as its new foreign policy plank and protect New Delhi's strategic security interests, the country's Foreign Secretary Jayanath Colombage has said, seeking to allay concerns amid China's growing presence in the island nation.

Admiral Colombage, the first-ever foreign secretary to have a military background, was appointed by President Gotabaya

Rajapaksa to head the Foreign Ministry on August 14.

In an interview published by Daily Mirror on Wednesday, Colombage said Sri Lanka is to adopt an "India first approach" as its new regional foreign policy plank.

"This means Sri Lanka will not do anything harmful to India's strategic security interests," said r Colombage, who was the chief

of the Sri Lanka Navy between 2012-14 and later became a foreign policy analyst mostly on the Chinese initiatives in Sri Lanka and the immediate region.

Jayanath Colombage said that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will have an "India first approach" as the key to strategic security.

China is the second-largest economy and India is considered the sixth-largest. In 2018, India was the world's fastest-growing economy. That means we are between two economic giants," he said.

"Sri Lanka cannot afford, should not afford and will not afford any particular country to use it as a staging area to do anything against another country - especially India," he said. Commenting on the Chinese investment

in Sri Lanka's southern port of

Hambantota, Colombage said that Sri Lanka had offered India Hambantota first.

"India did not undertake it for whatever reason, then it went to a Chinese company," he said.

"Now we have given 85 per cent stake of Hambantota port to China Merchant Holding Company. That should be limited to commercial activities. It is not for military purposes," he said.

In 2017, Sri Lanka had handed over the Hambantota port to China on a 99-year lease. There are regional concerns, mostly from India, that China may make a military presence at Hambantota, located on a key international shipping route.

offered sympathy for victims of the coronavirus pandemic and a plea for racial harmony in a Republican convention speech on Tuesday aimed directly at the women voters who have abandoned US President Donald Trump.

First lady Melania Trump

On the convention's second day, the speech's warm tone was out of step with a Republican gathering that featured harsh rhetoric about Democratic challenger Joe Biden and sometimes apocalyptic warnings about the dangers of Democratic governance.

Trump's wife acknowledged the pain of the pandemic in sharp contrast to most other speakers at the party's national convention, notably her husband, assailed by Democrats for his lack of solace during a US health crisis that has killed more than 178,000 people.

She offered her deepest sympathies to everyone "who has lost a loved one."

The first lady also reflected on the racial unrest that has swept the country in the months since the death in May of a Black man, George Floyd, under the knee of a white

policeman in Minnesota. "I urge people to come together in a civil manner so we can work and live up to our standard American ideals," she said. "I also ask people to stop the violence and looting being done

in the name of justice and never make assumptions based on the colour of a person's skin.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, speaking from a Jerusalem rooftop with the city lights visible in the background, praised a recent deal to normalize relations between Israel and the United Arab

Trump will deliver his convention speech from the White House lawn today.

#### বিজ্ঞপ্তি

#### বিষয়ঃ "মজিব বর্ষ-২০২০" উদযাপন উপলক্ষ্যে জাতীয় পর্যায়ে রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা অনুষ্ঠান।

স্বাধীনতার মহান স্থপতি জাতির পিতা বঞ্চবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ১৯৭৫ সালে বেতবুনিয়া ডৃ-উপগ্রহ কেন্দ্র স্থাপনের মধ্য দিয়ে বহিঃবিশ্বের সাথে তার বিহীন যোগাযোগ ব্যবস্থার সচনা করেন এবং মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা কর্তৃক বঙ্গবন্ধ-১ স্যাটেলাইট উৎক্ষেপণের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ এখন তথ্য-প্রযুক্তির সুপার হাইওয়েতে অবস্থান করছে। মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী কর্তক ঘোষিত ও বাস্তবায়িত ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশে তথ্যের নিরাপদ আদান প্রদান ও ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা বিধানে দেশে ডিজিটাল স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট প্রচলন করা হয়েছে। তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি আইন, ২০০৬ বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে দেশে ডিজিটাল স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট বাস্তবায়ন, তথ্যের নিরাপদ আদান প্রদান ও ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণে সরকারের কার্যক্রম সর্বসাধারণকে অবহিতকরণ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যক্রম বিষয়ে সর্বস্তরে জনসচেতনতা সৃষ্টি করার লক্ষ্যে সিসিএ কার্যালয় কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। এরই ধারবাহিকতায় দেশের তরণ প্রজন্মকে ডিজিটাল স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট বিষয়ে অবহিত ও সচেতন করার লক্ষ্যে সিসিএ কার্যালয় জাতীয় পর্যায়ে স্কুল, কলেজ এবং বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষার্থীদের নিমোক্তভাবে প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রচনা আহবান করছে:

বিভাগ	পর্যায়	বিষয়	পুরস্কার (প্রত্যেক বিভাগের জন্য)
'ক'	মাধ্যমিক (৮ম-১০ম শ্রেণী/	"ডিজিটাল বিপ্লবে জাতির পিতা বঞ্চাবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের	১ম পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল ক্রেস্ট,
বিভাগ	সমপর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী)	উদ্যোগ ও নিরাপদ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে ডিজিটাল	সনদপত্র এবং ১৫,০০০/- টাকা;
		স্বাক্ষরের গুরুত্ব" (সবোর্চ্চ ১৫০০ শব্দ)	২য় পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল ক্রেস্ট,
'খ'	উচ্চমাধ্যমিক (একাদশ-দ্বাদশ	"ডিজিটাল বিপ্লবে জাতির পিতা বঞ্চাবরু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের	সনদপত্র এবং ১০,০০০/- টাকা;
বিভাগ	শ্রেণী/সমপর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী)	উদ্যোগ ও নিরাপদ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে ডিজিটাল	৩য় পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল ক্রেস্ট,
		স্বাক্ষরের গুরুত্ব" (সবোর্চ্চ ২৫০০ শব্দ)	সনদপত্র এবং ৫০০০/- টাকা।
'গ'	য়াতক/ য়াতকোত্তর/	"ডিজিটাল বিপ্লবে জাতির পিতা বঞ্চাবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের	
বিভাগ	সমপর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী	উদ্যোগ ও নিরাপদ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে ডিজিটাল	
		স্বাক্ষরের গুরুত্ব" (সবোর্চ্চ ৩০০০ শব্দ)	

রচনা পৌছানোর ঠিকানাঃ

তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ

ইমেইল- info@cca.gov.bd

আইসিটি টাওয়ার (২য় তলা), আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭

নিয়ন্ত্রক

সিসিএ কার্যালয়

#### রচনা পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখঃ

৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০

#### <u>প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের নিয়মাবলীঃ</u>

- রচনা বাংলা ভাষায় লিখতে হবে;
- A4 সাইজের সাদা কাগজে নিজ হাতে/ কম্পিউটারে লিখতে হবে:
- লেখার সাথে নিজের ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম, শ্রেণী/বিভাগ, বর্ষ, রোল ও শাখা, মোবাইল নম্বর ও যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা উল্লেখ করতে হবে;
- শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রদত্ত শিক্ষার্থীর পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি ও পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০২ (দুই) কপি ছবি পাঠাতে হবে;
- রচনা ডাকযোগে/ করিয়ার/ সফট কপি (নিকষ ফন্ট) অথবা স্ক্যান কপি ই-মেইলের (info@cca.gov.bd)মাধ্যমে পাঠাতে হবে;
- খামের ওপর 'মুজিব বর্ষ-২০২০' উদযাপন উপলক্ষ্যে রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা ও রচনার বিভাগ (ক/ খ/ গ) লিখতে হবে;
- ই-মেইলে প্রেরণের ক্ষেত্রে সাবজেক্ট এ 'মুজিব বর্ষ-২০২০' উদযাপন উপলক্ষ্যে রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা ও রচনার বিভাগ (ক/ খ/ গ) লিখতে হবে;
- বিচারকদের রায় চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

উল্লেখ্য, পুরস্কারপ্রাপ্ত রচনা ইলেক্ট্রনিক স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট প্রদানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নিয়ন্ত্রক (সিসিএ) -এর কার্যালয় এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশিত হবে।

**বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্যঃ** রচনা লেখার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের ক্ষেত্রে তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি আইন, ২০০৬ এবং এই আইনের আওতায় প্রকাশিত বিধিমালা/গাইডলাইনসমূহ, সিসিএ কার্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত বিভিন্ন প্রচার বিজ্ঞপ্তি, পুস্তিকা এবং এ বিষয়ে যে কোন জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক প্রকাশনা ও টেক্সটবই এর সাহায্য নেয়া যাবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য ইলেক্টনিক স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট প্রদানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নিয়ন্ত্রক (সিসিএ)-এর কার্যালয় এর ওয়েবসাইট (<u>www.cca.gov.bd</u>) ও ফেসবুক (<u>https://www.facebook.com/ccabangladesh/</u>) ভিঞ্জিট করা যেতে পারে।

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Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Emirates.

## **FROM PAGES TO PIXELS** Bollywood's 'The Fault in Our Stars' adaptation: Okay? Not Okay?

## **BOOK REVIEW: NON-FICTION**

## The stillness of human wandering

Exploring migration's intimate relationship with Earth

**ISHRAT JAHAN** 

When we think of migration, the images in our collective narratives are constructed primarily with masses of people on the move, leaving places they belong in for foreign lands. In her latest book, Sonia Shah, an American science journalist and author, critically takes apart the boundaries around human wandering both in our lands and our mind-sets.

The Next Great Migration: The Beauty and Terror of Life on the Move (2020) offers a journey through a curated history of what migration has meant for this planet. The core argument of the book lies in deconstructing the idea of migration as "an irregular and disruptive force", a rhetoric that has influenced Western culture over centuries—in the form of America's eugenic and xenophobic policies, the Nazi genocide, contemporary national security and anti-migration policies, as well as strategies of international UN bodies.

Shah begins with observations of the natural world, laying out how migration is ingrained into the way the planet intrinsically works. From here, she unpacks the factors that have shaped human beings' views on the phenomenon. She takes us behind the scenes, revealing where and how the motivations behind certain scientific perspectives were championed as fact. Others were discarded, such as the concrete evidence that human beings have more shared identical traits, that migration is an aspect of history, and that the differences are at best a result of climate and diet only. This birthed the rise of nativism as a political ideology and beliefs about "foreigners infesting our homelands", which in the hands of powerful white men gave rise to "race science" as a legitimate discipline in academia and policies. Eventually, it founded the rationale for genocide in fascist regimes, the whispers of which persist in our contemporary narratives

Shah's curation of such complex subjects do not come across as rushed or over the surface. Her work deconstructs the academic areas of history, several fields of biology (evolution, hereditary, etc.), and contemporary geopolitics. Yet despite the political and cultural depths she navigates, her storytelling remains easy to follow, helpfully drawing on popular, contemporary examples. She approaches each topic with critical insight and deep empathy, which is reflective of her own history as a child of immigrant parents in America. The latter fuels her analysis of what "belonging" and "foreignness" mean in the face of ideologies that separate and label human beings in an imaginary food chain.

Although she effectively explains these blind spots, there are instances in which she seems to over-generalise certain topics. For instance, Shah uses the migration of animal, plant, and other species to draw examples

> "Stillness at the centre of our ideas about the past casts migrants and migrations as anomalous and disruptive," she emphasises. Her book makes a strong case for understanding that the "natural order" for things means constant change and movement.

and parallels, but she does not address the threats to local biodiversity that this causes. In another example, she summarises the Syrian conflict as "the boys' small act of re-

sistance [...] sparking one of the most brutal civil wars in recent history". This deflects from the complex geopolitics of the Middle East and the underpinning "otherisation" of the Arab world, which are closely linked to perpetuating the outbreaks of resistance across the region.

What's notable is that these stories all resonate with our realities. This subcontinent shares its own fraught histories of mass movements since the Partition, and more immediate to us are Bangladesh's contemporary narratives of migration-closely tied to the country's identity as a fast growing economy. But this achievement comes with the absence of social, economic, and political safety nets for vulnerable migrant

> **BOOK REVIEW: GRAPHIC NOVEL** Crimes that history

PHOTO DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

Bangladesh Bank).

THE NEXT

GREAT

MIGRATION

The Beauty and Terror of Life on the Move

Despite knowing this, our language and rhetoric continue to dehumanise them. The discourses around the legal status of migrants, cases of deportation, hardships of undocumented migrants and, most recently in the wake of the pandemic, the blame game of calling migrants "responsible for bringing the virus into the country"—these are all shaped by a range of prejudices and classist rhetoric. Do we question what makes a person legal or illegal? How much of the problems with documentation,

lack of transparency, and accountability in our systems are of the migrants' own making? Shah's book provides the analytical tools and insights which we can apply to mulling over our own local issues regarding migration.

DHAKA THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

BHADRA 12, 1427 BS

Although she does not directly discuss this, her arguments demonstrate that the "migration equating to disorder" rhetoric is fundamentally an intersectional problem-the battle to rise to power through the dynamics of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, economic inequality, nationalism, and colonialism, spurred on by our growing knowledge of genetics, ecology, geography, and climate change, among a range of other issues. If we are to weaken this power, we will have to have to engage with contemporary issues of migration, locally and globally, through this same intersectional lens. It is important to account for all these factors in making certain migrants, certain people, and even certain species more vulnerable or endangered than others.

In The Next Great Migration, Shah ends on a hopeful note. She introduces the possibilities of figurative and literal networks which are helping to adapt our survival strategies for a drastically changing world.

"Stillness at the centre of our ideas about the past casts migrants and migrations as anomalous and disruptive," she emphasises. Her book makes a strong case for understanding that the "natural order" for things means constant change and movement. These aspects are a core part of who we are and our survival—not just as humans but collectively as a planet.

Ishrat Jahan is an early stage researcher who writes in her free time. Reach her at ishrat. jahan1620@gmail.com.





#### NABIHA NUSAIBA

When The Fault in Our Stars (2012) first released, it brought on a powerful surge of change, not only in our reading lists, but in our perception of terminal and mental diseases and even to the genre itself. As a tribute to 16-year-old Esther Earl, one of his first friends from his vlogging community, John Green created Hazel Grace Lancaster, a 16-year-old battling thyroid cancer, who meets Augustus Waters at a cancer survivors' support group. Augustus has gone into remission after losing his right leg to osteosarcoma (bone cancer). The two are immediately drawn to each other and a heart-wrenching story of friendship, love, and loss begins.

Even without their illnesses or perhaps because of them, John Green's characters stand out—for once, teenagers in a book are not hormone-driven creatures obsessed with popularity. Green does an excellent job of balancing sarcasm and gravity in the way his characters think and speak, and he sketches vividly the physical and psychological complications of being ill, often in ways that are neither glamorous nor romantic. One of the most haunting scenes from the book shows Augustus covered in vomit, writhing in pain as Hazel helplessly gags while inspecting his wound.

It was for these reasons that I was on the edge of my seat for Dil Bechara (2020), TFIOS's Bollywood adaptation which would be the late Sushant Singh Rajput's last film as well as a more culturally relevant version of Green's urgent novel.

Unfortunately, Immanuel 'Manny' Rajkumar Junior (played by Sushant Singh Rajput)—the Indian Augustus— sinks into archaic Bollywood tropes at a time when most of the industry's characters are inching towards progress.

Manny loves watching films and is equally passionate about acting in them. But while Green's Augustus is an empathetic, humble, and multidimensional character, Manny continues to badger Kizie Basu (played by Sanjana Sanghi) even after she states her clear disinterest. He is rude both to Kizie and her mother, criticising one's taste in music and the latter's culinary skills, all in the name of being "charming". He seems to have no idea of personal space or privacy. Kizie is quick to fall for these traits



which she found so annoying initially, while her father allows Manny, a stranger, to jokingly insult his wife in their own home.

In Green's novel, Hazel is obsessed with "An Imperial Affliction", a fictional book that portrays a cancer patient and the lives of the people around her. The book's unfinished ending torments Hazel, stemming from a need to learn how her own loved ones will continue after her. Kizie, on the other hand, is eager to go to Paris to listen to the end of a love song her favourite singer left unfinished—a love song whose lyrics serve no significant connection to Kizie or her circumstances.

Meanwhile, the duty of helping the story transition from the USA to the small Indian town of Jamshedpur seems to fall solely on Kizie's mother, who plays a stereotypical, overprotective Bengali mother trope a little too hard. Between force-feeding her

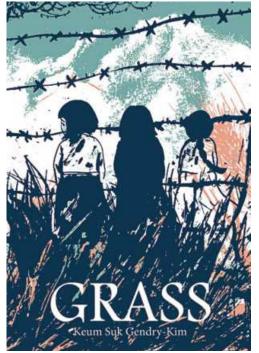
cannot absolve

#### ISRAR HASAN

Korean literature has been enjoying a literary renaissance for quite some time through translation, from the likes of Hang Kang's beguiling yet gruesome novel, The Vegetarian (2007) to Yeonmi Park's heart wrenching memoir, In Order to Live (2015).

These translations have also been venturing into the realm of graphic novels, for which Drawn and Quarterly remains one of the prime publishers. Released in August last year, Grass is one such graphic novel. Author-artist Keum Suk Gendry-Kim and translator Janet Hong bring to centre stage a disputed and rarely talked about episode of World War II—the sexual enslavement of the Korean "comfort women" enforced by the Japanese Imperial Army. The conditions and trauma faced by them eerily match the experiences of many women in conflict zones around the world today, with alienation and exclusion from society following later on.

Gendry-Kim portrays a harrowing narrative of poverty, enslavement, rape, violence, and unbelievable strength through the life story of her protagonist Lee Ok-sun. From living a difficult childhood in Japanese-occupied Korea crushed by poverty, to being abducted and trafficked all the way to China where she



is forced to serve as a "comfort woman" for the Japanese imperial forces, in the end, Lee Ok-Sun remains a survivor; but one who still yearns for something many victims of war wait for even today-an apology.

A compelling—even harrowing and confrontational read, Grass neither sensationalises nor exploits the tragedies faced by its characters. The author treats her protagonist and other characters with sensitivity, interspersing horrible details of imprisonment and torture with striking, calming scenes of nature. The stylish black and white illustrations are heartfelt, cruel, and yet delicately strong; they inspire the reader to pause and think. Nature is beautifully and meticulously captured in these images and the dialogue is crisp and short, which lets the imagery do much of the talking. The resulting narrative spins out effortlessly, highlighting vividly the best and worst of humanity. The oppressors in this story are pushed inside visual silhouettes. This allows Ok-sun's version of events greater clarity, particularly when the she speaks directly to the author about her life.

"Comfort women" suffered cruel punishments during their imprisonment in camps, from being raped and beaten to contracting STDs. Yet, there remains till this day, a great deal of denial and downplaying of what took place in Japan at that time. Through one person's experience of the brutal and dehumanising Japanese occupation, this book offers a jarring history lesson about the widespread suffering it entailed for ordinary Koreans. Without pulling any punches, Grass brings out the best of the world of reportage, art, and literature. It is one of the very few graphic novels to tackle a subject long known to be "taboo" and rarely talked about outside the Korean peninsula and it attempts to serve as a portal through which we can test and expand our empathy, and become reacquainted with the losses perpetuated by war. In times of war and even the peace following war, this novel demonstrates how politics is inevitably personal.

Israr Hasan is a recent graduate of BRAC University who spends time lapping up graphic novels, memes, and classic films. He can be reached at israrhasan@live.com.

daughter shondesh and cooking fish, she seems to have virtually no interest in being by her daughter's side. Whatever time she manages to scrap together, she uses to berate Kizie.

When I set out to watch Dil Bechara, I was optimistic that a plot as powerful as Green's would finally start an open conversation on a topic that remains closeted in the South Asian community. Instead, I received a watered-down Hindi version of the reality of cancer, and equally diluted characters, with some toxic traits thrown in to serve as cultural markers. Regrettably, the adaptation was a miss even with the stellar cast.

A longer version of this article will be available online.

Nabiha Nusaiba is a contributor to Daily Star Books.

#### EDITORIAL



FOUNDER EDITOR LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 27, 2020, BHADRA 12, 1427 BS

### **Explore all options** to access Covid-19 vaccine

We must not allow response fatigue and apathy to delay these efforts

N Wednesday, Bangladesh crossed the three lakh mark of known coronavirus infections in the country, bringing the total number of cases to 3,02,147, with over 4,000 deaths. A constant positivity rate of around 20 percent shows how far-reaching the spread of the disease still is, and that the pandemic is far from over for us. In this scenario, we need to do everything within our means to stop community transmission of Covid-19 and ensure that response fatigue does not set in.

While urgent and immediate steps to contain coronavirus now are of the utmost importance, we also need to be making preparations for the future. Although Bangladesh is currently the 15th worst affected country in the world, less than one percent of its population has been infected, according to IEDCR data-whereas, to achieve herd immunity, a country would require at least 70 percent of the population to be infected. In this scenario, it is obvious that Bangladesh is in dire need of a vaccine as soon as it is available if we are to get coronavirus under control.

However, according to experts, we have made little progress with regard to procuring a potential vaccine. So far, the only step that has been taken by the government is a submission of an expression of interest as a member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI). This is despite an offer from the Chinese organisation Sinovac, one of over 203 research organisations working to develop a vaccine, to include Bangladesh in its phase-III trials. While there have been mentions of collaborating with India regarding trials, no further steps have been taken in this regard either.

We have already seen enough delay, apathy and mismanagement in our response to containing the spread of coronavirus in Bangladesh. The government must ensure that such lethargic responses do not cripple our attempts to procure a much-needed vaccine as well. We urge the government to explore all possible avenues, whether it is applying through the COVAX facility mechanism to get vaccines from WHO and the GAVI, or entering into bilateral negotiations with vaccine-inventing companies or governments to negotiate ease of access. In all of these scenarios, we must be guided by expert opinions and not political concerns.

### A city hospital's illegal practices uncovered

#### What about other big hospitals?

HAT a well-known health facility like Dr Sirajul Islam Medical College Hospital in the capital's Mouchak area would do three tests on one petri dish and use expired reagents and accessories in the operation theatre, intensive care unit (ICU), and even in the Covid-19 isolation unit, is outrageous. These anomalies have been discovered in a recent mobile court drive conducted by a Rab executive magistrate's team. The mobile court has also found that the hospital's isolation unit was not maintaining complete isolation, thereby risking infecting other patients with coronavirus. If expired surgical accessories are used in an operation theatre, patients' lives are put at risk as they might develop various infections. And putting three blood samples in a single petri dish for every test means that patients will not get correct blood test results. These are very basic things that a hospital ought to maintain. The question is, how did the hospital manage to continue with these illegal practices for so long? The medical malpractices discovered in this hospital also make us wonder about the situation in other reputed hospitals in the city and elsewhere. Only last month, a mobile court drive in the city's Regent Hospital found that the hospital authorities issued fake Covid-19 certificates and charged patients for test and treatment, violating an agreement with the government. There must be many other hospitals and clinics that are also violating rules in the absence of any overseeing mechanism. Although we appreciate the random mobile court drives which often expose many harmful, illegal practices by the hospitals, we would like to see concrete measures from the health ministry to ensure that hospitals and test labs abide by the standard rules of operation. There must be a systematic monitoring mechanism in place to ensure that medical facilities are following rules and procedures before and after their licenses are renewed. In this particular case, the hospital authorities should be held accountable for the medical malpractices going on there and for compromising patients' safety. Only fining them is not enough-they should be punished according to the law.



Boniface, in an article for Mirror Online, asked her readers to take a moment to imagine a world in which there is no journalism. It's BADIUZZAMAN BAY a lawless, clueless world, she posits,

N April, British

with no knowledge, no scrutiny, and no democracy or the thousand other things that it precipitates. If the pandemic has taught us anything-besides the priceless value of universal healthcare or the worth of genome-mapping, vaccines and science-it is that journalists, whether you like them or not, play an essential part in your life.

"We're not perfect. We're not your favourite people. We never demand your thanks; we just want you to hear yourselves think," writes Boniface.

This statement remains a thumping endorsement of the profession of journalists. Unfortunately, being essential doesn't make them impervious to shocks like Covid-19. The pandemic, like in other countries, is also stress-testing the strengths and frailties of the press in Bangladesh, with devastating consequences. We get a picture of the situation from a statement issued on August 21 by the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab). The newspaper industry, it says, is "nearly on the verge of collapse", thanks to drastic circulation declines (accounting for a loss of two-thirds of pre-pandemic sales figures) and plummeting advertising revenues. The sharp fall in revenues has led to many newspapers closing down or discontinuing print publication and shifting online, mass layoffs, reduction in regular payments, etc. Even multiple cost-cutting techniques employed by the newspapers-such as reducing the number of pages, volume of printing, coloured pages, as well as cutting down on other administrative expenses-couldn't offset

the damage. According to a July 3 report by Prothom Alo, citing data from the Department of Films and Publications of the government, until June, a total of 254 newspapers in Dhaka and eight divisional cities were forced to close down because of Covid-19. As we near the end of August, with the pandemic still showing no signs of letting up, this number is likely to have increased The abrupt closures coincided with a spike in incidents of harassment using different intimidation tactics and legal instruments including the Digital Security Act. "There is no safeguard for newspapers and journalists," declares a statement by the

Editors' Council released on August 24. These are merely conclusions drawn

by the industry leaders and observers, however, not the sum total of the experience of individual journalists. Once you put faces on the stories of sufferings

caused by the triple whammy of closures,

# We must save the press before coronavirus sinks it

journalist and to see how uncertain the life of a journalist author Susie is in Bangladesh, and how quickly the ground beneath the press-the serious press—is shifting. Unfortunately, despite their essential services in these extraordinary times, the journalist community remains cut off from the protection they deserve. While they fight to ensure that struggling industries have access to the incentives and stimulus packages announced by the government, their own need for similar industrial concessions remains unaccounted for. While they go to great lengths to report from the field and provide credible,

life-saving information-often putting themselves in the path of the virustheir own lives and livelihoods remain precarious. While they continue to give voices to the voiceless, their own stories remain untold. It's not just a cruel irony

retrenchments and harassment, you begin

(AIT) on raw materials from five percent to zero percent—also demand careful consideration. Even risk allowance and health insurance for the journalists should not be ruled out. We have seen how the West Bengal government extended health insurance coverage of up to 10 lakh rupees for frontline Covid-19 workers, including journalists.

It suits some politicians to question the need for such concessions and cash injections. But the truth is, journalism is an essential public good. If the press suffers, so does democracy, so does the performance of a government and that of public institutions, so do the people who depend on it to highlight issues vital to their life. This has been the case as far back as we can remember.

But the extraordinary nature of the present crisis is also proof that government support or lack thereof is not the only



#### File photo of people reading newspapers on the streets in Dhaka, on December 31, 2018.

of fate. It's the cumulative result of years of neglect, hostility and lack of vision suffered by the press.

Noab has made a number of valid demands to the government to offset the impacts of the coronavirus. Foremost among them is the reduction of taxes: as a service industry, newspapers are void of any special benefits and have to pay a corporate tax of 35 percent whereas, despite being a for-profit sector, the RMG industry's corporate tax stands at 10 to 12 percent. Noab has urged the government to reduce the tax for newspapers to 10 percent.

It also demanded omitting the 15 percent VAT on the import of newsprint. Under the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act, newspapers fall under the list of services that are exempt from VAT, yet they have to pay it. Other demands—such as reducing the Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on advertising evenues from four percent to two pe and reducing the advance income tax

PHOTO: AFP/INDRANIL MUKHERJEE

issue for the press. The plight of the journalists being sacked or furloughed is a concern for all of us, but it's important to understand that darker days may be ahead unless we learn to grow out of our shells. Covid-19 may have caused the "biggest existential crisis" in the history of the press, but the crux of it has long been in the making.

To put it succinctly, the industry has been dogged by a lack of innovative business models as well as quality content for long. Today, advertisements pay for the journalism as we know it-at least, all the journalism that isn't the BSS. The irony of this fact is inescapable: how can an industry expect to be sustainable when its main source of income is not its consumers or audiences, but the advertisers, mostly corporate houses using column space to promote their brands? When the advertisers are in trouble, those who depend on them are bound to be in trouble too. This is why our news

Journalism is an essential public good. If the press suffers, so does democracy, so does the performance of a government and that of public institutions, so do the people who depend on it to highlight issues vital to their life.

engagement from online readers during the pandemic, are struggling to survive.

The pandemic has served up a lesson for the industry that to cushion such external shocks, self-sustain and even grow in the future, it has to find a way to shift its dependence from the advertisers to the consumers, who will be its main source of revenue. One way to do that, experts say, is through expanding the consumer-based business model. For example, The New York Times, despite having its fair share of crises created by Covid-19, has seen unprecedented success in this regard. As of the first week of May, the number of its digital subscribers increased to 6 million. Many other news organisations in the US, the UK and other countries have also seen a boost in digital subscriptions. While the key to success in a digital ecosystem is still a mystery to most of us and the income from digital subscriptions (and advertisements) is still very low compared to the revenues needed, there is growing consensus that utilising the customer-based revenue model properly may toss a liferaft to the ships deing torpedoed by Covid-19.

For this business model to work, you need to monetise your content-not just the space or platform you provide. You need to provide quality content, both written and visual, something that readers and viewers would be willing to pay for. This is where the present crisis offers us an opportunity to transition to better journalism, and maybe come out stronger in the end.

But if journalism is to be saved as an essential public good right now, a lot more needs to be done-not just by the newspaper industry itself, but also by the government with public money and proper policy support as well as the global technology companies like Facebook and Google whose disruptive influences continue to afflict the newspapers. Nothing short of a concerted effort by all will be enough to ride out this crisis.



#### Crowded buses will pose great health risks

Before the resumption of public transport following lockdown, the government had hiked bus fares by 60 percent on the condition that the vehicles would carry half the passengers of their seating capacity. It's upsetting that the authorities are now considering resuming the bus service at full swing, meaning the entire bus will be packed. This will mean an end to social distancing which is so essential to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

The high prices of tickets, along with the "assumption" that everything will be under control, will actually increase the risks. Already, we are struggling to cope with the pandemic as infection and death rates continue to rise. If the government does not intervene immediately to take appropriate steps, more people will fall victim to the virus.

Amin Hossain, Dhaka

ANDY SUMNER

global povertywith even a fraction of these resources?

committed to spending 0.7 percent of their gross national income (GNI) on international development aid. This target was established by the Pearson Commission in 1969, and approved in a United Nations General Assembly resolution the following year. Countries reached this agreement a half-century ago in a world in which global poverty was at very high levels. At the time, the world was justifiably perceived in binary terms: the North was wealthy, and the South was poor

Much has changed in the intervening 50 years. Some countries have met the 0.7 percent target, but many others have yet to do so. Many developing countries experienced rapid economic growth in the 2000s-not only China and India, but also a number of African countries. Although all gains are currently in jeopardy, prior to the pandemic, at least, the world had entered a new era, with fewer low-income countries. At the same time, the higher global ambitions set out in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) committed countries to end poverty in all

its forms by 2030. A new era needs a new approach. The Covid-19 pandemic makes this need even more urgent. My colleagues and I propose a scaled financial commitment to development, with a twist: it should be universal across all countries, rich and despite record levels of traffic and

when measured at the World Bank's

poverty thresholds of USD 3.20 and

USD 5.50 per day. It is sobering to note

that every 10 cents added to the poverty

the poor by 100 million. Moreover, the

poverty count at USD 1.90 doubles when

one considers multidimensional poverty,

associated with a permanent escape from

terms-some 80 percent of the population

Furthermore, poverty does not only occur

the risk of future poverty-USD 13 per

day in 2011 purchasing-power-parity

in developing countries remains poor.

which includes health, education, and

When using a threshold that is

line increases the global headcount of

is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star. Email: badiuzzaman.bd@gmail.com

## **PROJECT** SYNDICATE Why all countries should contribute to ending global poverty

#### Before describing the proposal, it is

RILLIONS of dollars have already been spent on the global response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and no one knows what the final bill will be. Is it possible to respond to a much longer crisis–

Richer countries are currently

During this period, two "new middles" emerged. The first is an increase in the number of middle-income countriesnow home to much of the developing world's population. In many of these countries, aid levels are already low relative to domestic resources and nonpublic international flows. At the other end of the spectrum, about 30 countries remain "stuck" in terms of growth. These highly aid-dependent states are home to approximately 10 percent of the population of developing countries-not

necessary to ask what has changed since

the 0.7-percent-of-GNI target was adopted.

A new era needs a new approach. The Covid-19 pandemic makes this need even more urgent. My colleagues and I propose a scaled financial commitment to development, with a twist: it should be universal across all countries, rich and poor.

nutrition

a "bottom billion," but a bottom halfbillion.

The other "new middle" comprises those who have escaped poverty, but remain vulnerable to falling back into it. This group, as we show, represents more than two-thirds of the developing world's people.

If measured using the World Bank's definition of extreme poverty—living on USD 1.90 or less per day-global poverty has fallen (although the decline is more modest when China is excluded), and income has grown among many of the world's poorest. Extreme poverty now affects only some 10 percent of the population in developing countries, down from around 50 percent 40 years ago.

But poverty remains at startling levels

in Sub-Saharan Africa and in fragile or conflict-affected states. It is widespread. In short, the second "new middle" are those in developing countries living above the USD 1.90 poverty line, but below the USD 13 vulnerability-to-future-poverty threshold

Against this backdrop, and amid the global pandemic, our proposal calls for a "universal development commitment" (UDC) from all countries—rich and poor alike. Given their aim of poverty eradication, the SDGs would inevitably be the core focus of any such UDC.

One option for a UDC would be to institute a sliding scale. For example, high-income countries could keep the commitment at 0.7 percent of GNI, while upper middle-income countries would

contribute 0.35 percent. Lower-middleincome countries would earmark 0.2 percent of their GNI, with lower-income countries contributing just 0.1 percent. These are gross contributions, not net. In this scenario, the total finance available for development would amount to almost USD 500 billion per year.

These additional resources could, in principle, lift the remaining approximately 750 million people out of USD 1.90-perday poverty; end hunger and malnutrition for an estimated 1.5 billion people; end preventable child mortality; make primary and secondary schooling possible for all children; and provide access to safe and affordable drinking water for over one billion people, as well as providing adequate sanitation for more than two billion people. And in this scaledcontribution scenario, USD 200 billion would still remain available to support the achievement of other SDGs.

Developing countries would gain by contributing, because a universal development commitment would lead to more resources for those countries overall. Moreover, and equally important, contributing would ensure that poorer countries have a voice in funds' governance, whether symbolically, as a sign of their moral right to be heard, or physically, as members of the board deciding on priorities and policies.

There are undoubtedly numerous other questions our proposal raises. But the principle remains simple: Every country pays into the system, and the money is spent on ending global poverty. Amid a global pandemic, and with the SDG deadline a decade away, the world needs a universal development commitment sooner rather than later.

Andy Sumner is Professor of International Development at King's College London and a non-resident senior research fellow at UNU-WIDER.

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## Suu Kyi is likely to win again, but will that bring about any real change?



landslide victory in 2015 for Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD). Suu Kyi secured the victory with support from the most potent groups

T was a

in Myanmar: the Tatmadaw (combined Armed Forces and the Police), and the Bamars (the ruling ethnic group). The minorities—more than 135, according to official estimates-held their breath in high hopes of a better future. Rohingyas-the most persecuted people in the world—sighed in relief. Her numerous admirers in America and elsewhere were euphoric.

But within merely two years, Suu Kyi's scorecard was already abysmal, as The New York Times reported in 2018. With cold-blooded apathy, she dashed the hopes of millions and drove the country further towards violence, autocracy, and persecution. What did she wish to achieve by winning political power, then? To find the answer, let's reflect on some relevant events.

Myanmar has been under the Tatmadaw's tight control since the 1962 coup d'état. During the long years of international sanctions that followed, Myanmar became dependent on China for arms as well as political and economic support. The Tatmadaw was, however, trying to open its doors to the US and distance itself from Beijing.

China and Myanmar signed an MOU for the Myitsone Dam project in 2005, a key project under Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative

(BRI) in Myanmar. The Tatmadaw initiated limited political reforms in 2010, allowing a pseudo-civilian government, and

released Suu Kyi from house arrest. Myanmar stalled the Myitsone Dam project in September 2011, citing widespread public criticism, including that from Suu Kyi, indicating its growing differences with Beijing. In May 2012, the US eased sanctions

on Myanmar. Despite her victory in 2015, Suu Kyi

could not become the Prime Minister.

Suu Kyi skipped the funeral.

In August 2017, the Tatmadaw launched its "clearance operations" against "insurgents" in the Rakhine province. Almost a million Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh. The Tatmadaw soldiers left telling evidence of rape, arson, torture, and mass killings, perpetrated "with genocidal intent". The whole world looked up to Suu Kyi for her moral voice. But she spoke only to support the Tatmadaw, accusing the Rohingyas of making up stories.

In December 2019, Suu Kyi was in



#### Aung San Suu Kvi's unwavering support for the Tatmadaw, despite the overwhelming evidence of its war crimes against the Rohingya minority, may prevent her from bringing about any real change. PHOTO: AP/MARK SCHIEFELBEIN

The Constitution of Myanmar barred her from official positions because of her British family.

However, Ko Ni, Suu Kyi's long-time ally and an eminent lawyer, found a way around and created a new role for her—the State Counsellor—which was in all but name equivalent to the position of Prime Minister. She took it up in April 2016. In January the following year, Ko Ni was assassinated.

The Hague, to defend the Tatmadaw at the International Court of Justice, blowing up the last shred of doubt about her strong support for the Tatmadaw's genocidal acts in Rakhine.

Suu Kyi has been developing her relations with Beijing even before ascending to power. She met President Xi Jinping in Beijing in June 2015 which, on the face of it, secured Chinese support in her quest for power. constitutional amendment in January

She was in Beijing again in November 2017 to a warm welcome, in sharp contrast to the scathing criticism she was facing on the Rohingya issue elsewhere in the world. China was happy to offer her political shelter, in return for her support for the BRI. In March 2019, she changed her stance on the Myitsone Dam project, advocating for its continuation. President Xi visited Myanmar in January 2020, his first official visit since becoming the president, and concluded several BRI deals.

Suu Kyi has all along been playing a delicate balancing act between the Generals and Beijing. But what does she want to achieve?

Let's assume she is proceeding cautiously—courting the old guard, getting the military comfortable with civilians running the government, and pushing on with the reform processas some argued to Ben Rhodes, former Deputy National Security Adviser to Barack Obama.

One of Suu Kyi's election commitments was the reform of the Constitution to bring about greater civilian control on the state affairs. The 2008 Constitution contained many provisions that contradicted the basic norms of democracy and prevented civilian oversight on the Tatmadaw. In a carefully calculated manoeuvre, the Constitution allocated 25 percent of the seats of both houses of the Parliament to serving Tatmadaw officers. This provision, along with the requirement of the support of more than 75 percent of the members, make any change in the Constitution impossible without the Tatmadaw's active support.

It took full three years for the NLD to form a committee on a

2019. The Parliament voted on the proposed amendment bill on March 10, 2020-interesting timing, considering that the next election is scheduled for November 8, 2020.

To no one's surprise, least of all Suu Kyi's, the Parliament rejected it as it failed to achieve the required 75 percent of the votes (25 percent Tatmadaw and 11 percent USDP voted against). Was she sincere in her bid? Unfortunately, there are reasons to think otherwise, as Human Rights Watch reported.

The first, and most crucial, is her unwavering support for the Tatmadaw, despite the overwhelming evidence of its war crimes. At the same time, she has abandoned her ethnic minority followers, most notably the Rohingyas, only to appease her support base (the Tatmadaw and the ethnic Bamar majority).

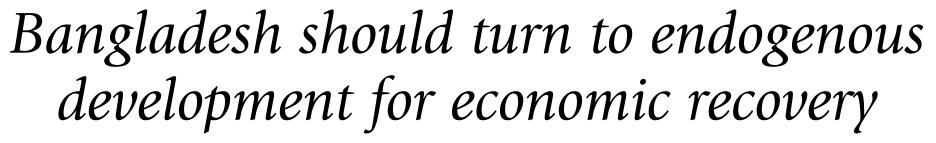
Second, she could have pushed through several attainable reforms with her parliamentary majority, such as the repressive laws that criminalise free speech and peaceful assembly. She didn't. On the contrary, her government has persecuted an increasing number of journalists and activists.

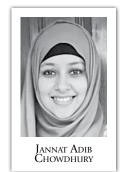
The NLD will most likely win the upcoming election as well because Suu Kyi is the best bet for the Tatmadaw, Beijing, the Bamars, and the Americans. But for the ethnic minorities, she is the last hope. Will Suu Kyi live up to their expectations in her second term and overcome narrow ambitions to become a true leader? If not, she will most likely become a victim of her political manoeuvring. And history will remember her as a puppet at best.

Sayeed Ahmed, PhD, is a consulting engineer with experience in infrastructure project management in South Asia.

DRAWING:

RAHAT HASAN



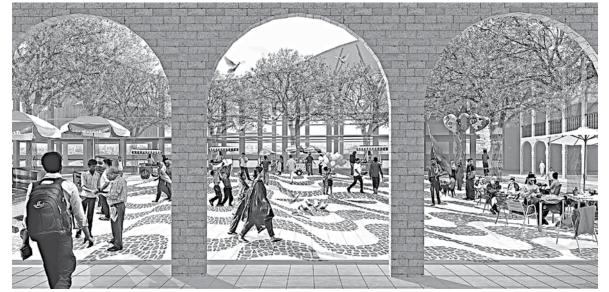


standard of life-style amenities of 🖌 outbreak of coronavirus in March in the country, Bangladesh's economy has been severely affected, particularly because of its

villages from where migrant workers have gone abroad. Nonetheless, the fact remains that despite the money sent from places like Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia and the television sets and other imports that it buys, the economic life or ways of making a living mostly remain unchanged in these villages. Rather, men or women from the migrant workers' immediate families live dreary and lonely lives. w moving back to t endogenous development issue-this will heavily focus on investment on certain tangible assets, and this will not only allow sustainable economic growth but will also have the capacity to markedly enhance the citizens' quality of life. Proponents of endogenous development divide these tangible assets into seven clusters-these are social, human, cultural, intellectual, natural, environmental and urban assets. These assets are present in all the divisional cities in varying degrees, and only by nurturing them properly can we truly uplift Bangladesh towards a momentum of economic and social stability. For example, adopting the endogenous development approach for Rajshahi would mean improving its human assets—that is, its people and the quality of life and livelihoods. Human assets mainly indicate basic human needs, adequate housing with secure tenure, educational opportunities for both girls and boys to prepare them for the changing world, considering the advent of the 4th Industrial Revolution, and lastly, access to good health. The satisfaction of these material needs builds the foundation

for our most fundamental right which is the right to life. Achieving housing, education and health needs for all the citizens must, therefore, be the aim for every genuine development agenda.

We have seen how the blind acceptance of the operations of market forces at the expense of the interests of ordinary people, coupled with a lack of proper governance system, have created gross inequalities in Bangladesh, allowing those few who already have a foundation in basic assets to pursue a life of dignity while marginalising the majority who lack the foundations for this most precious of human rights.



werdenend on RMG sector

exports and remittance earnings from the migrant workers. These two major economic activity streams seem to be in a very tumultuous position considering the shifts in the global business environment due to Covid-19 shocks, which will continue well into the future.

The current policy consensus is that Bangladesh's post-coronavirus future chiefly rests on its export and remittance earnings, and to achieve this goal, foreign capital and advanced technology must be invited in to generate jobs within the country while alternative labour markets for Bangladeshis should be explored to fast-track its economic prosperity. However, I would like to propose an alternative development approach that will concentrate on the long-term endogenous development of our eight divisional cities-which can be called the true wealth of the country. Before I explain what I mean by endogenous development, let us look at what is the problem with the current policy consensus and how it affects the quality of life in Bangladesh. For example, remittance earnings from the Middle East have definitely improved the

Again, another example of endogenous development will be improvising Dhaka city's natural assets such as lakes, parks, etc. As we can see, natural assets within and around Dhaka have been horribly squandered through neglect and thoughtless exploitation. Suburbs around this city used to be a serene landscape of agricultural fields, which now have morphed into a fractured, fragmented environment that is neither urban nor rural and seems utterly out of control. However, an endogenous development process will focus on reinventing Dhaka's public spaces as well as restoring its natural resources. Public spaces have the chance to become essential for the cultural identity and pride of a country, when they respond to its natural and geographical resources as well as to local traditions and trends which ultimately enables the citizens to live a meaningful, dignified life. However, it's also worth noting that Dhaka does not have the means to reinvent its urban space in the radical ways as Baron Haussmann did for Paris in the 19th

#### An endogenous development process will focus, among other things, on reinventing Dhaka's public spaces as well as restoring its natural resources.

century, or Shah Abbas did for Isfahan in the 16th century.

Naturally, the question is, how can such a development approach be financed? Endogenous development, or a development from within, can only be achieved by steadily investing in the seven clusters mentioned above. This does not necessarily mean mindlessly soliciting investments from global firms into an already underdeveloped asset base in Bangladesh, which can pose the risk of further degradation of these assets. Rather, we should rely on local savings which have the capacity to be substantial even in relatively poor or moderate-sized economies so long as the government is prepared to impose

on itself stringent fiscal discipline and vigorously combat corruption.

Ultimately, an increase of social, human, cultural, intellectual, natural, environmental and urban assets will automatically attract foreign investment in Bangladesh. And, this can only be done by adopting an endogenous development approach in the post-coronavirus economic recovery phase in the country. This also means putting trust in the inner potential of citizens to shape the future that lies ahead of us.

Jannat Adib Chowdhury is a development practitioner and currently works for Swisscontact in Bangladesh. Views expressed in the article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the author's organisation





**ALDOUS HUXLE** (1894 - 1963)British author.

That men do n learn very much j the lessons of his is the most impor of all the lessons history.

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The Baily Star THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020 BHADRA 12, 1427 BS 10

**COVER STORY** 

# **Beauty with Brains**



**Rafi Hossain:** Welcome to Uncensored with Rafi Hossain. Today, we are joined by Zakiya Bari Mamo. Thank you for being here, Mamo. How are you spending your time nowadays?

Zakiya Bari Mamo: Thank you for having me, Rafi Bhai. It is difficult to stay well during quarantine, but I have found my own way to keep myself happy. I have been doing everything on my own time. I study, watch movies and work out, among other things. In all honestly, I am quite happy with how my life is going. Since we have never had to live during something like the pandemic, I think that thist ime is important in a way.

**Rafi:** Last time we spoke, you told me that you are doing a *PhD*. Did you complete the degree yet?

**Mamo:** I have not finished it yet. I completed the first part of it, and now, I need to get myself to complete it. I am eager to complete it, but I need to get over my laziness.

**Rafi:** Nowadays, there are not many people from the younger generation who want to complete a PhD. Why do you think that is?

Mamo: I think the reason varies from person to person, but from what I can understand, many people do not get to apply their education to their jobs. Many people take jobs completely different from the subject they studied. I think that could be a reason people lose interest in pursuing further education. I think I am very lucky in this as I get to utilise my education in my job.

Rafi: What do you think the Bangladeshi film industry will be like once this pandemic is over? Mamo: I am hopeful about our industry. I think that the fact that we manage to make great projects even without much support shows how dedicated we are. The way we have planned and created our projects, I doubt that any other industry can even imagine doing it. After the pandemic ends, we need to adjust ourselves toa more different lifestyle, and then I think that our industry will have a change for

Zakiya Bari Mamo came into the showbiz industry through the 2006 edition of 'Lux Channel i Superstar', and since then, she has been a prominent figure in the industry. She made a name for herself by showcasing her talent in projects like 'Daruchini Dip', for which she even won a 'National Film Award'. In this interview with Rafi Hossain, she talks about the importance of education in her career, and why she feels hopeful about the new generation of actors.

> ability to act. If they do, they can easily bring it out and showcase it, and studying dramatics makes that easier. I think the reason I got this far is due to my passion for it. I immerse myself into the role and try to play it as well as I can.

**Rafi:** *How did you decide to come into this industry?* **Mamo:** When I was very young, I used to always practise singing and dancing, so I was very interested in cultural activities. So, after I finished studying intermediate, I knew that I wanted to study in dramatics. At first, my father was hesitant about it as it was not certain that a degree in dramatics would guarantee me a way to earn a living. I had to pressure him a lotto let me study the subject I wanted to. One day, my father came and asked me what my plans for the future were. I told him that I would look for roles after I had finished my education. He then told me about how there was a competition called *Lux Channel i Superstar*, and if I won that competition, I would get to do a film. He told me that since I went



Mamo: I think that while dealing with exploitation, the most important thing is to maintain the image. If I am not sure of what my goals are or if I am not passionate enough or if I am not sure of myself, I can get exploited by others. This is not just the case in our industry; it can happen anywhere. I think that those who are educated cannot be exploited as education helps them learn about proper values and gives them the bravery to stand up to whoever is trying to coercethem to do something. That is why I consider education very important. I think that in our society, a girl has to be more prepared to face things like this, so that she can stand up to it. I am already seeing that many new actors are prepared to stand up to this and they make me hopeful about the future of the industry.

**Rafi:** *Are you interested to work with new actors?* **Mamo:** Definitely. I am eager to work with the new generation of actors. I feel that the new generation is bringing in newer and better stories which I would love to work with. As long as whoever I am working with is passionate about acting, I am more than happy to do it.

**Rafi:** From the new generation, who would you say is doing the best work?

Mamo: I think that there are a lot of talented actors from the new generation. Mehzabien Chowdhury has been doing a great job, so has Sabila Nur. I also really like the work of Naziba Basher. Irfan Sajjad is also a very good actor. I like the acting of Samrat and Farhan Ahmed Jovan. I think that these actors understand acting very well. I believe that the new directors who started very recently are all doing great projects. I really like the work of Rinku. I also love the work of Taneem Rahman Angshu and Abdullah Mohammad Saad. I am sure that there are many more amazing artists in the industry.

**Rafi:** Who are your favourite directors? **Mamo:** I have a lot of directors with whom I enjoyed working with. I loved working with Mabrur Rashid Banna. He works in a very organised way. Faridur Reza Sagor is also an amazing director to work with. I never got to work with Ashfaque Nipun, but I would love to get the chance to work with him. I did one project with Adnan Al Rajeev, and I really enjoyed it. There are many other directors whose work I really enjoy.



Singer Kona has been house-ridden for the past five months because of the ongoing pandemic, but shehas still managed to keep herself busy. During this time, she has sung a few songs to raise awareness regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. Recently, she also lent her voice to the song *Bhalobashar Gaan* for the play, titled *Shannidhyar Golpo*. The lyrics of the song have been written by NI Bulbul, and it has been produced and composed by Shaan. Kona said, "I am really excited to lend my voice to a song after five months. I have been eagerly waiting to get back into work. It feels good to finally sing in a studio after along time."

Shreya Shomoyeeta

## The film of a different kind

Shakib Khan will be seen sharing the screen with Mahiya Mahi and Orchita Sporshia in the new film *Nabab LLB*, directed by Anonno Mamun. The shooting of the film will start mid-September of 2020. A new app will be launched with this film. The film is also set to be released in theatres. The director said, "Everything about this film is unique. The storyline is completely different from anything you've ever seen before in other Bengali films. I would say that this film is of international standards. I think it will make history." *Nabab LLB* is being produced under the banner of *Celebrity Production*.

Amina Hossain



the better.

**Rafi:** *Do you think that our industry will ultimately shift to web platforms?* 

Mamo: The thing is, even though all news articles are available online, people still read newspapers. It is the same case with television. Television has its own structure, and I think that people will still watch it. I do not think there is any other film industry in the world where they make telefilms like us. They make series meant for TV, but we make one hour to ninety-minute-long dramas just for television. So, our television industry is unique. However, web platforms give us the scope to show our content to a bigger audience. By giving content to web platforms, we are advancing with the times. Web platforms seem like they are full of possibilities, especially since our industry is unique. Another thing that I am very hopeful about web platforms is that we will get more projects to work on. On top of that, we will also get many experimental storylines.

**Rafi:** *Did studying in dramatics help you when you started acting?* 

Mamo: Many senior actors have said that you cannot act only if you just learn it. You need to have something in you to express yourself properly when you act. But, learning dramatics and studying different characters helped me differentiate between the characters I portrayed. However, if one is to act, it is most important that they have the natural

Here are

yourself,

as well as

others, safe.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

out of my way to study dramatics, I should try to go and win that contest. I told him that I did not think that I would win a beauty contest, but he still told me to go and try it anyways. I agreed to do it, and that was the start for me.

**Rafi:** When you registered for it, were you confident that you had a shot at winning?

Mamo: Whatever I do, I try to give it my everything. When I decided to register for the competition, I knew I had to try to win. I prepared as much as I could for the competition, so that I knew that even if I did not win, at least I tried my best. I also knew that even if I did not win, the experience I would gainfrom it might benefit me in the future.

**Rafi:** Unfortunately, we have to hear about a lot of exploitation done by people in the media. When facing exploitation like that, how did you deal with it, and what advice would you give upcoming actors regarding it?

**Rafi:** When picking roles, do you make sure that it does not affect your image?

Mamo: I think at times I do make sure to maintain my image as there are a lot of fans who only want to see me in a certain way. But, as an actor, I have to explore and do different types of roles. Actors have to do different kinds of roles to find happiness, so I think fans should understand that. Personally, I do not think that my fan base wants me to do only one kind of role. I think they like me as an actor overall. This lets me take on challenging roles, and my audience appreciates that. I am very thankful to my fans for that.

**Rafi:** *Do you have any final message for the readers?* **Mamo:** I hope all of you will stay well in these uncertain times. Times are hard for all of us, and we will all worry, but I would ask all of you to not focus on the bad sides and learn to be okay. All of us need to stay brave and learn to stay happy in all situations.

Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

Some binge worthy movie and series you can spend your time watching while you stay at home social distancing, keeping

## **Raat Akeli Hai**

Raat Akeli Hai is an Indian crime drama film on Netflix. It has been directed by Honey Trehan, produced by Abhishek Chaubey and Ronnie Screwvala, and stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Radhika Apte and Shweta Tripathi, among others. The film tells the story of a cop who, while investigating a murder, begins discovering many secrets of the victim's family. It was initially released on July 31, 2020.

## **GRACEFUL FRIENDS**

*Graceful Friends* is a South Korean mystery drama television series. It has been directed by Song Hyun-wook, produced under the banner of *Studio* & *NEW, JCN*, and *JTBC Studios*, and stars Yoo Jun-sang, Song Yoon-ah, and Bae Soo-bin, among others. It tells the story of twenty friends whose lives are changed after a murder takes place in their town. It was first aired on July 10, 2020.





Love, Victor is a teen drama web television series on *Hulu*. It has been created by Isaac Aptaker and Elizabeth Berger, produced by Nick Robinson and Shawn Wilt, under the banner of 20th Century Fox Television, among others, with Michael Cimino in the lead. It has been based on the book, Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli, and the movie Love, Simon, which was also inspired from the same book. The series follows the journey of a student at a new school, telling the story of his troubles at home to the struggle with his sexual orientation. It was released on June 17, 2020.

Shreya Shomoyeeta

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 27, 2020, BHADRA 12, 1427 BS

#### 'DEAR LIONEL'

Adelaide United issued a long-shot bid to entice superstar Lionel Messi to join its ranks Wednesday, touting the remote South Australian city as a coronavirus safehaven for playing and raising his family. The letter written by Adelaide United Director Ian Smith and posted on the club's Facebook page, says, "While Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester United and others may be chasing your signature, wouldn't you really like to go somewhere different? Indeed, as a consumer of Penfolds Grange, one of the world's finest wines, we will find you a house in the suburb of Magill -- It's just a free-kick away from Penfolds' award-winning Magill Estate restaurant, where you will have a regular table at your disposal," the letter read. "We cannot offer you much in the form of financial compensation, but, hey, let's not let that get in the way of something that promises to be very special; once you are here, you will be so happy and money will seem merely incidental."

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## Messi 'leaving' Barca, but where to?

#### AFP, Barcelona

Six-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi has told Barcelona 0 he wants to leave in a "bombshell" fax that is expected Laliga to spark a legal battle over a buyout clause worth hundreds of millions of dollars and a fight from top clubs eager

to sign the Argentinian. Signalling the end of an era at Barcelona, where Messi is the record scorer and has won four Champions League titles, the disgruntled Argentine wants to terminate his contract "unilaterally" by triggering a

release clause, a source told AFP. Relations have plummeted this year and speculation swirled about Messi's departure after this month's humiliating 8-2 Champions League quarterfinal defeat to Bayern Munich, which left Barca without a trophy for the first time since 2007.

The 33-year-old's demand, faxed by his lawyers, prompted protests against Barcelona's under-fire president Josep Maria Bartomeu outside the Camp Nou where Messi, synonymous with the club's most successful period, is worshipped by fans.

"And the bomb explodes: 'I want to leave Barca'," headlined Spain's bestselling Marca newspaper on Wednesday.

"The Messi bomb: He wants to leave," read Catalan sports daily Mundo Deportivo, while Sport newspaper headlined "All-out war!



AGENCIES



A Barcelona fan, wearing Lionel Mess's No. 10 kit, is left in a state of shock outside the club offices in Catalonia yesterday. The name on the jersey reads G.O.A.T -- an abbreviation for 'greatest of all time', a title many feel belongs solely to the Argentine genius.

> Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan are among the clubs to have been linked to Messi, who is among the greatest players in history and has wages to match, with a reported weekly salary of nearly one million euros.

> ESPN reported that Messi spoke last week with Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola about a possible move. A Barcelona-based Brazilian journalist also said Messi wants to play under his former Barcelona coach.

Barcelona have yet to react officially but are understood to believe Messi's release clause expired in June, and that he remains under contract until the end of the 2021 season.

"In principle, this clause expired on June 10, but the unusual nature of this season disrupted by the coronavirus

opened the way for Messi to ask to be released from his contract now," wrote Marca. "It's the first step towards opening negotiations over his departure, on the basis of which his release clause amounts to 700 million euros.

Messi joined Barcelona's youth academy at the age of 13 and made his debut in 2004 as a 17-year-old, before going on to score a club-record 634 goals.

But his future at Barca was thrown into serious doubt by the 8-2 loss to Bayern, the first time Barca had conceded eight goals in a game since losing to Sevilla 8-0 in the 1946 Spanish Cup

The defeat has sparked drastic changes. Coach Quique Setien was sacked after barely six months in charge, and sporting director Eric Abidal was also dismissed. According to Spanish media, Messi met

with new coach Ronald Koeman last week and told the Dutchman he saw himself "more out than in" at the club.

Koeman has vowed to "fight to put Barca back on top" and said at his unveiling he was hopeful Messi would remain at the club. But Koeman has reportedly told Luis Suarez he is no longer part of Barca's plans, delivering a similar message to Arturo Vidal, Ivan Rakitic and Samuel Umtiti.

Argentine sports daily Ole described Messi's wish to leave as a "complete bombshell", but he has had regular disagreements with the club's board.

The Lisbon loss, Barca's heaviest in Europe, exposed an ageing team that Messi repeatedly had said was simply not good enough. He said it in February and again in July, when a rant in the aftermath of handing Real Madrid the title turned into a brutal, but honest, assessment of their season.

As his relationship with the club hierarchy grew increasingly strained, Messi also reacted publicly when Abidal appeared to blame the players for the sacking of Ernesto Valverde in January.

He also led the fightback from the Barcelona players over a dispute with the board in March regarding pay cuts during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Respect and admiration, Leo. All my support, friend," tweeted Barca great PHOTO: Carles Puyol. Vidal also tweeted: "When you shut a tiger in a cage he doesn't give in, he fights back.'



#### **MESSI'S BARCA YEARS IN** NUMBERS

**FULL NAME:** 

Lionel Andres Messi Cuccittini

#### **BORN:**

June 24, 1987, Rosario (Argentina)

- O Club: Barcelona (2004-Present) • Champions League: **4** La Liga titles: 10 O Copa del Rey: 6 European Super Cup: **3 O** Spanish Super Cup:**8**
- **O** World Club Cup: **3**
- 🔾 Individual honours Ballons d'Or: 6
- 🔾 Top UCL scorer: 6 times
- 🔘 Top La Liga scorer: 7 times
- O La Liga goals: 444

## 'The privileges are over' 'Bartomeu resign, Messi stay' **REUTERS**, Barcelona

happen," 80-year-old Joana Polo, the situation. wearing a Barcelona face mask, told Messi has grown increasingly

Antonio Conte will continue at the helm of Inter Milan next season, the club confirmed on Tuesday, only days after the fiery Italian hinted he was ready to quit.

Conte staying |

at Inter

AFP, Milan

Conte held a "constructive meeting focused on continuity and strategy" with club president Steven Zhang and team management which lasted just over three hours in a villa outside Milan.

Inter opted for continuity after finishing second just one point behind champions Juventus, with the Chinese owners also confirming confidence in the management team.

Conte will now lead the club's bid to topple Juventus with coaching novice Andrea Pirlo having replaced Maurizio Sarri as coach at the nine-time reigning Serie A champions.

The 51-year-old Conte's departure was being heralded following an outburst after Inter Milan's 3-2 Europa League final defeat to Sevilla last week.

"It has been a very tough season from all points of view, the best decision must be taken for the good of Inter, with the utmost cordiality. I didn't like some situations," said Conte.

Conte took over in May 2019 on a three-year contract worth a reported 12 million euros a season.

But his relationship with club management and CEO Giuseppe Marotta in particular was reported to be tense.

On the final day of the domestic season Conte slammed the fact that players had been offered "little protection from the club".

"I don't want another year like that."

Marotta, however, insisted last week that "everything was forgotten" after Conte's heated criticism

Lionel Messi's meeting with Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman allegedly triggered the Argentine to ask for a move, as he was told 'the privileges are over'.

According to a report in Olé, the Dutchman's words during their meeting triggered Messi to send a fax requesting to terminate his contract at Camp Nou.

Koeman was reportedly on the phone with Messi, saying: "The privileges in the squad are over. I'm going to be inflexible, you have to think about the team."

Associated Press has confirmed the talisman sent a letter requesting a transfer this summer and wants out immediately.



|X| \*my X| \*mmus |X|

allowing him to leave at the end of each season, but Barcelona prepare their response saying the clause expires on June 10.

Presidential candidate of Barcelona, Victor Font, has asked for new elections to be called immediately if President Josep Maria The 33-year-old has a clause in his deal Bartomeu doesn't resign from his position.

Angry Barcelona fans chanted for the resignation of club president Josep Maria Bartomeu after captain Lionel Messi announced on Tuesday that he wished to leave the Catalan side.

"We love you, Messi stay, Messi stay!" and "Bartomeu resign!" chanted several hundred fans outside Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium on Tuesday night.

"I am very upset, for me Barca is Messi and Messi is Barca. They are the same, he is the symbol of Barca

... They should erect a monument in Camp Nou. I don't think this (departure) should be allowed to

Reuters on Wednesday outside Camp Nou

The decision by the Argentine forward has thrown the club into for forcing players to take a pay cut turmoil less than two weeks after their humiliating 8-2 Champions League defeat by Bayern Munich.

"It's a huge outrage. I never thought this would ever happen ... you can take defeats in sports but I can't handle Messi leaving," said Oriol, 40. We will defend him until death. He is not the one to blame. The blame is on (Barcelona's) board."

"Total War!" daily newspaper Sport declared on its front page referring to now is for him (Bartomeu) to resign.

unhappy over the last 12 months on how the club is being run under Bartomeu. He criticised club officials to cope with the financial hit of the coronavirus pandemic.

Albert, 28, another disgruntled Barca fan, told Reuters: "They have been doing things badly for a long time and this guy (Messi) has got tired of not having a project, of not keeping the philosophy we used to have ... and he said enough is enough."

"The only situation available right

## '700? Why not?'

#### AFP. Southampton

James Anderson refused to rest on his laurels after becoming the first paceman to take 600 Test wickets as he revealed England captain Joe Root wanted him to feature in the 2021/22 Ashes tour of Australia.

Anderson became only the fourth bowler after three retired spinners -- Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (800 wickets), Australia's Shane Warne (708) and India's Anil Kumble (619) -- to achieve the feat when he had Pakistan captain Azhar Ali well caught by first slip Root at the Ageas Bowl on Tuesday.

Anderson will be nearly 40 when England begin their quest to regain the urn from their arch-rivals. But although



ANDERSON JOINS SELECT GROUP									
Player	Mat	Inns	Wkts	Ave	Econ	5W	10W		
M Muralitharan	133	230	800	22.72	2.47	67	22		
S Warne	145	273	708	25.41	2.65	37	10		
A Kumble	132	236	619	29.65	2.69	35	8		
J Anderson	156	291	600	26.79	2.85	29	3		
G McGrath	124	243	563	21.64	2.49	29	3		

ANDEDCON JOINC CELECT COOL

he has now played a mammoth 156 Tests, Anderson insisted there was no reason why he couldn't still be a key member of England's attack Down Under.

"To be honest I've chatted to Rooty about this a little bit and he has said he would like me to be in Australia," Anderson told reporters after a match marred by bad weather ended in a draw to give England a 1-0 win in a three-Test series.

At 38, Anderson -- an England international for 17 years -- is already at an age where many pacemen have long since retired. But his hunger for wickets shows no sign of being sated.

"I don't see any reason why I can't be (involved)," he said. "I didn't bowl as well as I'd have liked for the whole summer. But in this Test I was really on it and I feel like I've still got stuff to offer this team. As long as I still feel like that I think I'll keep going. I don't think I've won my last Test matches as

an England cricketer yet. Can I reach 700? Why not?" added Anderson, who finished with match figures of 7-101 following his 29th five-wicket Test haul in the first innings.

"As long as I still feel like that I think I'll keep going. There will be decisions along the way with the selectors and coach and captain around how the team moves forward but as long as they want me around I'll keep working hard and try to prove I'm good enough to play in this team."

The Lancashire bowler added: "I still love turning up every day at training, putting in the hard yards and being in the dressing room with the lads trying to forge a win for England.

"It felt amazing to get 600 wickets, but even if I didn't get it here there are worse numbers to be stuck on for a few months than 599, so I'd have been happy either way," said Anderson, who was happy to see Root feature in his landmark achievement.

#### Pirlo vows to bring back joy AFP, Turin

Paulo Dybala will remain at Juventus but fellow Argentinian Gonzalo Higuain will not, new SERIE A coach Andrea Pirlo revealed on Tuesday, as he vowed to bring joy back to the Italian champions' game.

Pirlo took over this month after Maurizio Sarri was sacked after just one season following the club's Champions League last 16 exit to Lvon.

Despite his lack of coaching experience 41-year-old Pirlo warned: "I think I'm in the right place at the right time. I want to bring back to Juventus some of that enthusiasm that has been lacking recently."

Dybala, 26, will remain at the heart of the Juventus attack alongside Cristiano Ronaldo, but 32-year-old Higuain's time in Turin is over.

"He was a great champion, a great player but the cycle is over," Pirlo told his first press

conference in Turin. "We looked each other in the eyes, we talked and we made this decision. I admire him a lot, but we have decided that the paths will separate."

Pirlo continued: "Dybala has never been on the market. For me he is an important player. As soon as he returns, he will be part of the project.

"I didn't have time to think," admitted Pirlo about taking the job. "It was all very fast, I threw myself into it, but if I made this choice it is because I am convinced that I am in the right place at the right time."

Pirlo said that the tactical model was not fixed -- "we can play both four and three at the back" -- but the main objective was to play "with joy".

To bring enthusiasm you have to work, talk to the players, make them participate and make them understand our new way of playing. I work on the pitch, but there has to be a lot of human and psychological relationships.'



New Juventus manager Andrea Pirlo conducted his first training session with the team and got a big thumbs up from superstar **Cristiano Ronaldo.** 

The Daily Star



## Making masks from garment scraps

Rural women earning a living in midst of pandemic

#### Nilima Jahan

When the countrywide school closure notice due to the Covid-19 outbreak was announced on March 17 this year, Johora Pervin and Abdullah Al Maruf -- both teachers -- lost their livelihoods and the income they needed to maintain their family of five in Rajbari.

They stopped receiving salaries from the school for differently abled children they worked at in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari.

Last month, however, Johora learnt to produce face masks, alongside around 500 women from seven districts --Rajbari, Jamalpur, Kushtia, Magura, Gazipur, Narayanganj, and Dhaka.

At a time when informal sector jobs have all but disappeared leaving so many unemployed, a byproduct of the pandemic has led to livelihood opportunities for some rural women who are making biodegradable, reusable face masks from garments factory scraps.

What the women are making are called Ella masks, a product of ELLA (Eco-friendly low-cost liquid absorbent) Pad, an award-winning social enterprise known for reusing high-quality textile scraps from export-oriented garments factories to produce reusable sanitary napkins for RMG workers at an affordable price.

"We are provided with the garment scraps. Our cutting masters cut the scraps according to the pattern provided by Ella. And then we stitch the masks on our own," said Johora. SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A man slides through the narrow space between two buses in the capital's Farmgate yesterday. This is a common sight in the midst of traffic jams, and pedestrians taking such risks are exposed to serious injury or death in the event of a mistake on the part of drivers.

PRABIR DAS

PHOTO:



#### Nazrul's death anniversary today BSS, Dhaka

The 44th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed in the country today. On August 27 (12

Bhadra of the Bangla calendar) 1976, the poet passed away at the then PG Hospital, now Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, in the city.

He was buried with state honour beside the Dhaka University central mosque.

Different political parties, socio-cultural and professional bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day. The ruling Awami League will commemorate the day with various programmes. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Abu Dhabi

authorities

at fault

immigration

## Women now even deeper into misery

Finds icddr,b survey on 2,424 *families in Narayanganj* 

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from low-income groups, especially women, have been facing economic hardship, food insecurity, and have become victims of domestic violence amid the "stay-at-home" order to control Covid-19 transmission, said a new study report of icddr,b.

The report findings showed that the shutdown has put women at risk of experiencing deteriorating mental health.

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES **Bhutto called Bangabandhu**

August 27, 1972 Shamsuddoza Sajen

BANGABANDHU'S PHONE CONVERSATION WITH BHUTTO Pakistan President ZA Bhutto called Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman while the latter was in London after a gallbladder operation. This is disclosed by Bangabandhu over his phone conversation with acting Prime Minister Syed Nazrul Islam today.

During the conversation Bhutto inquired about Bangabandhu's health and expressed his desire to meet him. Bangabandhu informs Syed Nazrul Islam that he had categorically told Bhutto that he would not discuss anything him before Pakistan accorded recognition to Bangladesh as an independent sovereign state.

## TORTURE OF GIRL cops sued

probe the case

A female college student has lodged a case against four cops, including Ukhiya Police Station OC Morzina Akhtar, on charges of torturing her inside the police station over her relationship with a police constable.

She filed the case with Cox's Bazar Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-3 on Tuesday.

## *Trove of early* Islamic gold coins found in Israel



CAAB report blames them for sending back 112 Bangladeshis STAFF CORRESPONDENT An investigation committee formed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

yesterday blamed immigration authorities of Abu Dhabi, UAE for sending back 112 Bangladeshi migrant workers.

The 112 Bangladeshi expat workers travelled

on Biman and Air Arabia

Airlines to Abu Dhabi

between July 14 and August

authorities of Abu Dhabi

sent them back to Dhaka,

saying the Bangladeshi

citizens failed to meet

necessary conditions for

Following an inter-

ministerial meeting held

virtually in the middle of

immigration clearance.

But the immigration

21.



## Ukhiya OC, three other Court orders PBI to

Our Correspondent, Cox's Bazar

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) and Australia's Walter Eliza Hall Institute jointly published the report based on a survey on rural women and their families, according to a press release issued yesterday.

The study was conducted on 2,424 families in Rupganj, Bhulta, and Golakandail unions of Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila, it said.

Research showed that during to stay-athome order from the end of March to May, violence against women from low-income groups by their husbands and family members had increased.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



#### EFFECTIVE STEPS TO TACKLE FOOD PROBLEM

The Cabinet meeting held at the Gono Bhaban today decides to import 25,000 tonnes of rice immediately from India and to rush the food grains to the affected areas of the country. Priority would be given to carrying the food grains by train and other transport, the meeting decides. Acting Prime Minister Syed Nazrul Islam presides over the meeting. The Cabinet further decides to immediately import cloths worth Tk 5 crore duty free so that people can buy it at a cheaper rate.

SAMAD LEAVES FOR IRAQ

In an interview with ENA prior to his departure for Iraq today, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

The other accused in the case are Inspector ABM Nurul Islam, Assistant Subinspector Md Shamim and constable Sumon, all from Ukhiya Police Station.

According to the case statement, the 22-year-old student from Maheshkhali upazila was in a relationship with constable Sumon.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Israeli archaeologists announced Monday the discovery of a trove of early Islamic gold coins found during recent salvage excavations near the central city of Yavne.

The collection of 425 complete gold coins, most dating to the Abbasid period around 1,100 years ago, was a "extremely rare" find, Israel Antiquities Authorities archaeologists Liat Nadav-Ziv and Elie Haddad said in a joint statement.

The trove, which was unearthed by youth volunteers, also included hundreds of smaller clippings from gold coins that would have served as smaller denominations.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

#### Two sisters gang-raped

One of the rapists held in Chuadanga STAR REPORT

Two sisters were gang-raped by a group of criminals in Chuadanga Sadar upazila on Monday night.

Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Darshana Police Station, said one Anwar Hossain Sumon, 28, called the sisters to assist him in a local function as cooks.

As the sisters agreed, Sumon asked the sisters to visit his home on Monday evening. There, him and his five cohorts gang-raped the victims overnight.

Police rescued the sisters on Tuesday afternoon and recorded a case based on their version. Later, the law SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



**PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 27** Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00 JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A boatman cuts a solitary figure at the Ratargul Swamp Forest, often called the "Sundarban of Sylhet". The site is usually a popular destination for nature lovers wanting to take in the serene beauty on offer, but tourist traffic has dwindled because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Shooting of Black Man Two shot dead as violence rages in Wisconsin

REUTERS, Kenosha

A third night of street protests over the police shooting of a Black man erupted into gun violence late Tuesday and early yesterday in Kenosha, Wisconsin, killing two people and wounding one, police said.

Social media videos showed chaotic scenes of people running and screaming amid a volley of gunfire and others tending to gunshot wounds. The bloodshed followed a night of skirmishes that had appeared to turn calm after police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters who defied a curfew.

The shooting broke out shortly before midnight, killing two people and wounding a third who was expected to survive, the Kenosha Police Department said in a statement.

Crowds chased a man running down the street with a rifle after they believed he had shot another man. One pursuer took a flying kick at him after he fell to the ground. Another man tried to grab his weapon and appeared to be shot at close range, falling to the ground.

Another video showed a man who appeared to be shot in the head as several people rushed to his aid, frantically trying to tend to his wound and keep him alert.

Yet another video showed a man with a severe arm wound sitting on the ground and being aided by an armed man as police approached.

Kenosha has been rocked by protests since Sunday, when police shot Jacob Blake, 29, in the back at close range.

After struggling with police, Blake broke free and walked away from them and around his car to the driver's side, SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

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