

'INDIA FIRST APPROACH' Sri Lanka's top diplomat says his country won't do anything harmful to India's strategic security interests SEE PAGE 6

The Daily Star

Premium Exterior Paint BERGER WeatherCoat ANTIDIRT SUPREME 10 YEARS DURABILITY

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BANGLADESH UPDATE 2,519 New cases in 24hrs 3,02,147 Total cases 4,082 Deaths 1,90,183 Recoveries GLOBAL UPDATE 825,826 Deaths 24,174,368 Total cases

Padma bridge not before June 2022

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

REJAUJL 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.



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.

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 (ret'd) Sinha murder accused suspended sub-inspector 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.

'We want Messi to stay' Barca say in first official response AFP, Madrid Lionel Messi has not informed Barcelona coaches he will not attend training on Wednesday, according to the club's newly-appointed sporting director, Ramon Planes. Messi asked Barca Tuesday to leave the club SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

REFUGEE CAMPS IN COX'S BAZAR Rohingya 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 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 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 Rohingyas 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 (APB-N-16). Hemayetul said they received a complaint that a Rohingya man killed his 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

'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 fact-finding committee was also formed to conduct probes into the disturbing developments following recovery of the "murdered girl". Sub-inspector Shamim Al Mamun of Sadar Model Police Station, the IO of the murder case, has been closed to ensure an SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

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 সহধর্মিণী ও সুপার গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানীজ -এর মাননীয় চেয়ারম্যান মহোদয়া জনাবা লুৎফুন্নেসা আহমেদ, জিনি (৬০) ব্যাংকের বাসকন্যা হুসপাতালে ২৬ অগষ্ট, ২০২০ ইং, রোজ বুধবার, বাংলাদেশ সময় বিকালঃ ৩.৩০ ঘটিকায় ইন্তেকাল করেন। (ইনাল্লিলাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাহিহি রাজিউন) তাঁর মৃত্যুতে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত। মরহমার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি ও সকলের নিকট বিনীতভাবে দোয়ার দরখাস্ত জানাচ্ছি। বিনীত সকল কর্মকর্তা ও কর্ণচারীবৃন্দ এলিট পেইন্ট এন্ড কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড এবং সুপার গ্রুপ অব ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ

ইভ্যালি নিয়ে একটি জাতীয় দৈনিকে প্রকাশিত সংবাদের ব্যাখ্যা ২৪ আগস্ট, ২০২০, একটি জাতীয় দৈনিকের প্রথম পৃষ্ঠায় 'ডিজিটাল ব্যবসার নতুন ফাঁদ ইভ্যালি' শিরোনামে প্রকাশিত একটি নিবন্ধের সারাংশ... ৩৭ লক্ষ নিবন্ধিত গ্রাহক দেশ সেরা ই-কমার্স... evaly asia one FASTEST GROWING BRAND FASTEST GROWING LEADER MOHAMMAD RASSEL CEO, evaly.com.bd









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 loyalists 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

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

AFP, United Nations

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 anonymity, 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.



Protesters run for cover as police fire teargas in an effort 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.

**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-racked 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.

Meanwhile, Britain yesterday 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.

**Flash floods kill more than 70 in Afghanistan**

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 rains 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.



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 Al Noor and Linwood mosques in Christchurch on March 15 last year. The court is expected to deliver its verdict today.

**Melania Trump makes plea for racial harmony**

REUTERS, Washington

First lady Melania Trump 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.

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

**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 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.



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

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**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

**বিষয়ঃ "মুজিব বর্ষ-২০২০" উদ্‌যাপন উপলক্ষে জাতীয় পর্যায়ে রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা অনুষ্ঠান।**

স্বাধীনতার মহান স্থপতি জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ১৯৭৫ সালে বেতুনিয়া ভূ-উপগ্রহ কেন্দ্র স্থাপনের মধ্য দিয়ে বহিঃবিশ্বের সাথে তার বিহীন যোগাযোগ ব্যবস্থার সূচনা করেন এবং মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা কর্তৃক বঙ্গবন্ধু-১ স্যাটেলাইট উৎক্ষেপণের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ এখন তথ্য-প্রযুক্তির সুপার হাইওয়েতে অবস্থান করছে। মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী কর্তৃক ঘোষিত ও বাস্তবায়িত ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশে তথ্যের নিরাপদ আদান প্রদান ও ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা বিধান দেশে ডিজিটাল স্মারক সার্টিফিকেট প্রচলন করা হয়েছে। তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি আইন, ২০০৬ বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে দেশে ডিজিটাল স্মারক সার্টিফিকেট বাস্তবায়ন, তথ্যের নিরাপদ আদান প্রদান ও ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণের সরকারের কার্যক্রম সর্বাধারকভাবে অবহিতকরণ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যক্রম বিষয়ে সর্বস্তরে জনসচেতনতা সৃষ্টি করার লক্ষ্যে সিসিএ কার্যালয় কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। এরই ধারাবাহিকতায় দেশের তরুণ প্রজন্মকে ডিজিটাল স্মারক সার্টিফিকেট বিষয়ে অবহিত ও সচেতন করার লক্ষ্যে সিসিএ কার্যালয় জাতীয় পর্যায়ে কুল, কলেজ এবং বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষার্থীদের নিম্নোক্তভাবে প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রচনা আহ্বান করছে:

বিভাগ	পর্যায়	বিষয়	পুরস্কার (প্রত্যেক বিভাগের জন্য)
'ক'	মাধ্যমিক (৮ম-১০ম শ্রেণী/ সমপর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী)	"ডিজিটাল বিপ্লবে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের উদ্যোগ ও নিরাপদ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে ডিজিটাল স্মারকের গুরুত্ব" (সর্বোচ্চ ২৫০০ শব্দ)	১ম পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল স্মারক, ২য় পুরস্কার: ১৫,০০০/- টাকা, ৩য় পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল স্মারক
'খ'	উচ্চমাধ্যমিক (একাদশ-দ্বাদশ শ্রেণী/সমপর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী)	"ডিজিটাল বিপ্লবে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের উদ্যোগ ও নিরাপদ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে ডিজিটাল স্মারকের গুরুত্ব" (সর্বোচ্চ ২৫০০ শব্দ)	১ম পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল স্মারক, ২য় পুরস্কার: ১০,০০০/- টাকা, ৩য় পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল স্মারক
'গ'	স্নাতক/ স্নাতকোত্তর/ সমপর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী	"ডিজিটাল বিপ্লবে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের উদ্যোগ ও নিরাপদ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে ডিজিটাল স্মারকের গুরুত্ব" (সর্বোচ্চ ৩০০০ শব্দ)	১ম পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল স্মারক, ২য় পুরস্কার: ১৫,০০০/- টাকা, ৩য় পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল স্মারক

রচনা পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখঃ ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০

রচনা পৌছানোর ঠিকানাঃ নিয়ন্ত্রক সিসিএ কার্যালয় তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ আইসিটি টাওয়ার (২য় তলা), আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭ ইমেইল- info@cca.gov.bd

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- রচনা বাংলা ভাষায় লিখতে হবে;
- A4 সাইজের সাদা কাগজে নিজ হাতে/ কম্পিউটারে লিখতে হবে;
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- রচনা ডাকযোগে/ কুরিয়ার/ সফট কপি (নিকস ফন্ট) অথবা স্থান কপি ই-মেইলের (info@cca.gov.bd) মাধ্যমে পাঠাতে হবে;
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- বিচারকদের রায় চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

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

**বিশেষ দৃষ্টব্যঃ** রচনা লেখার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের ক্ষেত্রে তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি আইন, ২০০৬ এবং এই আইনের আওতা প্রকাশিত বিধিমালা/গাইডলাইনসমূহ, সিসিএ কার্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত বিভিন্ন প্রচার বিজ্ঞপ্তি, পুস্তিকা এবং এ বিষয়ে যে কোন জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক প্রকাশনা ও টেলিভিশন এর সাহায্য নেয়া যাবে। বিতরিত তথ্যের জন্য ইলেক্ট্রনিক স্মারক সার্টিফিকেট প্রদানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নিয়ন্ত্রক (সিসিএ)-এর কার্যালয় এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.cca.gov.bd) ও ফেসবুক (https://www.facebook.com/ccabangladesh/) ডিজিট করা যেতে পারে।

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**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 whis-

pers 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-



PHOTO DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

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

populations, the majority of whom are responsible for making Bangladesh one of the largest recipients of remittance (record of USD 18.32 billion in 2019 according to Bangladesh Bank).

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.

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](mailto:ishrat.jahan1620@gmail.com).

**FROM PAGES TO PIXELS**

# Bollywood’s ‘The Fault in Our Stars’ adaptation: Okay? Not Okay?

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



ILLUSTRATION: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

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

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 clostet 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*.

**BOOK REVIEW: GRAPHIC NOVEL**

# Crimes that history 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 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](mailto:israrhasan@live.com).



# The Daily Star

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*

ON 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?*

THAT 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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### 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

# We must save the press before coronavirus sinks it

OF MAGIC & MADNESS



BADIUZZAMAN BAY

IN April, British journalist and author Susie 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 a lawless, clueless world, she posits, 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,

retrenchments and harassment, you begin to see how uncertain the life of a journalist 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 virus—their 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

(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.

PHOTO: AFP/INDRANIL MUKHERJEE

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 revenues from four percent to two percent and reducing the advance income tax

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 newspapers, despite record levels of traffic and

## PROJECT SYNDICATE

# Why all countries should contribute to ending global poverty



ANDY SUMNER

TRILLIONS 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—global poverty—with even a fraction of these resources?

Richer countries are currently 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

poor. Before describing the proposal, it is necessary to ask what has changed since the 0.7-percent-of-GNI target was adopted. During this period, two "new middles" emerged. The first is an increase in the number of middle-income countries—now home to much of the developing world's population. In many of these countries, aid levels are already low relative to domestic resources and non-public 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

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 line increases the global headcount of the poor by 100 million. Moreover, the poverty count at USD 1.90 doubles when one considers multidimensional poverty, which includes health, education, and nutrition.

When using a threshold that is associated with a permanent escape from the risk of future poverty—USD 13 per day in 2011 purchasing-power-parity terms—some 80 percent of the population in developing countries remains poor. Furthermore, poverty does not only occur

*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.*

a "bottom billion," but a bottom half-billion.

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

*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 being 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.

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contribute 0.35 percent. Lower-middle-income 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-per-day 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 scaled-contribution 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.

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



SAYEED AHMED

It was a 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

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 Kyi'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 SCHIEFFELBEIN

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.

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 process—as 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 constitutional amendment in January

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.

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# Bangladesh should turn to endogenous development for economic recovery



JANNAT ADIB CHOWDHURY

EVER since the outbreak of coronavirus in March in the country, Bangladesh's economy has been severely affected, particularly because of its overdependence 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

standard of life-style amenities of 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.

Now moving back to the 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.

Again, another example of endogenous development will be improving 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. DRAWING: RAHAT HASAN

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.

**QUOTABLE Quote**

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

*That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons of history.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Applaud
- 5 Be rude, in a way
- 10 Center of a bagel
- 11 Needing immediate attention
- 13 Computer symbol
- 14 Ladybug, for one
- 15 Nelson of South Africa
- 17 Sprinted
- 18 Like some skirts
- 19 Auditor's org.
- 20 DC. baseballer
- 21 Book part
- 22 Edinburgh natives
- 25 Tennis star
- Monica

**DOWN**

- 1 Zoo favorite
- 2 From the area
- 3 Without others
- 4 Necklace features
- 5 Rent from a renter
- 6 Tire feature
- 7 Grow older
- 8 Result of a hung jury
- 9 Blow up
- 12 Past, present and future
- 16 Greek vowels
- 21 Little flags
- 22 Treats with tea
- 23 Yule singer
- 24 Run
- 25 Hearts or clubs
- 27 Dead ducks
- 29 Sat for a portrait
- 30 Pick up the tab
- 31 Super-market section
- 32 Tribe symbol
- 36 Sch. support group

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**BEETLE BAILEY**

THEY SAY DOGS ARE MAN'S BEST FRIEND. REALLY?

HA! HA! HOW COME MY FRIEND ISN'T READING ME THE COMICS?

**BABY BLUES**

FAMILY BIKE RIDE IN TEN MINUTES! EVERYBODY GEAR UP!

SOMEBODY HELP WHEN WHILE I CHECK THE TIRE PRESSURE.

I THINK THAT'S MY HELMET.

YEAH, I THOUGHT IT FIT KIND OF LOOSE.

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

CARATS DELI OLIVIA ELAN UPSSELL CABSA GHENT HASTA HANGSOFTEN SASQUATCH FOBURSA POPE CASED DINER ELSA FOOTER TIER ALCOVE SASS REAPED

**BY MORT WALKER**

**BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT**

COVER STORY

# Beauty with Brains



*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.*

**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 honesty, 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 this time 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 to a more different lifestyle, and then I think that our industry will have a change for 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

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 lot to 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



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 gain from 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?

**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 coerce them 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 it 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.

**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

GRAPE VINE

## KONA'S new project



Singer Kona has been house-ridden for the past five months because of the ongoing pandemic, but she has 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 *Shamidhyar 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 a long 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



POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

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



### 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



*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

## '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!"

**Dear Lionel,**  
On behalf of Adelaide United Football Club, we are pleased to have been contacted by you and to be a part of the pursuit of a world-class player.  
There are many reasons why you will love Adelaide, our State and Australia. We are a beautiful city with a rich history and a vibrant cultural scene. We have a diverse population and a strong sense of community. We are a city that is growing and evolving, and we are excited to have you here.  
We are offering you a unique opportunity to join our club and to be a part of our success. We are offering you a house in the suburb of Magill, which is just a free-kick away from Penfolds' award-winning Magill Estate restaurant. We will find you a regular table at your disposal.  
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!  
-- AFP

# Messi 'leaving' Barca, but where to?

AFP, Barcelona

Six-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi has told Barcelona he wants to leave in a "bombshell" fax that is expected 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 best-selling Marca newspaper on Wednesday.

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



A Barcelona fan, wearing Lionel Messi'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.

PHOTO: AFP

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 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)

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



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 react to 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



## Conte staying at Inter

AFP, Milan

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 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.

# 'The privileges are over' 'Bartomeu resign, Messi stay'

AGENCIES

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.

The 33-year-old has a clause in his deal



REUTERS, Barcelona

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

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 Bartomeu doesn't resign from his position.

## '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

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 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 Lyon.

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.

PHOTO: JUVENTUS



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**SHAH CEMENT**

# 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.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## 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

## 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.

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 Rugganj, Bhulta, and Golakandail unions of Narayanganj's Rugganj upazila, it said.

Research showed that during the stay-at-home 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

### 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 with him before Pakistan accorded recognition to Bangladesh as an independent sovereign state.

#### EFFECTIVE STEPS TO TACKLE FOOD PROBLEM

The Cabinet meeting held at the Gono Bhavan 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



## TORTURE OF GIRL Ukhiya OC, three other cops sued

Court orders PBI to probe the case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

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.

The other accused in the case are Inspector ABM Nurul Islam, Assistant Sub-inspector 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

## Trove of early Islamic gold coins found in Israel



AP, Jerusalem

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

## Abu Dhabi immigration authorities at fault

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 21.

But the immigration authorities of Abu Dhabi sent them back to Dhaka, saying the Bangladeshi citizens failed to meet necessary conditions for immigration clearance.

Following an inter-ministerial meeting held virtually in the middle of

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



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



**PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 27**

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAT	5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36
				8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION