

**'HORRENDOUS CONDITIONS'**  
UN chief calls for closure of  
Libya migrant detention centers  
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Your Right to Know

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AC EXPLOSION INSIDE N'GANJ MOSQUE

## One dies, 39 hurt

*Many of the injured admitted to hospital with critical burn injuries; fire officials suspect gas leak*

STAR REPORT

A seven-year-old boy died and at least 39 others suffered severe injuries in an air conditioner blast at Pashchim Talla Baitus Salam Mosque of Narayanganj after Esha prayers yesterday.

There was a load-shedding in the area and air conditioners exploded on the ground floor of the mosque as soon as the electricity returned.

Fire officials suspect accumulated gas from a leaked pipe line caused a fire that might have triggered the AC explosion.

Dr Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, confirmed to The Daily Star that a seven-year-old boy named Jewel died at 12:30am this morning after being admitted with 95 percent burns.

Prof Dr Abul Kalam Azad, director of the institute, said around 35 admitted patients are suffering from 60 to 70 percent burns.

Dr Samanta said a majority of the patients have more than 35 percent burns and the condition of most of them are critical, he said.

"We are primarily providing treatment to the patients at the emergency unit of the institute. We will shift the patients to different units -- High-dependency unit



The photo shows some of the havoc wreaked inside Baitus Salat Jame Mosque in Narayanganj after several ACs burst, leaving a seven-year-old boy dead and 39 others burnt during Esha prayers last night.

PHOTO: SANAD SHAHA

(HDU) and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) -- later, after analysing their condition," he added.

Hospital sources said only three to four patients have 10 to 15 percent burns and others are suffering over 30 percent burns. Some have been admitted with over 90 percent burns.

Lt Col Zillur Rahman, director (operation and maintenance) of fire service and civil defence, said they are suspecting that the explosion happened inside the mosque because of a gas line leakage.

But they are also inspecting the AC and trying to identify the actual reason behind

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WEBSITE REGISTRATION

### Govt gives pry approval to 92 dailies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has granted primary approval for registration of online portals of 92 daily newspapers. The country's major dailies have been included in the list.

Of the 92 dailies, 57 are published from Dhaka, two from Mymensingh, 10 from Chattogram, four each from Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barishal and seven are brought out from Sylhet.

The information ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard on Thursday.

The gazette said portals of 92 daily newspapers were primarily given permission to register as part of the ongoing registration process of news portals.

The news portals have been requested to complete the registration within 20 working days (September 23) from the date of the publication of the gazette notification by submitting

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ATTACK ON GHORAGHAT UNO

## BURGLARY it was?

*3 including Jubo League man held; one suspect claims it was 'theft attempt'; Rab says further probe needed to find actual motive*

STAR REPORT

A suspect said he and others broke into the home of Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam with the intention to steal property, but officers believe that the actual motive behind the gruesome attack was unclear.

One of the three arrestees, Asadul Huq, 40, told Rab officers yesterday that another arrestee, Nabirul Islam, masterminded the burglary and he was the one who hit Wahida and her father.

Reza Ahmed Ferdous, commanding officer of Rab-13, told reporters at a briefing in Rangpur last night that an in-depth investigation would be needed to know the actual motive.

Asadul told interrogators that they broke into the officer's house to loot cash and valuables.

"It is Asadul's claim and we do not have enough information to come to a conclusion. We need an in-depth investigation," Reza Ahmed said.

Rab arrested Asadul, Nabirul and Shantu Kumar Biswas in connection with Thursday's attack on the UNO and her father, freedom fighter Omar Ali Sheikh.

Asadul is a member of Ghoraghat upazila unit of ruling Awami League's



Wahida Khanam

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### 'Won't take the club I love to trial'

Messi to stay at Barca

STAR SPORT DESK

Lionel Messi broke his silence, giving Goal an exclusive interview at his house in Castelldefels and saying that he was going to "continue at Barcelona" and continue to do his best.

"I am going to continue at Barça and my attitude is not going to change no matter how much I wanted to go. I will do my best. I always want to win, I'm competitive and I don't like to lose anything. I always want the best for the club, for the dressing room and for myself," he said, adding

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HOSPITAL OXYGEN SUPPLY

## Samaritans step in

*Young professionals use their expertise to upgrade facilities*

NILIMA JAHAN

When the country's hospitals were struggling to ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply to critical coronavirus patients, a group of 14 Buet alumni came to their aid three months ago by installing central oxygen systems for treating Covid-19 patients.

They are enngineers, architects and planners, from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology's graduating class of 2012, who united under an initiative called "Projotne Canvas".

The team developed the small centralised oxygen supply systems and installed them in around 30 beds at each of nine public and private hospitals.

They will soon activate the systems in two more hospitals.

"We wanted to best use our technical skills to help the country meet the growing demand for oxygen supply," Mithun Raha, coordinator of the initiative, told The Daily Star.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the limelight the need for uninterrupted oxygen supply for the treatment of patients

suffering from respiratory distress, whereas many public hospitals do not have a nonstop supply of oxygen and use oxygen cylinders instead.

"We made up our mind to do something and started collecting funds from our batch mates for the first project that we did at Chattogram Field Hospital after Eid-ul-Fitr. When this project was successfully done, it inspired us to do more," he said.

The initiative received support from donors for their next projects -- including from the Ispahani Group, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Child Health Awareness Foundation, and another Buet alumni group.

At government upazila health complexes, "Projotne Canvas" only provided technical assistance, Mithun said.

They installed a central oxygen system connected to around 30 beds at each hospital at a cost of Tk 6-10 lakh, without technical costs. If installed commercially, it would have taken around Tk 25 lakh, he said.

Since all Covid-19 patients at a hospital don't require oxygen at a time, the project

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## OC Pradeep's clip viral with torture claim

Rab denies allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A video clip has been doing the rounds on social media showing suspended Teknaf OC Pradeep Kumar Das and Inspector Liaquat Ali telling someone that they had been tortured in remand.

In the 2:27-minute long footage, the accused in Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan murder case are seen alleging that they were undressed, beaten up and administered electric-shocks in Rab custody.

The Daily Star could not verify the authenticity of the video.

The clip, apparently shot in a police vehicle, shows Pradeep and Liaquat, both handcuffed, talking over the phone and calling the person on the other end "sir". It is not clear who was filming and how the duo could get mobile phones in a police vehicle.

"Sir, you have to see this. They are saying different cases have been filed at different places and the Rab will take over the investigation of the cases. Then they will get us again and take strong measures against us..." Pradeep said.

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Masked intruders broke into the UNO's official residence at Ghoraghat, Dinajpur between 2:30am and 3:00am Thursday.

UNO Wahida Khanam and her father Omar Ali were seriously injured in the attack. The criminals hit them with a hammer.

Wahida was later flown to the capital and admitted at the National Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital (NINH).

She gained consciousness after a surgery on her brain Thursday night. Her condition is stable, but she is not out of danger.

Three suspects are held so far. One of them was a Jubo League member. Jubo League expelled him soon after his arrest.

BANGLADESH UPDATE



1,929

New cases in 24hrs



3,21,615

Total cases



4,412

Deaths



2,16,191

Recoveries



GLOBAL UPDATE



876,234

Deaths



26,665,700

Total cases

COVID CASES

### 20pc of over 16 lakh samples tested positive

29 more die, 1,929 infected in a day

UNB, Dhaka

Coronavirus testing laboratories in the country have tested 16,05,111 samples till Friday and 3,21,615 or 20.04 percent have turned out Covid-19 positive.

Health authorities in the last 24 hours have detected 1,929 new cases of Covid-19 after testing 13,073 samples. Daily infection rate decreased to 14.7 percent.

Since March 18, 4,421 people have died in the country and 29 died from the disease in a day. The fatality rate in Bangladesh is still 1.37 percent.

The country saw the recovery of 2,211 Covid-19 patients during the period pushing the number of total recoveries across the country to 2,16,191.

A press release sent by Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) provided the latest

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Lying on a pavement, a protestor recreates the scene of a "shootout" incident during a demonstration in front of TSC at Dhaka University yesterday. Drik, a multimedia organisation, staged the protest and an exhibition on the occasion of its 31st founding anniversary demanding an end to extrajudicial killings in the country. However, it could not finish the exhibition due to other scheduled programmes there. Rights groups blame law enforcement agencies for killing people in so-called "gunfights" between them and alleged criminals.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## BNP needs to move forward without allies

*Many party leaders say it should sever ties with Jatiya Oikyafront*

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Many BNP leaders and activists believe that the party must move forward without its partners from the 20-party Alliance and Jatiya Oikyafront.

The BNP should cut its ties with the Jatiya Oikyafront and reduce its dependency on the 20-party Alliance, key leaders said.

The party has the strength to move on, they added. Oikyafront has been inactive after the parliamentary election and it held no programme or meeting since the election, leaders said.

Most of the BNP standing committee members agree that they should cut ties with Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, but the party has yet to make a decision.

The leadership of Jatiya Oikyafront was discussed when the BNP standing committee members met Chairperson Khaleda Zia on the Eid day.

"Even though the party will not officially cut ties with any of the alliance partners it will move on," said a standing committee member, wishing not to be named.

BNP grassroots leaders and activists said that they have strong organisational strength on union levels.

"From the very beginning, I was against the Oikyafront and I think we should sever the tie. There are ideological differences and that's why forming the platform with the partners of Oikyafront was a wrong decision. The BNP has suffered because of this platform," BNP Organising Secretary Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu told The Daily Star.

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# Won't take the club

FROM PAGE 1  
that the future may be brighter under new coach Ronald Koeman.

His reason for wanting to leave were simple: "I always said I wanted to end here. That I wanted a winning project and to win titles with the club to continue expanding the legend of Barcelona at the title level. And the truth is that there has been no project or anything for a long time, they juggle and cover holes as things go by. As I said before, I always thought about the welfare of my family and the club."

He also offered his version on the bombshell burofax to the Barcelona board, in which Messi told the club he wished to exercise an exit clause in his contract.

"The burofax was to make it official in some way. Throughout the year I had been telling the president that I wanted to go, that the time had come to seek new illusions and new directions in my career. He told me all the time: 'We'll talk, no, this and that,' but nothing. Sending the burofax was making it official that I wanted to go and that I was free and the optional year I was not going to use it and I wanted to go. It was not to make a mess, or to go against the club, but the way to make it official because my decision had been made.

Messi also spoke of the pain that he felt when his loyalty was doubted, saying: "It hurt me when my love for this club was questioned. No matter how much I go or stay, my love for Barça will never change."

He admitted to being hurt by the idea that he would leave for money. "The money? Every year I was able to leave and earn more money than at Barcelona. I always said that this was

my home and it was what I felt and feel. Better than here it is difficult. I felt that I needed a change and new goals, new things."

Ultimately, although some discontent simmered as he felt Josep Maria Bartomeu "did not end up keeping his word", Messi said he could never take Barcelona to court.

"Now I am going to continue in the club because the president told me that the only way to leave was to pay the 700 million clause, that this is impossible. And another way is to go to trial. I would never go to court against Barca because it is the club that I love, that gave me everything since I arrived, it is the club of my life, I have made my life here."

## Turkey must drop 'threats' for talks to begin: Greek PM

AFP, Athens

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis yesterday said Turkey should drop "threats" against his country if talks on reducing tension in the eastern Mediterranean are to begin.

"Let threats go away so that the contacts can begin," Mitsotakis said as he met a visiting senior member of the Chinese Communist party.

Mitsotakis said that Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias would brief UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Turkey's "lawless activity".

Greece denied late Thursday that it had agreed to hold NATO-brokered talks with Turkey to de-escalate tensions over maritime borders and gas exploration rights.

# Govt gives pry approval

FROM PAGE 1  
the prescribed fees following the government rules and regulations.

Most of the portals of the major dailies, including leading English daily The Daily Star and Bangla daily Prothom Alo, published from Dhaka were included in the list.

Publication of the gazette notification came two days after a team of Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council), a platform of editors of national dailies, called on Information Minister Hasan Mahmud at his secretariat office and requested him to take immediate measures to register the online versions of newspapers.

In response, the minister said measures would be taken to register online versions of newspapers on a priority basis.

Earlier on July 31, 44 news portals and newspaper websites were picked for registration.

After amending the list, the information ministry later allowed 34 news portals to register.

The government had started accepting applications for registration of online media outlets in late 2015. Applications were received the following year by extending the deadline several times.

The government then said all online media outlets would be brought under registration to stop "misreporting".

# Samaritans step in

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made the arrangement for 30 beds so that patients who require oxygen can be shifted to those beds, when needed. And because this is a permanent set-up, other patients who require oxygen will benefit from this arrangement, said Mithun.

Currently, the team is aspiring to multiply this project in various hospitals.

"Besides, we will be glad to introduce other initiatives where we can use our technical and engineering skills," added Mithun.

The hospitals where the system has already been installed are Chattogram Field Hospital; Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (BITID) in Fouzderhat; Manikganj Sadar Hospital; Chattogram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital in Agrabad; Hathazari Upazila Health Complex; Chakaria Upazila Health Complex in Cox's Bazar; Khulna Medical College (Flu Corner); Khulna Diabetic Hospital; and Bangladesh Cancer Society Hospital and Welfare Home in Dhaka.

# BNP needs to move forward

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The party has strength and it should move alone leaving behind the alliance partners, they added.

When the Oikyafront front was formed, senior party leaders participated in the meetings, but after the election, there was no such activity.

Besides, the BNP leaders did not like the speech of Dr Kamal Hossain.

The rift began when Oikyafront leaders went to parliament without informing the BNP leaders.

Apart from this, the BNP leaders were frustrated that Khaleda Zia's release was not among the top agenda of the Oikyafront, said party leaders.

"Since the election, there has not been a single formal meeting of the Oikyafront. Now, the front is inactive," Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said.

The front basically exists on paper now, he said.

Since the formation of the Oikyafront, a discomfort and distance have been created between the BNP and other members of the 20-party alliance.

The alliance leaders alleged that BNP gave more importance to the Oikyafront than the 20-party.

They said since the formation of Oikyafront, no decision was made in the alliance meeting, rather the decisions made at the Oikyafront were informed in the alliance meeting.

"Forming an alliance with the Oikyafront was a major blunder made by the BNP. I said it many times. The 20-party alliance is strong, united, and working together though there is barely any activity," said Oli Ahmed, president of Liberal Democratic Party, one of the 20 parties in the alliance.



**Tired and exhausted after waiting for hours, women sit in a queue outside the capital's Mugda General Hospital to give samples for Covid-19 testing. Inset, people line up without maintaining social distancing. The photos were taken around 8:00am yesterday, about an hour before the start of sample collection.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Burglary it was?

FROM PAGE 1  
youth front Jubo League, said AL party sources. The two other arrestees are both painters by profession.

Jubo League has cancelled Asadul's membership soon after his arrest in Banglar Hilly area of Dinajpur on Thursday.

Meanwhile, critically injured Wahida partially gained consciousness after a surgery on her brain on Thursday night. Although her condition is stable, she is not out of danger yet, according to doctors.

Police on Thursday said unknown assailants broke into Wahida's official residence in the early hours and attacked her and her father, who came visiting from Naogaon. They were hit with a hammer.

Critically injured Wahida was airlifted from a hospital in Rangpur city and admitted to the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital on Thursday afternoon.

"...She is communicating sometimes; her blood pressure, oxygen level and pulse are stabilising," Dr Uzзал Kumar Mallik, assistant professor (ICU), told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

A medical board will sit today to discuss the condition of the UNO and the possible next steps for her treatment, he said.

The Rab-13 CO yesterday said the attackers entered the official residence of the UNO cutting open the ventilator of a first-floor bathroom.

Rab started a shadow investigation after the wounded UNO's brother filed a case over the attack with Ghoraghat Police Station, he said.

The CO said Asadul was arrested first and Nabirul was the key planner.

He said Asadul and Nabirul were accused in multiple cases. The arrestees will be handed over to police.

In CCTV footage, a lanky man in a red t-shirt was seen. Asadul admitted to Rab that the man in the t-shirt was him.

The CO added that Rab would take legal action against the accused.

He said Rab detained six other people and two of them had been released.

Jahangir Alam, convener of Ghoraghat Upazila Jubo League, was one of them.

He also said they brought Jahangir for interrogation on some specific intelligence. He, however, did not share the intelligence with journalists.

The Rab official, however, said Jahangir and others who will be allowed to go after interrogation will be under surveillance until the investigation reaches a conclusion.

The Rab captain further said that efforts were underway to arrest anyone

else involved in the attack.

**'ATTACKERS WILL NOT BE SPARED'**  
Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said, "The attackers will not be spared, no matter to which party they belong."

Speaking in a video conference from his residence, Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said the government has taken all measures for the proper treatment of Wahida.

Echoing a similar view, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said the government was looking into the incident and was giving it the highest importance.

It will take more time to know why and how such an incident took place, he told journalists at his Dhanmondi residence.

A three-member probe committee, formed to investigate the incident, was asked to submit the report as early as possible. Jakir Hossain, additional divisional commissioner of Rangpur, is head of the committee.

Wahida was supposed to visit the Dugdugi Haat in the upazila on Thursday to demolish an illegal structure, erected by lease owner of the haat and his supporters, locals said. But that was not to be.

Around 10 days ago, she had sent police to stop erecting the structure, locals also said.

# One dies, 39 hurt

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the explosion," he said, while addressing reporters at the spot.

The fire service and civil defence authority has already formed a four-member probe body with Lt Col Zillur Rahman as head, said Kamrul Hasan, duty officer of fire service headquarters. The incident occurred around 8:45pm.

Enamul Haque, who lives beside the mosque, told The Daily Star that he had gone to the place of worship for Esha prayers and that there was a power outage when the Imam gave his call to prayer. There were about 120-130 worshippers at the three-storey mosque, he said.

After the prayers, around 80 remained for the nawafil prayers and when the electricity came back on, all six air-conditioners burst into flames on the ground floor, according to Enamul.

His brother-in-law, Mizanur Rahman, was one of those injured.

The Narayanaganj fire department

was soon at the scene, and took the injured to Dhaka, he said, adding that he also made the journey with his injured relative.

There were hundreds of people waiting outside the institute restlessly as updates about their injured friends and relatives were not forthcoming.

Abdullah Al Arefin, assistant director of Narayanaganj fire service and civil defence, told the Daily Star that a gas pipe line of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited has gone through the bottom of the mosque.

"We are suspecting that gas accumulated inside the mosque from a leak in the pipeline. The gas could not go out because the windows were closed due to the AC," he said.

Rahmatullah Chowdhury, in-charge of bomb disposal unit of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Unit, however, told The Daily Star that primarily they came to know that the explosion took place from the air-condition blast.

# Australian writer detained in China denies spying: lawyer

AFP, Beijing

An Australian writer detained in China for 19 months on spying charges has insisted he is innocent, his lawyer told AFP yesterday, after being allowed to see his client for the first time.

Beijing has said little about the case of Chinese-born Yang Jun -- who also goes by the pen name Yang Hengjun -- since he was taken into custody in January last year during a rare visit to China, prompting Australian government protests.

Yang's case is one of many points of tension between China and Australia, with the two sides at loggerheads over trade and the coronavirus, and competing for influence in the Pacific. "He denies the prosecution's allegations of espionage," lawyer Shang Baojun told AFP after the hour-long visit.

China's foreign ministry said yesterday it will "act strictly in accordance with the law, fully protecting the legal rights of relevant personnel". A spokesman did not address the issue of Yang's being held

incommunicado.

Yang is one of a string of foreign nationals to have been arrested in China on allegations of spying.

Shang said the case was currently under review by Beijing legal authorities, who will decide whether to formally charge Yang.

Australia's ABC news reported Thursday that Yang had called his situation "political persecution" in a message to family and supporters, and had spoken to Australian consular officials via video link.

He said in the message that he was "innocent and will fight to the end", adding he would "never confess" to something he had not done, ABC said.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne decried China's treatment of Yang as "unacceptable" last December, saying he was not being allowed access to lawyers and had been interrogated while shackled.

The visit by Yang's lawyer follows the recent arrest of another high-profile Australian citizen.

Cheng Lei, an anchor for China's English-language state broadcaster, has been held since at least August 14 but Australian diplomats say Beijing has given no reason for her detention.

## 20pc

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information and also confirmed that the recovery rate has climbed further to 67 percent in Bangladesh.

Among the 29 people who lost their lives, 22 are aged 50 years.

So far, 2,134 patients have died in Dhaka division, 952 in Chattoram, 295 in Rajshahi, 365 in Khulna, 172 in Barishal, 197 in Sylhet, 202 in Rangpur and 95 in Mymensingh division.

Across the country, 19,676 people are in isolation and 52,472 people are quarantined at present.

In Bangladesh, the first three cases of coronavirus infection were detected on March 8 and on Wednesday it crossed 300,000. On July 2, 4,019 Covid-19 patients were identified in the country, the highest in a single day.

'MURDERED' GIRL FOUND ALIVE

# Accused alleges brutal torture in police custody

*Claims he was forced to give confessional statement*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An accused in a case who confessed of raping and killing a class-V female student, who was later found alive in Narayanganj, alleged that police brutally tortured him into confessing.

"Police beat me continuously after hanging me upside down. At one point, my condition was so critical that I was finding it difficult to breathe," said Khalilur Rahman, an accused in the case.

"But they did not stop. They intimidated me saying that they would keep beating me until my death if I don't give a confessional statement," he said.

Khalilur, a boatman in profession, was talking to The Daily Star at his home in Chhak area under Bandar upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.

"I was compelled to give a confessional statement to save my life," he said.

"They [police] asked me to give a confessional statement before the court, assuring me that they would arrange my bail within a month if I follow their directives," said Khalilur.

His wife Sharmin Akhter said her husband has become traumatised. He repeatedly wakes up from sleep due to nightmares caused by police torture.

Khalilur now wants his acquittal from the case and claimed himself to be an innocent man.

He said police picked him up from no. 5 Ghat area along with five other boatmen and took them to Narayanganj Sadar Police Station on a Friday evening about a month ago.

"After taking us to the police station, they took me to a separate room where Abdullah [another accused in the case] was also kept.

Khalilur also claimed that police earlier tortured Abdullah into framing him in the case.

"Then, Shamim sir [a policeman] showed me a photo of a girl and asked me to tell them where we had buried her body. But I said I knew nothing," he added.

A class-five girl student went missing on July 4. Her father filed a case with Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station on August 6 over the abduction of his daughter.

Later, police arrested three people -- Md Abdullah, 22, Md Rakib, 19, and Khalilur Rahman, 36.

On August 9, the accused testified under Section 164 in separate courts of Narayanganj Senior Judicial Magistrate and Judicial Magistrate. In their confessional statement, they said that they had killed the girl after raping her and threw her body in the Shitalakkhya river, said police.

After their confessional statement, they were sent to jail.

On August 24, a police team, however, found the girl alive in Kushiara area of Narayanganj's Bandar upazila, 49 days after she had gone missing.

Later, the girl and her family members said she had no links with the three accused. Rather, she had eloped with one of her friends named Iqbal.

On August 25, the three accused filed bail petitions with a court in Narayanganj. During a hearing on their bail petitions on August 31, they appealed the court to withdraw their previous confessional statements.

Later on September 2, Khalilur was released on bail, while hearing on the bail petitions of two other accused will be held on September 7.

## OC Pradeep

FROM PAGE 1

He then mentioned the names of several Rab officers and said he was given electric-shocks in the presence of a doctor so as to avoid bruise marks.

Similarly, Liaquat was seen saying, "Sir, they injured us severely. You might have given our photos to the DG of Rab who visited us and assured that nothing would happen. But actually the ADG of Rab tortured us... They left us undressed the whole night and asked why we took the photos. The next day, they gave us electric-shocks, beat us up and pushed injections."

OC Pradeep and inspector Liaquat were placed on remand in Majes.

Since the killing of Majes (ret'd) Sinha, at least seven complaints have been lodged against policemen, including Pradeep, over the killing of people in so-called gunfights.

Talking to The Daily Star, Lt Col Ashique Billah, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said the allegations of torture were completely false.

"After remand, we always take the arrestees to a doctor for complete health check-ups. If any such thing had happened, the doctor would have raised questions. Nothing like that had happened. We will not take the responsibility for what they have said," the Rab official said.

The Rab director also suggested that The Daily Star contact the police department concerned for comments about how the video was filmed in a police vehicle.

Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general (Media) at the Police Headquarters, didn't answer the phone calls made by this paper.



# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Catching a big catfish in Brazil.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## Fishy Mornings

A string of failures followed by success – that is the story of my childhood fishing.

When I was eight, I developed an obsession for fishing. I tried the spear called *kucha*, various fishing nets, the fishing pole and my bare hands. They all provided entertainment but only one caught me fish.

As a child I seemed to be surrounded by fish. They were everywhere, taunting me, daring me to catch them.

The pond in front of our house had schools of fish that tickled my feet when I swam there, but when I dived to catch them they slithered away.

During the rains our lawn flooded and I saw tantalizing glimpses of fish playing in the grass under the clear rainwater. But there were also snakes and leeches so I had to be slow and cautious. I tried to trap the fish with a triangular frame net, but the clumpy grass underneath left enough openings for them to escape.

There was a large open canal running along the front of our house. The rains brought a flow of clear water and the fish came along. I could see them swimming in the shallow water. So I got a *kucha* – a spear-like contraption – which was the preferred fishing tool for shallow water. But no matter how hard I tried I missed the fish. Today I realize that refraction of light had something to do with it.

Then one day my luck changed.

My aunt Amu Fufu stopped by for a visit and saw my interest in fishing. “Why don’t you come and fish in our pond,” she suggested, “and don’t forget to bring a fishing pole.” Her family lived across town on Jail Road. The pond stood just outside their main compound. I had never given it

a second look, but that was about to change.

And so a bamboo fishing pole was procured from the market and I got to work early the next morning. A household staff helped me prepare the bait – small balls made of dough – and showed me the basics. We hailed a rickshaw, and with two long poles sticking out the back window, we were on our way to Jail Road.

The pond, surrounded by a raised grassy bank, was separated from Amu Fufu’s house which was fenced off by a hedge punctuated by *koroi* and banana trees. We found a spot to sit and I placed the bait on the hook. The buoyant stem of a water hyacinth plant served as the sinker. I cast my line and waited quietly. Soon the sinker started bobbing. There were nibbles and gentle tugs; then it went quiet. Pulling it out I saw the bait was gone. I had to replenish the bait several times before I felt a strong pull on the pole. The fish thrashed and my pulse raced. I finally pulled it out; it was a *tilapia* of decent size.

From that day, my fishing life changed. I kept returning to the house on Jail Road, landing *tilapias*, *putis* and the occasional *koi*. For bait, I started using earthworms. They were not as easily stolen by the fish and were ubiquitous under the topsoil.

After a month or two, I grew tired of catching those *tilapias*. My interest in fishing waned just as mysteriously as it had appeared. But even today, when I see someone land a fish – like the giant catfish I saw in Brazil – I feel a tug in my heart for those fishy mornings on Jail Road.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow “ihtishamkabir” on Instagram.

## ENGLISH-MEDIUM SCHOOLS

### Parents demand 30-60pc tuition waiver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of parents of English-medium students yesterday demanded 30-60 percent tuition waiver based on school categories, as schools are only conducting online classes.

Under the banner of Bangladesh English Medium School Parents Forum, they alleged that many schools discontinued online access to classes for those who had not paid full tuition fees. The parents made the remarks in a press conference at the capital’s Jatiya Press Club.

They said many parents of English-medium students -- who are working at private institutions or operating businesses -- are facing a financial crisis amid the pandemic.

AKM Ashraful Haque, the forum’s president, said they divided schools in three categories based on if they have their own campus, and smaller schools with lower revenue.

He demanded 60 percent waiver from schools that have their own campuses, and 40 percent for those that are on rented campuses. He also sought 30 percent waiver from the third category of schools with fewer than 500 students.

“We want every school to meet the parents’ forum of respective institutions and come to a solution. It is inhuman to cancel studentship due to delay in tuition payment or non-payment during the crisis,” he said.

They also put forward a six-point demand, which includes ensuring quality education at all schools by formulating a policy and formation of school management committee with representation from guardians.

AZM Salahuddin, the forum’s general secretary, presented the demands and urged the prime minister’s intervention in this regard.

Due to the pandemic, both Bangla and English medium schools are struggling. All educational institutions remain closed since March 17.

## RIDESHARING SERVICES

### Bikes allowed to ply again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has finally allowed motorcycles to resume operations under ride sharing services, on condition of following a set of health safety guidelines.

However, only 1,156 motorcycles will be able to carry passengers under the popular services for now, as the authorities decided to give permission only to the vehicles enlisted to provide the services.

Besides, the service can be provided under the area of Dhaka Transport Coordinator Authority’s jurisdiction only -- within Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Narsingdi and Manikganj.

People of Chattogram and some other cities, where the services were available at pre-Covid time, would not get the service.

BRTA issued a circular in this regard on Thursday and has already served it to all the service providing companies, a BRTA official told The Daily Star yesterday.

The development came two days after the government allowed buses and minibuses to carry passengers with full capacity from September 1 and reinstated previous fare.

Ride sharing service, like other public transport remained suspended from March 26, when the government announced shutdown. Although, buses and other modes of public transport hit the roads on June 1, but ride sharing services remained suspended until June 21.

Following the request of the companies, including Uber and Pathao, BRTA allowed

only enlisted four-wheelers to resume operation from June 21.

But, bikes were not allowed to resume the service, considering the risks of spreading the coronavirus.

“As the government decided to normalise public transport services and already allowed buses and minibuses to operate with full capacity, we have decided to allow motorcycles [in ride sharing service] too,” another official said wishing not be named.

According to a BRTA document, some 1.23 lakh cars and motorcycles operate with different ride-hailing companies. Of them, 1.04 lakh are motorcycles.

However, some 9,000 cars and 1,156 motorbikes received the enlistment certificates, a mandatory condition to operate vehicles under the service, so far, BRTA sources said.

“When BRTA made enlistment certificate must for providing the service, some 1,300 vehicles had the certificate. The number of vehicles with the certificate has increased sharply after the decision and we hope the number of enlisted motorcycle will rise soon,” the officials added.

BRTA also issued guidelines to be followed to provide the service.

Both the biker and rider have to have to mask, hand gloves, face-shield and hand sanitiser. Both biker and passenger have to wear standard helmet and disinfect it after each trip. The biker would disinfect their bike before and disinfect passenger’s bag if any, as well.



While it may strike as an odd placement of household items at a first glance, a closer look clarifies that this is in fact a sales point for second-hand furniture under Khilgaon flyover in the capital’s Shahjahanpur. A group of rickshaw-van drivers started this business eight months ago, looking for a bargain when people take their services to move houses and are sometimes looking to get rid of old items. They then paint and fix them up, and sell them from this roadside display. A seller said they take turns to guard their vans parked under this flyover at night, and also make sure nobody runs away with their furniture. When asked if they are aware that they are encroaching public space, they said no one has asked them to move from the spot, and they would do so if asked.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## VIRTUAL FUNCTIONS

### CJ forms two SC benches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has constituted two benches of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for virtually hearing and disposing of cases.

The benches will start functioning from tomorrow.

One of the benches will be headed by the chief justice, and another by Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, according to a notification issued on Thursday.

Other judges of the CJ-led bench are Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, Justice Md Nuruzzaman and Justice Obaidul Hassan.

Other judges of Justice Imman Ali-led bench are Justice Mirza Hussain Haider, Justice Abu Bakar Siddique and Justice Tariq ul Hakim.

## Children anxious of post-Covid-19 life

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

About 40 percent children in Bangladesh believe that life after the coronavirus lockdown will be more complicated, found a study conducted by Educo, an international NGO focusing on education and children’s protection.

More than 500 Bangladeshi children participated in the global survey, held online between May 7 to 23.

A total of 4,500 children and youth aged between five to twenty-four participated in the study conducted across 10 countries in Africa, America, Asia, and Europe.

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, schools in Bangladesh have remained closed since late March. In the meantime, a number of schools are running classes online.

Against such a backdrop, the Educo study sheds some light on the state of the student’s minds. Although children are not normally seen as the face of this pandemic, experiences suggest that such economic hardships have tremendous effect on their emotional and mental wellbeing, said Abdul Hamid, country director of Educo Bangladesh.

“Children are very aware of what is going on around them and the impact of the situation on the family,” he said in a statement released on Thursday.

With no end of the pandemic in sight, students and their parents are completely in the dark over when schools can reopen, the study found. It also study found that children in Bangladesh were mostly worried about their family’s finances.

## ‘Publishing books a social responsibility’

Webinar speakers dissect local book trade

DS BOOKS DESK

In addition to business and livelihoods, the coronavirus has also struck down cultural footfall around the city -- silencing some of our major book hubs including Nilkhet and New Market, and forcing some remarkable establishments such as Dhaka’s Kobita Café and Dipanpur to shut down and Bengal Boi to relocate.

In the wake of this inactivity, the only upside has been the triggering of critical discussions on the virtual space, as Facebook Live sessions attempt to parse through important facets of sociocultural and political life.

Life online, these days, simulates life in the city as we knew it, making these conversations easily accessible to all.

One such discussion unfolded on August 23 at Rokomari’s Career Café Live Facebook webinar with Mahrugh Mohiuddin of University Press Ltd (UPL) and Mahmudul Hasan of Adorsho Prokashoni. The event addressed some of the pressing difficulties of our local book trade, such the issues of breaking even, collecting revenues from booksellers, selecting writers and manuscripts, choosing print over digital books, and the underlying question of whether young aspirants should try to enter an industry that barely manages to stay afloat.

It is common practice for books to be published only in 300-500 copies in Bangladesh -- something that significantly hikes up per unit production costs for publishers -- while only a tiny fraction of them end up selling. Collecting the sales revenues from booksellers is often an additional hurdle. For a country of close to 170 million and counting, these figures for book sales indicates an almost negligible state of cultural and intellectual activity among the wider population.

For publishers, this means dire business circumstances. “Just the material and production costs account for 30-35 percent of our revenues,” Mahmudul Hasan of Adorsho Prokashoni shared during the webinar. “Sales and promotions take up 10 percent, wholesale commissions account for up to 40 percent, and writers are owed around 10 percent royalty. Given the roughly 5 percent that remains, it’s a

miracle that we are even surviving.”

“These costs are further spurred on by the local paper industries which often artificially inflate prices,” added Mahrugh Mohiuddin of UPL. “A general practice for publishers in other countries is to add 5-7 percent mark-up on their cost price, but we can’t even mark up to 3 percent.”

A major reason for the latter is readers’ opinions -- while other commodities like fast food or clothing have managed to build up a brand value which deters customers from expecting massive discounts on them, books are often thought to be unfairly expensive. The cost price of materials and binding, and the intangible yet crucial elements of editing, proofing, promotion and, most importantly, the author’s intellectual input comprising months or years of writing and training, all of this goes unaccounted for.

For publishers like UPL, which mainly produce books on research and the social sciences, the readership is even more niche.

“Publishers are just one component of the ecosystem of our knowledge economy,” Mahrugh explained. “How are the other components functioning? We have schools which produce young thinking minds, who then move on to universities and on into the job market or leadership positions. In most of these educational institutions, rote memorisation and a lack of critical thinking is nurtured. We are encouraged not to challenge teachers and leaders.”

This vacuum of critical thinking deters the production and prioritisation of works of research. As a result, for their larger projects, publishers like UPL have to rely on institutional support.

“Publishing isn’t just business, it’s a social responsibility. Our primary duty is towards our readers, to add value to [intellectual work] and help it reach an audience. But how will I reach my reader? Where is that bridge? Is creating it only the publishers’ duty? Our ecosystem also needs to offer its support.”

Daily Star Books is published in The Daily Star every Thursday. Follow them at <https://www.facebook.com/dailystarbooks/> or @thedailystarbooks on Instagram.

## SHIFTING BOOK SALES ONLINE

### Of challenges and opportunities

DS LIFESTYLE DESK

With the ever decreasing number of readers visiting brick and mortar bookstores in the city, most sellers are passing difficult times during the pandemic. For a select few, online sales have picked up, but even they are struggling to meet high overhead costs.

Tareq Abdur Rab, head of operations at Baatighar, said that overall sales are still almost 25 percent less than average.

“Online demand has significantly increased, but as we have four physical stores in Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet, the cost of maintaining our physical presence is becoming harder. Our business in Sylhet suffered the most,” he said.

Popular bookshop Bengal Boi at Dhanmondi started online sales through Facebook in late June.

“We felt that given the current circumstance, meeting readers’ demands by taking online orders is the safest way to serve their needs. Initially, we had opened our outlet in June. We observed that not all our clients are equally aware of the stringent health protocols necessary to fight the coronavirus, and we closed our doors soon after,” said Akhter Hossain, brand and communication manager of Bengal Boi.

“The closure was only temporary,” he said.

Much to readers’ delight, Bengal Boi re-opened yesterday at Bengal Shilpalay, nearby its previous location.

Some sellers have claimed that online sales have in fact increased in the last few months. Indo-Bangla Book Shop, one of the most popular “online-only” stores, is one.

“Compared to December 2019, we are now receiving almost double orders. We import from India, so the supply chain was disrupted for a while. But we are still delivering whatever we have in stock,” said Sajjad Sakir of the shop.

He also said more and more people are buying books on how to run businesses. “Educational reference books are also on high demand,” Sakir added.

Rise in sale of self-help, business guides, and books to aid admission exams, is noted by retail giant Rokomari.com.

Mahmudur Hasan Sadi, head of communication and inbound marketing of Rokomari, said, “Demand for fiction has significantly decreased since the outbreak. People are mostly buying nonfiction.”

On the state of affairs in the book business, he said, “Rokomari.com was closed during March and April, and began operations on a limited scale in May following health protocols.”

Although a few months have passed, their business has not picked up as expected.

“Most of the publishing houses have not become operational yet. We are currently doing business based on our inventory. We are also taking back-orders,” he said.

Online trade has started for most booksellers, but the loss incurred during the lockdown still makes the future in book business uncertain. Those stores who have not been able to adapt to this “new normal” are contemplating closing their ventures altogether.

Lifestyle is published with The Daily Star every Tuesday.



An ambulance practically squeezes through illegally parked buses on both sides of this road at port city’s Sagorika area. No amount of road expansion will solve the woes of drivers unless authorities act against this practice. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



WHO dampens

FROM PAGE 12  
It was revealed this week that Washington has urged US states to get ready for a potential coronavirus vaccine rollout by November 1, sparking concerns President Donald Trump's administration is rushing to begin distributing a vaccine before the November 3 elections.  
The US Food and Drug Administration has also raised the possibility that a vaccine might be given emergency authorisation before the end of trials.  
The FDA has faced allegations from the medical community, which it has denied, that it is bowing to political pressure from Trump, who is trailing Democratic challenger Joe Biden in the polls.  
**NO CUTTING CORNERS**  
The worry is that, for emergency use approval, the bar for ruling a vaccine safe and effective is lower than that for normal full approvals.  
Several pharmaceutical company executives stressed Thursday the importance of sticking to high testing norms, vowing not to cut corners on safety and efficacy standards, even as they race to bring coronavirus vaccines and treatments to market.  
According to the WHO, 34 vaccine candidates worldwide are currently in the various phases of being tested on humans, while a further 142 are in pre-clinical evaluation.

Scientists

FROM PAGE 12  
Up to now, black holes with mass 100 to 1,000 times that of our Sun had never been found.  
"This is the first evidence of a black hole in this mass range," said co-author Michaela, an astrophysicist at the University of Padova and a member of the Europe-based Virgo Collaboration.  
"It may lead to a paradigm shift in the astrophysics of black holes."  
The findings, she added, support the idea that supermassive black holes could be formed through the repeated merger of these mid-sized bodies.  
What scientists actually observed were gravitational waves produced more than seven billion years ago when GW190521 was formed by the collision of two smaller black holes of 85 and 65 solar masses.

Defence ministers of India

FROM PAGE 12  
Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of China's state-backed Global Times newspaper said on Twitter that a meeting between the defence ministers was expected.  
Despite the brutality of the clash in June, both sides appeared to observe a protocol to avoid the use of firearms in the high altitude region.  
Military commanders and diplomats have been holding talks to end the standoff on the Line of Actual Control, or the de facto border, but there has been little progress.  
Tensions are running high in eastern Ladakh yesterday after China moved additional forces in eastern Ladakh to counter heavy Indian deployments in the "tinderbox" region, according to Indian media.  
The Indian troops occupied virtually all the dominating heights in the area over the weekend to pre-empt any misadventure by Chinese soldiers after brief confrontations on last Saturday and Monday.  
"The situation all along the LAC is tense, with heavy deployments by both sides. But it's like a tinderbox in eastern Ladakh," a senior Indian officer said requesting anonymity.  
With thousands of rival troops, tanks, armoured vehicles and howitzers ranged against each other, Indian Army chief General M M Naravane visited the Chushul sector in eastern Ladakh on Thursday.  
In a parallel development underlining the heightened tensions along the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control (LAC) from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria on Wednesday visited frontline airbases in the eastern sector to review military preparedness.  
China is seething at the way India conducted the military manoeuvre to occupy multiple heights near the southern bank of Pangong Tso, Spanggur Gap, Rezag La and Requin La (Renchin mountain pass) at altitudes over 15,000 feet on August 29-30.  
"The People's Liberation Army (PLA) was taken by complete surprise. It has moved additional forces opposite the Chushul sector in a show of force. But we are well-entrenched and well-prepared there, as elsewhere in eastern Ladakh," another Indian official said.  
Tensions between the two armies in the freezing snow deserts of the Ladakh region have been running high for months.  
In June, 20 Indian soldiers were killed in hand-to-hand fighting with Chinese troops in the nearby Galwan valley, the neighbours' most serious military clash in more than half a century.

IAEA allowed to inspect

FROM PAGE 12  
Date already agreed with Iran, to take environmental samples", the report said.  
The other report said that Iran's stock of low-enriched uranium (LEU) rose by 534 kg in the most recent quarter, roughly the same amount as in the previous three months, to 2,105.4 kg.  
That is more than 10 times the 202.8 kg limit set by Iran's 2015 nuclear accord with big powers, which Iran has been breaching in response to Washington's withdrawal from the deal in 2018 and reimposition of sanctions against Tehran.  
The stockpile, however, remains far below the many tonnes of enriched uranium Iran had accumulated before the 2015 deal.  
Tehran is enriching up to a fissile purity of 4.5%, which while above the deal's 3.67% limit is still far short of the 20% level it achieved before the deal. Roughly 90% purity is considered weapons-grade, suitable for an atomic bomb.  
Iran agreed on Aug. 26, during the first visit to Tehran by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, to allow access for UN inspectors to two sites suspected of once hosting covert uranium conversion and nuclear testing activities.  
While the IAEA says it has the right to examine such sites without permission, Iran objected because at least some of the information about them came from a trove of documents on its past activities that Tehran's main Middle East adversary, Israel, says it seized inside Iran.

Govt probe

FROM PAGE 12  
[Sunday]. The report will show why the incident took place and who are responsible for it," he added.  
There will be recommendations in the report so that such incidents do not recur in the future, he added.  
A murder case was filed in this connection and it is currently under trial, he said, adding that the investigation officer of the case is also working on it.  
So, the court will decide who is guilty of the murder, he said.  
It only has the jurisdiction to convict the responsible persons and sentence them to jail, he added.  
The court can use the probe report if it thinks it is necessary, the probe body chief said.  
The home ministry's public security division formed the probe committee on August 2 after Major (ret'd) Sinha was shot dead at a police checkpoint on Marine Drive in Teknaf upazila on July 31.  
According to sources, arms were used to kill Major (ret'd) Sinha, but no such situations arose there to open fire.  
Behaviour of several policemen who were present on the spot was inhuman, they said.  
Three other members of the committee are: Shahjahan Ali, additional district magistrate of Cox's Bazar, Lt Col SM Sazzad Hossain, representative of the armed forces division of Bangladesh Army, and Zakir Hossain Khan, additional deputy inspector general of Chattogram range.

Ensure voting rights of the Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 12  
also provided absentee voting in the 2010 and 2015 elections.  
Refugees elsewhere in the world have voted in home-country elections through voting stations in refugee camps and absentee ballots, said regional rights body Fortify Rights in a statement.  
The 14 Rohingya groups represent many of the 860,000 Rohingyas living in the Cox's Bazar camps. Of them, some 750,000 fled a brutal military campaign in Rakhine State in August 2017.  
In the open letter, the Rohingya Women Empowerment and Advocacy Network, Rohingya Students' Network, Rohingya Youth for Legal Action, Voice of Rohingya, and others, urged the UEC Chair Hla Thein and the Myanmar government to reverse the decisions that rejected Rohingya candidates running for office.  
"All Rohingyas should have the right to vote. We had the right to vote in all the elections held in Myanmar since 2010," said Shomima Bibi, founder and director of the Rohingya Women Education Initiative -- a camp-based refugee organisation supporting Rohingya women.  
"Like before, we should have freedom and enjoy nationality and citizenship in Myanmar."  
"I should have the right to participate in the elections in Myanmar," said Sawyedollah from the Rohingya Student Network in Bangladesh. "I don't want to see discrimination in my country."  
Fortify Rights said the Myanmar government currently has access to multiple forms of Rohingya documentation, including household lists dating back to the 1990s, National Verification Cards (NVCs), National Registration Cards, White Cards, White Card receipts, and other previous government-issued and UN-issued identity documents.  
In collaboration with international humanitarian organisations, the Myanmar government and the Myanmar embassy in Bangladesh could use these forms of documentation as well as alternative forms of evidence, such as testimonial evidence, to determine eligibility to vote in November's election and as evidence to restore Rohingya citizenship, it said.  
On August 25, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for Southeast Asia echoed calls coming from the Rohingya community, saying in a statement that "national elections scheduled for November provide Myanmar the opportunity to restore political rights to the Rohingya."  
Myanmar has long denied Rohingyas the access to full citizenship rights, most recently through NVCs, which effectively identify Rohingyas as foreigners.  
Fortify Rights said Myanmar should amend the 1982 Citizenship Law to bring it in line with international laws and standards and ensure equal access to full citizenship rights, regardless of ethnic identity, race, or religion.  
"Rohingyas globally should have the right to vote and participate in their home country's political life," said Ismail Wolff, regional director of Fortify Rights.  
"The international community should reignite their moral imagination and call for refugees' right to vote."



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
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Memo No. 2784Date: 02/09/2020

### Invitation for e-Tender


e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works given below.

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Tender closing date & time
1.	490044	1) Memo: 58.07.7800.154.04.015.20-2642 dt. 31/08/2020	01. Supply of Unnotamaner Mashur Dal Mota to Patuakhali District Jail for the period of October/2020 to September/2021	17/09/2020 12:30:00
2.	490059	2) Memo: 58.07.7800.154.04.015.20-2643 dt. 31/08/2020	01. Supply of Unnotamaner Cholar Dal to Patuakhali District Jail for the period of October/2020 to September/2021	17/09/2020 12:00:00

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (Email: [helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**G. M. Sharfaraz**  
Jail Super  
Patuakhali District Jail

GD-1389



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Shariatpur  
e-mail: [eesar@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eesar@rhd.gov.bd)  
Phone/Fax: 0601-61406

Memo No. 1115Date: 2-9-2020

### e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal

(<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the below works.

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work/package description	Last selling date & time	Opening date & time	Remarks
489548	e-GP/ 01/EE/SRD/ 2020-2021.	Emergency Supplying of 1st Class Bricks, Local Sand (F.M.0.50), Coarse Sand F.M>2.50 (Sylhet Sand) & 20mm down well graded Stone Chips at RHD Stackyard Shariatpur for maintenance work of different km of different road under Shariatpur Road Division, during the year-2020-2021.	16/09/2020 16:00am	17/09/2020 14:00pm	Only online tender



This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

**Md. Shazedur Rahman**  
ID No. 602167  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Shariatpur

GD-1387

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Hereby JSC ASE EC notifies you on holding the request for proposals for the right for conclusion of the contract for lot "Supply of Portland cement CEM I 52.5N for Rooppur NPP Site". The documentation is published on the official procurement site of the nuclear industry <http://zakupki.rosatom.ru>, procurement No. 200828/0536/1236



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D-105

Indonesian proposal

FROM PAGE 12  
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has vetoed the proposal for repatriation of 800 sick and wounded Pakistani Prisoners of War from camps in India is absolutely baseless, according to sources close to Bangabandhu, who is now convalescing in Geneva. The allegation was made in a despatch from New Delhi by Daily Telegraph Correspondent Peter Gill yesterday. It is understood that the Bangladesh prime minister had told Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that he had no objection to repatriation of sick and wounded Pakistani prisoners.  
**WINSPEARE CALLS ON BANGABANDHU**  
UN Secretary General's representative in Geneva Winspeare calls on Bangabandhu today at his hotel in Geneva.  
**FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF INDIAN CLOTHS REACHES DHAKA**  
The trading corporation of Bangladesh has started importing coarse varieties of sarees, lungis, markin and long-cloths worth Tk five crore from India on an emergency basis. The first consignment of such cloth reaches Dhaka today by plane and the second consignment is expected on September 7. Thereafter, planeloads will be delivered at Ishwardi, Chittagong, Comilla and Sylhet.  
**SOURCES:** September 6, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

**কমার্শিয়াল বিল্ডিং বিক্রয়**

পাশ্চপথে ৪ কাঠার উপর তয় তলা, গ্রীন রোডে ১০ তলা বিল্ডিংসহ ১৫ কাঠা, মিরপুর রোডে ১৯ কাঠা, পূর্বদলে ৩০০ রোডে ১০ কাঠা, ধানমন্ডিতে ১০/৩০ কাঠা বিক্রয়।  
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### Notice for Lottery of Initial Public Offering (IPO)

Management of Walton Hi-Tech Industries Limited expresses its gratitude to the Almighty and to the honorable investors for subscribing shares in our company.  
Company takes pleasure to announce that we have received **Tk. 374.43** Crore against **Tk. 39.03** Crore of public subscription which is **9.59 times** more of required application.  
Our sincere gratitude for the co-operation and support we got from Bangladesh Securities & Exchange Commission (BSEC), Bangladesh Bank, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms (RJSC), Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd. (DSE), Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd. (CSE), Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd. (CDBL), AAA Finance & Investment Limited (Issue Manager), Prime Bank Investment Limited (Registrar to the issue), Lead Bankers, Stock Brokers, Merchant Bankers and Post Issue Manager.  
Valued Shareholders, you are aware that the Lottery program of the Company, is scheduled to be held on Sunday, 6 September, 2020 at 11.00 am using Digital Platform, pursuant to the press release of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) dated 16 July 2020.  
Valued Shareholders are requested to visit <https://walton.bdvirtualagm.com> and log in for attending the live lottery program as well as taking part in the seed number collection process.  
Sd/-  
Company Secretary



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





**World Health Organization**  
Bangladesh

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Interested Property Owners and Real Estate Agents whose property matches with above requirements are requested to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) in the WHO prescribed form downloadable from <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice> or can be collected from the Reception desk of WHO Country office for Bangladesh. The deadline for submission of your application(s) in sealed envelope(s) is on or before 8th October 2020 at 14:00hrs Dhaka Time in the Tender box addressed to **WHO Representative to Bangladesh** in the following address:  
**The World Health Organization**  
**United House (ground floor to 3rd Floor)**  
**10 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212**  
Only the shortlisted applicants will be called for arranging site visits and/or submissions of price quotations. Any Interested Property Owner or Real Estate Agents may submit applications for more than one property. In such cases, they shall submit separate application for each property.



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Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Jamalpur  
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Memo No. 46.02.3900.000.07.001.20-2450Date: 03/09/2020

### e-Tender Notice No. 17/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of works details in table:

Tender Reference No.	Name of work	Tender ID
e-Tender/LGED/Jam/GOBM/ 20-21/W-71	Emergency Maintenance of Char Amkhawa UP (Sanandabari)-Moullovirchar Bazar Road from Ch. 4500m-4563m & 5012m-5024m [DEWANGANJ].	490574
e-Tender/LGED/Jam/GOBM/ 20-21/W-72	Rehabilitation of 3 Nos. 2 Vent 3.00mx3.00m RCC Box Culvert on Jorkhali Madrasa-Kattamari Road at Ch. 2200m, 2380m & 3010m [MADERGANJ].	490575
e-Tender/LGED/Jam/GOBM/ 20-21/W-73	Periodic Maintenance of Nillekhia GC-Durmut GC (Bakshigonj Part) Road from Ch. 810m-3060m (BAKSHIGANJ).	490576
e-Tender/LGED/Jam/GOBM/ 20-21/W-74	Periodic Maintenance of Bogarchar UP-Kolakanda Bazar Road from Ch. 1100m-3350m (BAKSHIGANJ).	490577
e-Tender/LGED/Jam/GOBM/ 20-21/W-75	Periodic Maintenance of Bakshigonj to Jinnah Bazar Road from Ch. 00m-2150m (BAKSHIGANJ).	490578
e-Tender/LGED/Jam/GOBM/ 20-21/W-76	Periodic Maintenance of Mohisbathan-Chargojamanika Bazar Road from Ch. 00m-1175m [MADERGANJ].	490579
e-Tender/LGED/Jam/GOBM/ 20-21/W-77	Periodic Maintenance of Jonail Mia Bazar RHD-Mohishbathan Bazar Road from Ch. 00m-1400mm [MADERGANJ].	490580
e-Tender/LGED/Jam/GOBM/ 20-21/W-78	Periodic Maintenance of Aona-Stall Road from Ch. 00m-1750m [SARISHABARI].	490581

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Only e-GP registered tenderer under LGED, Mymensingh region are eligible.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 17:00pm on 22-Sep-2020.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Executive Engineer**  
Local Govt. Engineering Department, Jamalpur  
Tel. No. 0981-63698  
Fax No. 0981-62569  
Email: [xen.jamalpur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.jamalpur@lged.gov.bd)

GD-1386



# Xi outlines area where China won't accept meddling

THE STRAITS TIMES/ANN

Chinese President Xi Jinping said nothing will come between the Chinese people and the Communist Party that has governed them for more than 70 years, setting a combative tone at a difficult moment in United States-China relations.

Speaking at an event marking the anniversary of China's victory over Japan in World War II, President Xi outlined areas where China will never accept foreign interference. He took aim in particular at threats to the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) continued one-party rule.

"The Chinese people will never allow any individual or any force to separate the CCP and Chinese people, and to pitch them against each other," Xi said.

"The Chinese people will never allow any individual or any force to distort the CCP's history, and to vilify the CCP's character and purpose."

He did not specifically mention the US in his remarks, which focused on rallying his nation. But his comments are likely to be interpreted as a message about the relationship, setting the tone for state media and more junior officials in interactions

with the US on everything from trade to technology and the South China Sea.

The tone of the speech, acerbic by the standards of Chinese politics, highlights how seriously China's leaders take the threat of external challenges to their rule.

In recent months, Chinese diplomats have rebuked US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, who routinely refers to the CCP, and not China, as a nation in his scathing attacks.

The diplomats also have threatened "consequences" to countries ranging from Norway and the Czech Republic to Britain for perceived provocations.

Chinese leaders have stressed the Communist Party's ability to stand up to foreign aggression since they won control after World War II. As Xi has sought to strengthen his grip at home and confront a more hostile US, he has frequently turned to similar nationalist themes.

On China-Japan ties, Xi said the two countries are close neighbours, and maintaining long-lasting peaceful and friendly relations is in accordance with the fundamental interests of the two peoples, and is essential to maintaining peace and stability in Asia and the world.



A Sri Lankan Navy boat sprays water on a supertanker after a fire broke out off east coast of Sri Lanka, yesterday. A senior Sri Lankan navy official yesterday said there is no real danger of an oil spill from the stricken supertanker MT New Diamond, which caught fire in the seas off the island nation on Thursday. The tanker, chartered by Indian Oil Corp (IOC), is carrying 270,000 tonnes of crude and 1,700 tonnes of diesel. There were 23 crew on board, one of whom is presumed dead. The rest have been taken off the ship by the Sri Lankan navy.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## NEWSIN brief

### Cops kill 'killer' of Portland protester

AFF, Washington

A far-left activist suspected of killing a right-wing protester in Portland was shot dead by police in Washington state as they tried to arrest him, local law officials said. The man, identified in US media reports as Michael Forest Reinhoel, was killed as he ran from four officers on Thursday evening, police said. The Oregon city of Portland has seen more than three months of rolling protests against police brutality and racism that were sparked by the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May. Police suspect Reinhoel of killing a right-wing activist named Aaron Danielson in Portland last weekend.

### Bahrain allows UAE-Israel overflights

AFF, Dubai

Bahrain said late Thursday it had agreed to allow UAE flights to and from Israel to overfly the kingdom, a day after a similar decision was announced by Saudi Arabia. The announcements come after a US-Israeli delegation visited Abu Dhabi on Monday, on the first direct commercial flight from Tel Aviv to mark the normalisation of ties between the Jewish state and the United Arab Emirates.

### Survivors in Beirut Blast after a month!

AFF, BEIRUT

Rescuers resumed a search yesterday for possible survivors under rubble in Beirut, buoyed by faint hopes of a miracle a month after a monster blast ripped through the city's port. The cataclysmic August 4 explosion killed 191 people, making it Lebanon's deadliest peacetime disaster. One month on, seven people are still missing. Hopes emerged Thursday that one of them could be found alive after a specialist sensor device detected a heart beat under the debris of a collapsed building.

# Russia promoting distrust in US vote-by-mail plans

Says report; Trump denies mocking WWII soldiers

AGENCIES

Russia is actively trying to undermine voters' faith in the US electoral system and especially in voting by mail ahead of the November 3 election, according to a Department of Homeland Security analysis Thursday.

The internal DHS analysis, first reported by ABC News and then other US media, says that at least since March 2020, "Russian malign influence actors have been amplifying allegations of election integrity issues in new voting processes and vote-by-mail programs."

It says that through media and social networks, the Russians have encouraged Americans to fear voting fraud, large counting errors and ballot mishandling by the postal service.

President Donald Trump and many Republicans claim that vote-by-mail is likely to lead to widespread fraud and questionable vote counts.

Russian media and proxy websites are also promoting the idea that voting by mail -- being pushed mainly to limit the risk of Covid-19 spreading via in-person voting -- is being pressed by officials and policy makers to benefit specific candidates.

The online meddling activity took place during the party caucuses and primaries at the beginning of the year, but ramped up as the coronavirus began to spread and officials began promoting widespread voting by mail.

"We assess that Russia is likely to continue amplifying criticisms of vote-by-mail and shifting voting processes amidst the Covid-19 pandemic to undermine public trust in the electoral process," the unclassified report said.

Meanwhile, Trump has denied accusations that he made disparaging remarks about US soldiers who were captured or killed in battle.

According to The Atlantic magazine, Trump cancelled a visit to a US cemetery outside Paris in 2018 because he said it was "filled with losers". The allegations have since been corroborated by two senior military officials in a story by AP news agency.

But in a tweet, the president denounced the claims as "made up fake news".

However four sources told The Atlantic he rejected the idea of visiting because the rain would dishevel his hair, and he did not believe it important to honour America's war dead.

## NAVALNY POISONING

### Nato demands

### Russia reveal

### Novichok

### programme

AFF, Brussels

Nato yesterday called for an international probe into the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and demanded Moscow reveal its Novichok nerve agent programme to the global chemical weapons watchdog.

After an emergency meeting of Nato's ruling council, alliance chief Jens Stoltenberg said all countries were united in condemning the "horrific" attack on Navalny.

Germany, where Navalny is being treated, briefed the other 29 nations on the case and Stoltenberg said there was a "proof beyond doubt" Novichok was used.

"The Russian government must fully cooperate with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on an impartial international investigation," Stoltenberg said.

"We also call on Russia to provide complete disclosure of the Novichok programme to the OPCW."

The infamous Soviet-era nerve agent was also used against Russian ex-double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England two years ago, an attack that led to seven Kremlin diplomats being expelled from their Nato mission.

While Stoltenberg did not rule out a similar reprisal this time, he stressed that the Navalny poisoning, which took place in Russia, was quite different from the Skripal attack, which happened on the soil of a Nato member.

The Kremlin has insisted the Russian state cannot be blamed and yesterday a Russian toxicologist said Navalny's health could have deteriorated due to dieting or stress.

# 'Nothing can justify the horrendous conditions'

UN chief calls for closure of Libya migrant centers

AFF, United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for the closure of migrant detention centers in Libya, denouncing what he called rights violations committed there.

In a report submitted Thursday to the UN Security Council, Guterres said: "Nothing can justify the horrendous conditions under which refugees and migrants are detained in Libya."

"I renew my appeal to the Libyan authorities... to fulfill their obligations under international law and to close all detention centers, in close coordination with United Nations entities," he said.

According to the secretary-general's report, more than 2,780 people were being detained as of July 31 in centers across Libya. Twenty-two percent of the detainees were children.

"Children should never be detained, particularly when they are unaccompanied or separated from their parents," Guterres said, calling on Libyan authorities to ensure

the children are protected until "long-term solutions" are found.

The UN chief cited reports of torture, enforced disappearances, and sexual and gender-based violence in the centers, committed by those running the facilities.


He also mentioned a reported lack of food and health care.

"Men and boys are routinely threatened with violence when they are calling their families, to pressure them to send ransom money," he wrote.

"Migrants and refugees have been shot at when they attempted to escape, resulting in injuries and deaths," the report said, alleging that some are even "left on the streets or bushes to die" when they are deemed too weak to survive.

Since the downfall of Muammar Gaddafi, overthrown and killed in a 2011 Nato-backed uprising, Libya also has become a key route for irregular migration from Africa into Europe, across the Mediterranean Sea.





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০৩ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্বরাশ্রি মন্ত্রণালয়ের সুরক্ষা সেবা বিভাগের অধীন মাদকদ্রব্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ অধিদপ্তরের রাজস্বখাতভুক্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শূণ্যপদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত নিয়মাবলি ও শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে Online-এ আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদ সংখ্যা	বেতন ফেল ও গ্রেড	শিক্ষাগত ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
০১।	ওয়ারেন্স অপারেটর	৪৩ (তেতাল্লিশ)	৮৮০০- ২১৩১০/- (গ্রেড-১৮)	কোন শ্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত বোর্ড হইতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	(ক) রংপুর, পঞ্চগড়, দিনাজপুর, লালমনিরহাট, কুড়িগ্রাম, গাইবান্ধা, ঠাকুরগাঁও, নীলফামারী, রাজশাহী, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ, নাটোর, নওগাঁ, বগুড়া, জয়পুরহাট, সিরাজগঞ্জ, পাবনা, খুলনা, যশোর, সাতক্ষীরা, বাগেরহাট, নড়াইল, মাগড়া, ঝিনাইদহ, চুয়াডাঙ্গা, কুষ্টিয়া, মেহেরপুর, বরিশাল, বরগুনা, ঝালকাঠি, পটুয়াখালী, ভোলা, পিরোজপুর, ঢাকা, ফরিদপুর, মাদারীপুর, রাজবাড়ী, শরীয়তপুর, মুগিগঞ্জ, মানিকগঞ্জ, গাজীপুর, টাঙ্গাইল, কিশোরগঞ্জ, নরসিংদী, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম, কক্সবাজার, ফেনী, নোয়াখালী, লক্ষ্মীপুর, চাঁদপুর, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া, কুমিল্লা, রাঙ্গামাটি, বান্দরবান, খাগড়াছড়ি, সিলেট, হবিগঞ্জ, সুনামগঞ্জ, মৌলভীবাজার, ময়মনসিংহ, নওগোলা, শেরপুর, জামালপুর জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে, (খ) সকল জেলার এতিমখানা নিবাসী ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

আবেদনের নিয়মাবলি/নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলিঃ

০১। আবেদনকারীর বয়স ২৫/০৩/২০২০ তারিখে ১৮ বছর থেকে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। শুধু মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুর-কন্যা এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে একিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

০২। সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/খায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকুরীতে প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতি গ্রহণপূর্বক নির্দিষ্ট সময়সীমার মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই উক্ত অনুমতিপত্র প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

০৩। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিন্যাসন বিধি-বিধান এবং পরিবর্তিত ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য বিধি-বিধান(সর্বশেষ)অনুসরণ করা হবে।

০৪। লিখিত পরীক্ষা এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

০৫। এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সম্পর্কিত যে কোন পরিবর্তন/সংশোধন (যদি থাকে) মাদকদ্রব্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ অধিদপ্তরের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে (www.dnc.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।

০৬। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে, সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং তার বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল প্রকার সনদপত্রের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং পূরণকৃত Application Form এর খ্রিস্ট কপি ও ০২(দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবিসহ সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। জাল তথ্য/জাল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শিত হলে পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ যে কোন প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

০৭। জেলার স্থায়ী নাগরিক প্রমানে সনদ হিসেবে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/সৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে।

০৮। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সময় মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান/মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানের সন্তান, এতিম, প্রতিবন্ধী, আদার ও ভিডিপি এবং ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী প্রার্থীদের সর্বশেষ সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্রের মূল কপি প্রদর্শনসহ সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুর-কন্যা ও তাঁদের সন্তানদের মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

০৯। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণ মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন।

১০। কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যেকোন আবেদন গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল এবং এ নিয়োগ কার্যক্রমের আবেদন/সম্পূর্ণ পরিবর্তন/বাতিল এবং পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধির ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। এ নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

১১। নিয়োগের বিষয়ে কোন প্রকার সুপারিশ বা তদবির প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।

১২। এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি, লিখিত পরীক্ষা ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষা এবং পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্য মাদকদ্রব্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ অধিদপ্তরের Website: www.dnc.gov.bd এ পাওয়া যাবে।

১৩। আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলিঃ

ক. পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীগণ <http://dnc.teletalk.com.bd> এ ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করবেন।

i. Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দান করার তারিখ ও সময়: ১০-০৯-২০২০ খ্রি: তারিখ, সকাল:১০.০০ ঘটিকা।

ii. Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমা দানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ৩০-০৯-২০২০ খ্রি:, বিকাল ০৫.০০ ঘটিকা। উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit-এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিবেন।

খ. Online-এ আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৮০) Pixel ও রপ্তানি ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৩০০)Pixel করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন।

গ. Online-এ আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্রে Submit-করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে এবং পুনঃপূরণের ক্ষেত্রে পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে সতর্কতা নিশ্চিত করেন।

ঘ. প্রার্থী Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্টকপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনের সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন।

ঙ. SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলি ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মতে ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application preview দেখা যাবে। নির্ধৃতভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা প্রার্থী একটি User ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। উক্ত Applicant's copy প্রার্থী download পূর্বক রপ্তানি প্রিন্ট কপি সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's কপিতে একটি User ID নম্বর দেয়া থাকবে এবং উক্ত User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যে কোন Teletalk Pre-paid mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২(দুই) টি SMS করে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ১০০(একশত) টাকা এবং সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ ১২(বার) টাকা মোট ১১২(একশত বার) টাকা অনধিক ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য,Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেওয়া পর্যন্ত Online-এ আবেদনপত্র গৃহীত হবে না।

প্রথম SMS: DNC<space>User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

Example: DNC ABCDEF

Reply: Applicant's Name, Tk-..... will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is 12345678. To pay fee Type DNC<Space>Yes<Space>PIN and send to 16222.

দ্বিতীয় SMS: DNC<space>Yes<space>PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

Example: DNC YES 12345678

Reply: Congratulations Applicant's Name, payment completed successfully for DNC Application for post xxxxxxxxxx User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (xxxxxxxxxx).

চ. প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি <http://dnc.teletalk.com.bd> অথবা মাদকদ্রব্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইটে ([www.dnc.gov.bd](http://www.dnc.gov.bd)) এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS-এর মাধ্যমে (তথ্য যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online-এ আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত ব্যবহৃত যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

ছ. SMS-এর প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সফলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী download পূর্বক Print (সম্ভব হলে রপ্তানি) করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে ব্যবহারিক (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

জ. শুধু টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং Password পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।

(i) User ID জানা থাকলে DNC<space>Help<space>User<space>User ID & Send to 16222.

Example: DNC Help User ABCDEF & send to 16222

(ii) PIN Number জানা থাকলে: DNC<space>Help<space>PIN<space>PIN No & Send to 16222.

Example: DNC Help PIN 12345678 & send to 16222.

ঝ. মাদকদ্রব্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ অধিদপ্তরের ১৮-গ্রেডভুক্ত ওয়ারেন্স অপারেটর পদে কর্মচারি নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা, ২০২০ এর বিজ্ঞপ্তি, Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণের নিয়মাবলি, SMS এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানের নিয়মাবলী ও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি ওয়েবসাইটে <http://dnc.teletalk.com.bd> এ পাওয়া যাবে।

০৩ ভাদ্র ২০২০  
(মো: আজিজুল ইসলাম)  
পরিচালক(প্রশাসন)  
ও  
সভাপতি  
বিভাগীয় বাছাই/নির্বাচন কমিটি।



# “I have had a lot to learn during this pandemic” – Munmun Ahmed

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Kathak exponent and celebrated television personality Munmun Ahmed has enthralled the audience with her grace and poise for decades. Honoured with accolades, including the National Award by Shishu Academy for Kathak Dance (1980), UNESCO Cultural Award (2000) and NHK Japan Award (2000), the danseuse is also an avid teacher and a splendid choreographer, who started her journey under the tutelage of the legendary Pandit Birju Maharaj in Delhi Kathak Kendra. *The Daily Star* catches up with the dancer, who is also the founder of Rewaz Performers’ School, a pioneering dance company in Bangladesh, to know about her recent activities.

**How did you start planning your routine and activities when the pandemic hit the country?**  
When the coronavirus pandemic began, I didn’t think that it would last this long. I spent my time reading, watching movies, and doing household chores when we first went into isolation in March. However, for Pohela Boishakh, I felt like doing something for my fans. Subsequently, I uploaded my first online video. It was tremendously hectic and enjoyable at the same time. As we were stuck at home, we couldn’t get our costumes from outside and I was also not very competent with the technical skills required to make a video. It took us one whole night, and we were finally able to upload the video on Facebook the next morning. In the month of Ramadan, as a way of praying for everyone’s safety, I released a mystical piece on the Nazrul song, *He Khoba Doyamoy*, on World Dance Day, this year.

**What are you currently busy with?**  
I have started an online show called *Nritter Nepotthe*, where we celebrate the journey of dancing legends hailing from Bangladesh. The show airs live from the official Facebook page of my dance academy, Rewaz Performers’ School, on Thursdays. We have already featured Amanul



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Haque, Golam Mostafa Khan, Sharmeen Husain, Azizul Islam, Minu Haque and Laila Hasan. We also invited Kajol Ibrahim and Dulal Talukdar. I am conducting online courses at my school and actively conducting classes at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. As for online workshops, I participated at the month-long free dance workshop organised by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) as a Kathak dance trainer. Besides, I am planning to launch an online class in two categories, junior and senior, for dancers outside Dhaka.

**Alongside being a dancer, you are also a successful entrepreneur. How are things looking for your restaurant?**  
My restaurant Munmun’s Kitchen is open for takeaways and online ordering. We are also working on our official contracts as per regular procedures, while maintaining safety measures. We have also ensured social distancing for the customers who come in for takeaways.

**How has the pandemic affected you?**  
I have had a lot to learn during this pandemic. It has helped me to acknowledge my close peers and people who really care about my wellbeing. My niece, Avantika Alreja, has been very supportive and helpful during this time. My husband Sujit Mustafa helped me to record the videos. Without them, none of the work would have been possible. I wish to continue *Nritter Nepotthe*, and I am looking for sponsors, as there is a lot of work involved in the backend. I want to remunerate the people behind the show. I miss my daughter, Aporajita, who is pursuing her Master’s away from home. I hope to see her soon.



Renowned musicians and composers are now a part of BLCPS.

# “We will not let Alauddin Ali and Andrew Kishore’s contributions go to waste”

– Hamin Ahmed on BLCPS

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Bangladesh Lyricist, Composers and Performers Society (BLCPS) was founded in 2014, as Bangladesh’s first proper CMO (Collective Management Organisation). The organisation recently started registration in order to protect artists’ intellectual property rights. *The Daily Star* caught up with founding member, legendary band Miles’ singer and guitarist Hamin Ahmed for more information.

**Even though BLCPS was founded in 2014, it has recently started full-fledged registration. What was the reason for the delay?**  
There were many structural barriers that we had to overcome. We had to first complete a 27-month evaluation in accordance with international guidelines, as well as set up a good understanding with the ministry, copyright office and other authorities. I am happy to say that we are now enlisted by World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and International Confederation of Societies



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

of Authors and Composers (CISAC).

**Due to the lack of structure in royalty disbursement, some people mislead artists for their own gain. How does BLCPS plan to face these challenges going forward?**  
At the moment, opportunists, who are mostly outsiders to the music and film

industries pose a huge threat to the industry. You are aware that most of the musicians and artists took a stand against such opportunists a few days ago. BLCPS is working day and night to create a proper structure, where we will collect royalties for artists from sources like

television, radio and even cafes, which make use of their intellectual property. We even have the legislation to call a task force if a creator is exploited. It might take time, but we are on the right path to root out any place for these miscreants to create confusion.

**Is the aforementioned controversy a reason behind the renewed drive for BLCPS?**  
In part, yes. The recent passing of legends like Alauddin Ali and Andrew Kishore, who were devoted members and patrons of the organisation, also contributed to our emotional drive. We will not let their efforts go to waste. BLCPS is not owned by anyone – it is a community which serves to ensure artists their due.

**Is registration for BLCPS open to everyone?**  
Any composer, lyricist or performing artist can join our organisation. We have already received amazing response from people all over the country. People from outside Dhaka are coming to register with us. We will keep working until we can set the tone for the rest of the entertainment industry to follow.

# Stars join in to sing Arafat Mohsin’s ‘Shokale’



SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

As a part of Studio 58, Arafat Mohsin composed many beautiful songs throughout the years. The musician has recently released his single *Shokale*, a refreshing melody that has caught on to young music listeners. A video-mashup, made by celebrities who lip-synced to the song, is especially heart-warming—including the likes of Siam Ahmed, Sabila Nur, Pritom Hasan, Ridi Sheikh, Safa Kabir and Sunehra Binte Kamal. “I wrote, composed and played all the instruments in the song,” says Arafat. “I want to release at least one original song every month from now onwards.”



Young celebrities joined in to sing a mashup of ‘Konodin’.

# The Umbrella Academy: Now is the best time to join the fandom

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The market for superhero films, series and games had been somewhat oversaturated; as the few new creators who tried to enter it fell somewhat short of the mark. The Umbrella Academy, originally created as a comic book series by artist and My Chemical Romance frontman Gerard Way, was a surprise hit when its first season came to Netflix.

A surprisingly inspired set of characters are what differentiated the series in its original run. The plot is fantastically quirky – 43 infants are inexplicably born at the same time in the mid-20th century, with their mothers not being pregnant even a few minutes before their birth. Billionaire Reginald Hargreeves seeks and adopts 7 of these children, and trains them to be a family of superheroes. Hargreeves is a seemingly cold-hearted father, not even bothering to name the children, instead giving them numbers.

Without spoiling the story, I will just say that the first season of Umbrella Academy



The Umbrella Academy’s second season far surpasses its first.

was an energetic homage to what a superhero themed series should feel like, albeit held back somewhat by the tonal struggle of its own dour family drama. Season 2, however, eliminates all of that almost entirely, while

keeping the “impending apocalypse” theme and its near-fanatical violence.

The siblings – Luther, Diego, Klaus, Alison, 5 (He did not bother changing his name), Ben and Vanya, all have distinct superpowers,

some absurdly more powerful than the other. Luther, for instance, has super-strength, but the degree is somewhat punitive compared to 5, who can jump through space and time. Diego is adept at hand-to-hand combat, and can curve a knife to any trajectory, while Alison can ‘rumor’ anyone into doing anything she wants, including suicide.

What makes The Umbrella Academy work are not the superpowers themselves, but the dynamics between the characters. Klaus’ relationship with his deceased brother, Ben, transcends almost every action scene that the series throws at us, while Five, brilliantly played by Aidan Gallagher, steals the show time and time again as a 58 year old man trapped in a 13 year old’s body due to a botched time-travel attempt.

Ellen Page is the cornerstone of the show, as the seasoned actor redefines herself in the role of Vanya, her internal struggle with seemingly ‘non-existent’ powers and loneliness, culminating in a cataclysmic reaction that changes history forever. In the

second season, the creators brilliantly portray her tabooed relationship with Sissy Cooper, as well as the largely unlikeable Luther’s strong redemption arc.

Simply put, you start watching The Umbrella Academy for the superpowers, but stay for the characters. You get mindless violence and emotional tearjerkers, feeding off each other. Every other moment is iconic, largely helped by the intensely pleasing musical score. The villains throughout the series – Hazel, Cha-Cha, The Handler, The Swedes and the entire ‘commission’ – have motivations which are utterly believable, even amidst their cartoony demeanor.

While everyone else is calling it “The answer to X-Men”, I would label it as a question posed to all other superhero projects on cable TV – can it be outdone? I would predict The Umbrella Academy’s much-awaited third season to take on the likes of comic giants Marvel and DC, in terms of popularity.





## LIONEL MESSI TO SIGN FOR DHAKA FC

Whitened black money to be used to secure the coveted signature

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Lionel Messi, a serial diver considered to be the greatest player of all time in one of the most mediocre teams in the world, may be on his way to Dhaka.

A source who saw Messi play against Nigeria that one time told this newspaper that he had seen the desire to play in Bangladesh in the star striker's eye.

In what would be the biggest coup for Bangladesh football after the far better acquisition of Sony Norde, the greatest international export to have booted up for a Bangladeshi club, Messi's arrival has also excited fans, a redundant sentence to spruce up the word count.

"I remember when he played in our national stadium against Nigeria. What a player. The COW," an overly-enthusiastic Bangladeshi fan said.

The rumoured arrival, however, has raised questions on how Messi's 700-million-euro transfer fee could be afforded by a Bangladeshi

football club.

Dhaka FC Manager Abdul Jafri said, "Yes it is expensive. But we are talking to the government about legalising all the black money we earned from our illegal casinos. Look, everyone is doing it anyway and us spending that 700 million can only help inflate Bangladesh's gross domestic product which was the dream of our nation-maker."

Contacted, Finance Minister Mukhta Shamal said there was no scope to question the legalisation of black money in the country. "How do you think we are all so well-paid? If Fifa can allow blood-stained oil money, then why not our black money? Yes, we are considering allowing Dhaka FC to go ahead with the move. But they must tell us how they earned all this black money. For research purposes."

Messi, who scored like a lot of goals for the team that cheated Chelsea out of a Champion's League victory, may help revive

the football scene in Bangladesh. He will also prove tough competition for Zahid Hasan Emily, the most prolific striker in the league, who won the Golden Boot last year by scoring an astounding seven goals.

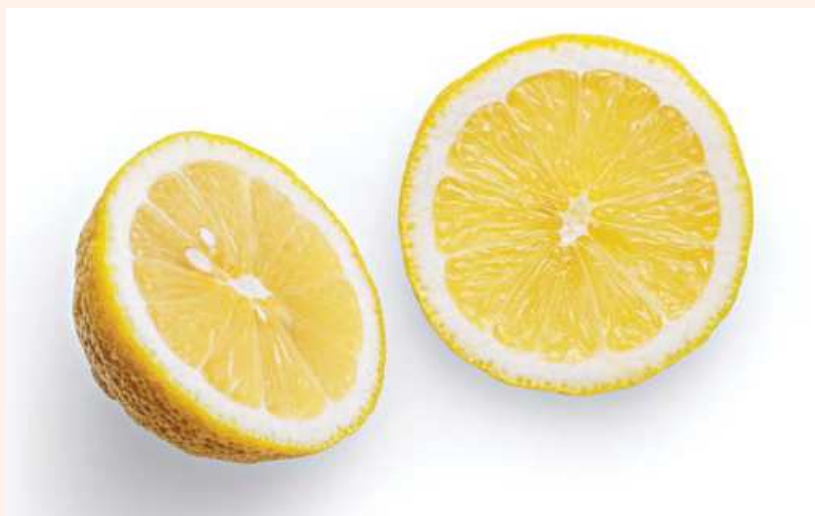
A problem may arise after the country's football federation decided to pay players 20 percent of their contracted fee due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Federation President Yusuf Ali said, "Everyone is using the pandemic as an excuse to not pay their employees. Why should we not? Plus, we will offer Messi the highest salary of Tk 25,000. It is not much but he does not have a university degree which is mandatory for higher-paying jobs in this country."

Lionel Messi could not be contacted for this report as he has gone into hiding ever since being found out to be a fraud during the 8-2 rout Bayern meted out to Barcelona recently.

## 'When wife throws you lemons, make lemonade'

CITRUS CORRESPONDENT



Arif Alias, whose real name is just that because of a Gmail unavailability, is currently fighting in court for custody of his two children. The husband and wife spilt up over a glass of lemon juice made at home.

The altercation arose when Arif broke many plates while washing dishes because the maid is gone for the pandemic holiday.

The tired wife, Jeorejina, one day grabbed lemons and threw it at him, injuring his left eye. As a result, he often accidentally logged himself out of Zoom meetings with his boss because of a lack of visual coordination.

"When wife throws you lemons, make lemonade," said Arif.

He gave that lemonade to his wife but forgot to add sugar. She was enraged and countered with lemon juice so sour, it shrunk many of his parts to the size and shape of raisins.

It's a sad tale that goes back to pandemics across hundreds of years. Kingdoms have toppled because of the souring of relationships as no one had any sugar to spare. In 2012, the duckface became popular because everyone was sucking on lemons as a fad. It was a terrible year for social media photos.

Arif complains that his eye injury has cost him his job and sugar is now a luxury along the lines of the need to have a fan in the toilet.

Their children are quite happy because now that the parents are fighting, no one is asking them to pay attention to online classes.



## Beka City South dogs form gangs BCSC says 'I told you so!'

AAQIB HASIB

Beka City South has recently been under attack from dog gangs that have recently started forming within the area. The gangs in question, as claimed by eye witness accounts, have been accused of performing martial arts moves on innocent citizens of Beka City South while howling, "Awuu Tang".

This comes mere months after Beka City South Corporation (BCSC) had attempted to conduct mass cullings, but were denied by the efforts of local residents. Now, however, the BCSC finds itself in the unique position of being able to say "I told you so" – a first for any government agency of Beka City.

"We knew this was inevitable. But when we warned the citizens, they all pointed to Beka City North and said 'look how cool they are with dogs. Why can't we be the same?'

"Well, now you can see that it isn't really that cool. When left alone, these dogs are rebellious in nature and will slowly cull us instead," said a representative from BCSC. "It pains me to bring it up. But we told you so."

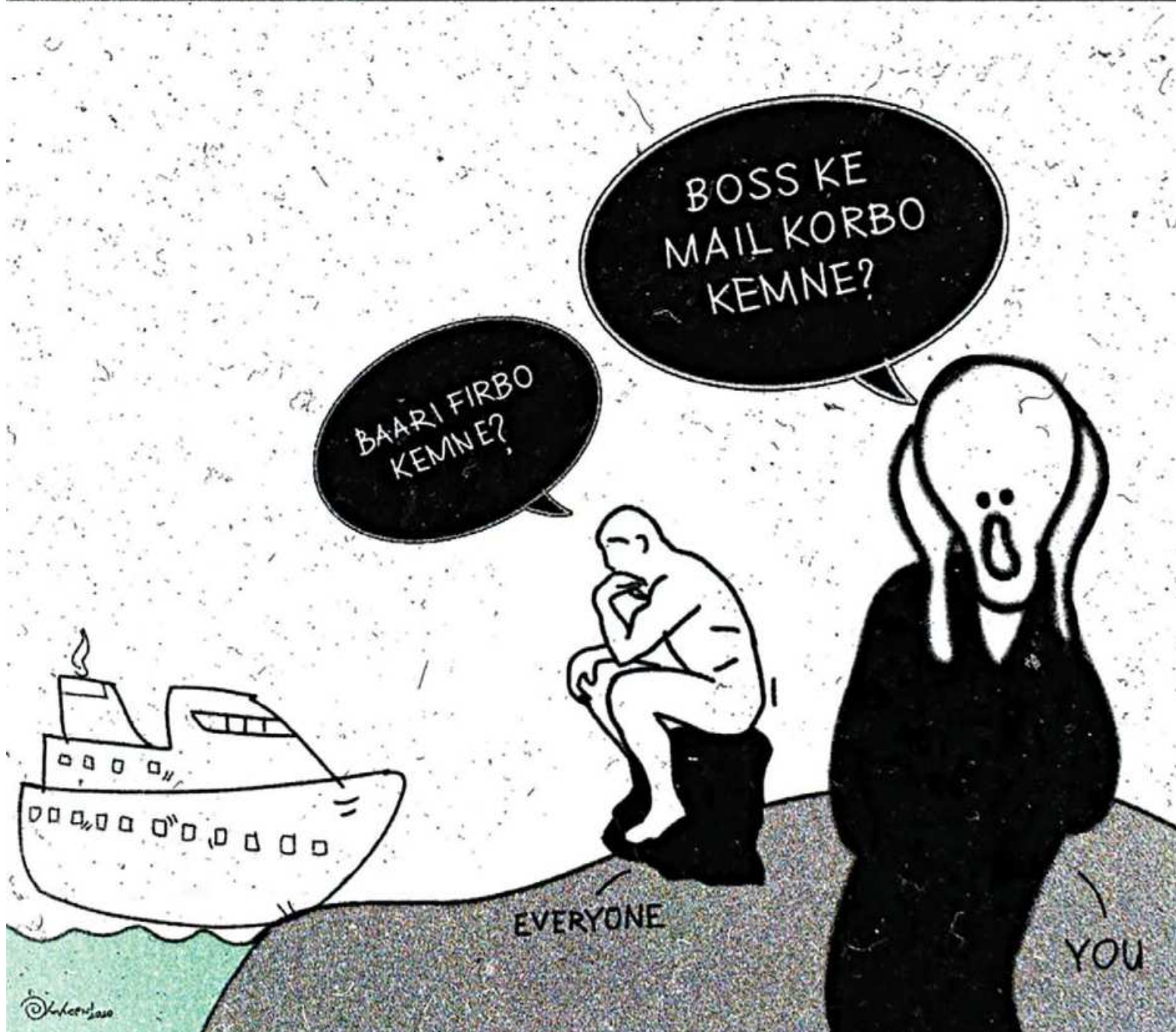
Right after this interview this particular BCSC representative fled to Beka City North for safe harbour.

I reached out to the biggest gang with around 120 canines called 'Barkhampton' but received a reply from their human communications officer reading: "We, the dogs of Beka South are done. We've been mocked, hit with stones and neutered. No more. They wanted to cull us, now we rebel."

"PS: Our next album which features 25 tracks and 50 dogs from Beka North drops on March 15.

"Awuu Tang!"

## WHEN A LAUNCHBOAT GOT STUCK AT KAAUAAR CHAR





The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2020, BHADRA 21, 1427 BS

## No progress in 10 years in relocating hazardous businesses

Authorities busy extending timeframes and expanding budgets

IT is infuriating, to say the least, that 10 years after the chemical-induced devastating fire that claimed 126 lives, the government has made very little progress in relocating the precarious chemical businesses and warehouses from Old Dhaka, despite undertaking four projects—and spending considerable money—as part of the relocation plan. A recent report by this daily highlights how, a decade later, these projects are still at the initial stages, with the only notable development being the sharp escalation of costs—from Tk 686 crore at the beginning to around Tk 2,667 crore currently, according to project documents. The project undertaken in 2011 to establish a chemical industrial park at Boalkhali village in Munshiganj’s Sirajdikhan upazila is nowhere near completion, and while initially, the plan was to establish the park on 20 acres of land, it has now expanded to a whopping 308 acres of land.

And while the bureaucrats and developers were busy extending their timeframes and lining their pockets, another fire that could have been circumvented took 80 lives in February of last year. Then, too, the government made promises to set up temporary warehouses for chemical businesses immediately—except, one and a half years have passed, but these warehouses are nowhere near ready. Meanwhile, our correspondents report that hazardous businesses are now spread out throughout Old Dhaka, risking hundreds of thousands of lives. The general secretary of Bangladesh Chemical and Perfumery Merchants’ Association, admitted that 2,000 shops were still operating in Old Dhaka as the government is yet to provide them with plots, as promised under the MoU signed in 2017.

The highly ambitious and costly projects of the government have little value to citizens unless they are implemented before more tragedy strikes. We have already lost too many lives in accidents that were preventable—deaths that ought to weigh heavily on the conscience of the state. Extension of deadlines and expansion on budgets have become the custom when it comes to development projects, with rampant misutilisation of funds, failure to conduct proper feasibility tests, flouting of rules and regulations, and various other inefficiencies plaguing and slowing down crucial endeavours. Even the planning minister has, on multiple occasions, expressed his own frustration at the state of affairs.

We urge the government to immediately evaluate the status of these delayed projects and pinpoint why it is taking so long, and costing so much, to deliver on what has been promised to the people of Old Dhaka. If another fire breaks out in the area because of the negligence of our authorities, they will not be able to shirk their responsibilities by claiming it was an “accident”.

## Livelihoods of indigenous communities under threat

Strict laws must be implemented to protect their rights

A recent report published in this daily sheds light on the worrying situation faced by several indigenous communities in Moulivibazar’s Kulaura upazila. Despite the struggle for survival amidst the pandemic, a coterie of people plotted to attack their only source of income—betel leaf gardens—four times in the last seven months. Prior to the attacks, the communities were asked to vacate around 300 acres of their ancestral land on which they have been living and cultivating betel leaf for generations.

For the betel leaves to be plucked, a plant needs to be nurtured for two to three years. And since the series of onslaughts on the gardens, 2,450 mature plants have been ravaged. With such an agonising loss, the livelihoods of the already vulnerable communities are at risk and they face severe financial crisis. And the reoccurrences of such attacks remain very much likely. What is shocking is the fact that despite being caught red-handed, the residents of the village Fakhrul Ali—released in exchange for a bond following an arbitration—along with his accomplices Khairul Mia, Rafiq Mia and others, against whom a case was filed with Kulaura Police Station, all remain at large.

We have witnessed earlier how minorities and ethnic communities have been attacked, their properties damaged and, in some cases, their land grabbed, by people in positions of privilege and power, with impunity. We condemn such intolerable acts which disrupt communal harmony and destroy people’s lives and livelihoods. Under no circumstances should they go unpunished. Legal action demands to be taken against the miscreants immediately. It is the government’s responsibility to ensure that the police, along with the local administrators, do not protect the perpetrators but rather the indigenous and minority communities who are already under tremendous economic and social pressures.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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#### DSCC’s move to relocate dogs unjust

Many of us have seen the human chain organised recently by a large group of animal lovers against Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), protesting the authorities’ decision to relocate stray dogs. The Animal Welfare Act prohibits anyone from killing or moving stray animals from their natural habitat. Then why would DSCC take such a move when the law is still in place? Such a decision is truly shocking to say the least.

Mehrin Karim, by email



SHUPROVA TASNEEM

year 64, this image comes to mind when we look at Trump and Bolsonaro’s (mis) handling of the coronavirus pandemic in their respective countries.

In the early days of the pandemic, there was a phrase that was thrown around a lot—the “flattening of the curve”. Basically, this is a public health strategy to slow down the spread of coronavirus—in a visual representation of the number of people infected within a country, the rate of infection will rise until it reaches a peak, after which, when safety measures such as lockdowns and social distancing start to kick in, it will even out, and eventually, the cases will begin to drop. If you look at the trajectory of the pandemic in the US, you will see a frightening trend where the pandemic looks like it is likely to peak around end April, largely evens out in May and then starts to shoot up in June, reaching record highs in July and August. This clearly demonstrates a failure in US policy. According to a *Financial Times* report from July 17, “public health experts say the recent surge in virus cases is a direct result of the reopening in April and May of several states where the coronavirus case count was still climbing, albeit from a relatively low base.”

In Brazil, the data is downright weird—a record high of almost 71,000 cases on July 29 is followed by less than 18,000 cases on August 3, with a spike to over 56,000 newly infected the very next day. The data is erratic throughout and there seems to be no letting up of this trend, which points towards flawed reporting. This is backed up by the fact that by April, patients using the public health network in Brazil were only being tested if they were hospitalised

with severe symptoms, according to *Al Jazeera*. A *New York Times* report detailed the coronavirus data related fiasco in early June, when the Brazilian health ministry came under furious criticism for taking down the website that reported cumulative coronavirus numbers, only to be ordered by the country’s Supreme Court to reinstate the information. The Brazilian case illustrates a unique problem that seems to have risen in the middle of the pandemic—a lack of transparency regarding Covid-19 related data in countries that tend to have weak democracies and inefficient or corrupt institutions. This theory was tested by *Al Jazeera* in a detailed report, where they used Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index and the Economist Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index as lenses through which to view the number of reported cases, and found “striking differences in the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases that those nations deemed transparent and democratic reported compared to the numbers reported by nations perceived to be corrupt and authoritarian.”

This in no way means that we can’t place our faith in data; if anything, it tells us we need it more than ever. As can be seen from the examples of Brazil and the US, the data will eventually lead you to the bigger picture when you view it from various angles and attempt to contextually analyse it. In terms of the coronavirus curve in South Asia, it is clear that India is still on its way to reaching its peak—with over 84,000 new infections on September 3, it is now being described as the new epicentre of the global pandemic. In Pakistan, the curve seems to have flattened out, with cases falling from a peak of almost 6,000 new cases per day in mid-June to less than 500 per day in late August. In Bangladesh, there is perhaps reason to be cautiously optimistic, since our curve seems to be heading in the same trajectory, albeit at a slower rate—in mid-June, we saw up to 4,000 infected per day, but are currently getting around 2,000 new cases of coronavirus per day.

However, there is a huge catch here. While in both these nations, testing has increased as the pandemic progressed,

Bangladesh is the only country that actually reduced testing when the pandemic was at its peak. This rings a lot of alarm bells with regard to underreporting. If you look at the global data on the rate of testing per million of the population, India ranks 120th in the world, Pakistan is at 150 and Bangladesh stands at 159. In fact, the severity of underreporting was highlighted by the health authorities themselves—in the preliminary findings of a cross-sectional study jointly conducted by IEDCR and icddr, in the capital between April 18 and July 5, it was found that nearly 20 lakh Dhaka residents could be Covid-19 positive, with roughly 78 percent of them being asymptomatic.

Another factor to take into consideration is the positivity rate, or the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that are actually positive. While Pakistan also has relatively low rates of testing, its positivity rate is currently at 1.7 percent. In May, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that the positivity rate remain below five percent for at least two weeks before governments consider relaxing Covid-19 measures. The positivity rate in Bangladesh has been at an average of 16.7 percent over the last week. In comparison, India, one of the worst affected countries in the world right now, has a positivity rate of 7.7 percent. The only countries in the world that are worse off than Bangladesh in terms of the positivity rate can be counted on one hand (almost)—Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Iraq.

It doesn’t take a data scientist to understand that this scenario is hugely distressing for Bangladesh. Which is why it beggars belief that the government has gone ahead with its decision to relax Covid-19 measures. According to WHO guidelines, it is very clear what needs to be done when a country has a high positivity rate—increase testing, enforce strict regulations regarding wearing masks, ensure physical distancing and avoid large gatherings, especially in enclosed spaces. While it is encouraging that the number of tests have gone up in Bangladesh in recent days, we are still getting fewer tests

done now than we did in June. Without a clear picture of the Covid-19 related data, especially in terms of the extent of the spread of the virus, how can we ever formulate coherent policy during the pandemic, which is clearly far from over for us?

It is true that the youthful population of Bangladesh means that compared to many other countries, our death rates are lower (although we must also factor in underreporting in the case of deaths as well). It is also true that to keep the economy from crashing and to prevent those employed in the informal and other low-wage sectors from being pushed into destitution, it is not possible for a country like Bangladesh to be in perpetual lockdown. But that in no way explains why we would lift all restrictions on public movement and mass gatherings. We have already seen reports on how public transport services are not following government health safety directions. Much like the attempt at localised lockdowns, social distancing rules and the wearing of masks (which is mandatory by name only) are also fizzling out. Yet these measures have been proven to be essential to preventing community transmission of Covid-19.

There is enough evidence from around the world that a premature relaxation of restrictions can only lead to increase in infections that become more difficult to contain. If we don’t let go of this lethargic approach to the pandemic—remember the health minister casually assuring us that coronavirus will leave the country on its own eventually?—it will take us months before we can even come close to flattening the curve. Whatever gains we have made since the pandemic began will be reversed, and all our efforts will have been for nothing. The recent fiascos over fake Covid-19 certificates and rampant corruption in the health sector has already reduced public trust in the authorities. The continued mishandling of the pandemic is a mistake they can ill afford at the moment.

Shuprova Tasneem is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.  
Her Twitter handle is @shuprovatasneem

## Trade policy overhaul critical for post-pandemic recovery

ZAIDI SATTAR

THE year 2020 will be recorded in history as the year when the world population lived dangerously—under the onslaught of an unknown killer virus that did not discriminate between rich or poor, developed or developing countries. The health pandemic is compounded by the consequential economic aftermath that has left the global economy in disarray. Covid-19 is the trigger for a present crisis comparable to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

What is now certain is that the negative shock to global output and trade is going to be deep and widespread in 2020—trade could be down 12-32 percent, according to WTO. The crisis has hit hardest regions that are our leading export destinations—USA, EU. Our exports are already down 17 percent in FY2020, though merchandise trade (export and import of goods) is down only 2 percent, after reaching a total of USD 95 billion in FY2019. There is too much uncertainty riding on our expected recovery in FY2021.

Trade is the means through which our economy integrates with the rest of the world. In light of the global shock in output and trade, the big question is, can our exports recover without a big shake up in our trade policy. Trade policy is also at the centre of the debate about what works and what does not in our quest for the elusive goal of export diversification.

Our producers have a binary choice between selling in two markets—export market or the domestic market, except for RMG producers who are mandated to export only. To illustrate, export subsidies or other support mechanism (e.g. concessional loans for export) create incentives for production geared to the export market. Likewise, policies that tax or restrict competing imports create incentives for production of import substitutes for domestic sale. When the balance of incentives favour exports, trade policy is export-oriented. When tariffs (that raise prices of imports and import substitutes) and import restrictions (to reduce import competition) make sale in the domestic market more profitable than exports, the incentive regime is biased in favour of import substitution. The bottom line: to incentivise export, the price received from export must be higher than what the producer were to receive from selling that product in the domestic market.

PRI research confirms that despite the widespread presumption that export is highly incentivised by cash subsidies and other support measures, high tariff

protection given to import substitute production raises profitability of domestic sales well above incentives given to exports. Result? The price an exporter receives for his/her product is much less than what the domestic market has to offer. That indeed is the crux of the trade policy dilemma in Bangladesh.

Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the trade part of the economic shock. Is trade policy up and ready to cope with the trade-related developments and also provide the impetus to fuel rapid economic recovery once we have gotten a handle on controlling the virus and returning life to normalcy?

All international agencies predict a sluggish global economic recovery. The projected global slowdown (which is

in Japan, Australia and New Zealand. East Asia and Pacific, with a market size of USD 22 trillion (larger than EU or USA) is now an export destination to fight for.

In this backdrop, a revamped trade policy for stimulating post-pandemic economic recovery should take the following route, beginning with the recognition that we have essentially two trade policy tracks, one for RMG exports and another for the rest. RMG operates in a “free trade” enclave (zero tariffs), nearly immune to the high tariff and protection regime that creates significant anti-export bias for non-RMG exports. That is the crux of the problem. This trade policy dualism has got to change. Unless trade policy for non-RMG exports is brought to par with RMG, export diversification has no



beyond our control) could dampen import demand for Bangladesh exports in major markets, with significant impacts on RMG exports.

But all is not lost in a global economy that is constantly evolving. First, the “Walmart effect”—a term used to refer to the economic impact felt by local businesses when a large company opens in the area—could sustain demand for basic garments to prop up RMG exports. Second, Bangladesh stands to capture export demand as a fallout from US-China trade tensions. Third, for non-RMG exports of Bangladesh, where export market shares are infinitesimal, demand is not a constraint, ensuring export incentives and competitiveness are. Fourth, China has offered duty-free access to Bangladesh for over 90 percent of tariff lines with similar facilities already

chance. Until such time as we can unify the two tracks of trade policy, our only option is to revamp the twin tracks of trade policy for post-pandemic recovery, along the following lines:

First, the biggest challenge to export diversification comes from the high protection regime in the domestic economy. The problem with non-RMG exports (firms are not 100 percent exporters), like footwear, plastic, agro-processing products, light engineering, is that domestic tariff-induced protection is so high, making domestic sales so profitable, that exporting is not an attractive option. To get any traction on export diversification, this perverse incentive system must be turned around. The over-arching challenge in future trade policy lies in making exporting activity more attractive than selling in the

domestic market. But that is easier said than done.

Second, prepare a vigorous plan for geographical diversification to break into new markets in East Asia and the Pacific (e.g. China, Japan, S Korea, Australia, New Zealand).

Third, all out measures will have to be undertaken to enhance export competitiveness, based on comparative-advantage-following (CAF) strategies, including improved trade infrastructure, access to finance, ease of doing business, and so on. Until such time as the two trade policy tracks are brought to par with each other, all non-RMG exporters will have to be given bonded facilities to get world-priced (zero-tariff) imported inputs in order to compete on a level playing field.

Fourth, while recognising that RMG export prospects globally are not fully exhausted, efforts should continue to improve competitiveness by raising quality, efficiency, productivity, and compliance in the RMG sector and its backward linkage industries.

Fifth, as part of the export diversification strategy, diversify into intermediate goods production for exports (e.g. automotive and electronic parts and components) by vigorously seeking FDI to integrate with global value chains (GVC). Emulating Vietnam’s experience would be worthwhile.

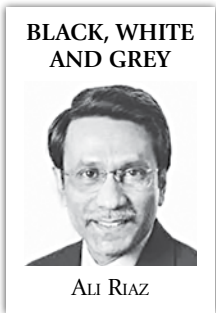
Finally, robust export performance requires two common traits for the exchange rate: (a) flexibility, and (b) strict avoidance of overvaluation. Recognising that it would be well-nigh impossible for the economy to export and grow its way out of the Covid-19 slump with an already proven overvalued exchange rate, the crisis presents a timely opportunity for “compensated” depreciation of the exchange rate (i.e. depreciation associated with complementary measures to neutralise inflationary or other negative effects) to give a boost to post-pandemic export performance and its diversification.

A crisis is a terrible thing to waste. Following the political-economic crisis in 1990, Bangladesh launched the deepest trade policy reforms in its history, indeed completely changing direction from an inward-looking restrictive trade policy to an outward-looking export-oriented one, that paid huge dividends in terms of trade and export expansion, growth acceleration, and poverty reduction. The current health-cum-economic crisis presents yet another opportunity for changing course and revamping trade policy to fuel a robust recovery.

Dr Zaidi Sattar is Chairman, Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI).



# US Election 2020: What Biden Must Do



**BLACK, WHITE AND GREY**

WITH the national conventions behind, Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden and Republican candidate incumbent Donald Trump, are now on the campaign trail. The election is front and centre of media coverage, while the death toll from the coronavirus pandemic is on the rise again. The national opinion polls show that Joe Biden is ahead of Trump, but the election is eight weeks away. Whether Biden can manage to hold on to the lead and defeat Trump is contingent on various factors, but Biden's camp needs to be cognisant of two things: avoid the Trump Trap, and win some of the battleground states, particularly the three Midwestern states Democrats lost to Trump in 2016.

In the past days it has been evident that the battle line between the two candidates has been clearly drawn—the battle is between restoring “law and order” in the face of “chaos and mayhem” and an “incompetent presidential record” exemplified by the death of 180,000 American citizens and over six million infections. The former is the central platform of Trump's campaign, the latter is of Biden's. For Biden, the most difficult task is to balance two aspects—to show that he is not condoning violence, yet underscoring that the problem today America is facing is not the absence of law and order but a pandemic which is a result of mismanagement. Republicans have always portrayed Democrats as soft on crime and sympathetic to law breakers. Trump has amplified the message like Richard Nixon did in 1968. For Trump it is not new, in the 2016 election his message was the same—“I am the law and order president”, he declared in July of 2016 at a rally and

tweeted on July 12: “This election is a choice between law, order & safety—or chaos, crime & violence. I will make America safe again for everyone.”

Trump and the Republican Party has decided to ignore the pandemic and entirely focus on their message. They think that “fear mongering works”. At least it worked in 2016. Biden cannot ignore the ongoing popular protests as he and the Democratic Party have supported the demands of the Black Lives Matter movement, promised to reform the criminal justice system, and address institutional racism. But he must condemn the violence as well, however sporadic these incidents may be. Biden has done so on Monday in Philadelphia while starting his in-person campaign. He challenged Trump to condemn violence of both the left and right, which Trump not only declined to do, but openly supported Kyle Rittenhouse of Kenosha's violence. Seventeen-years old Kyle Rittenhouse is charged with killing two protestors and injuring one with an AR-15 assault rifle during a protest on August 25. Protests ensued after police killed Jacob Blake, a black youth, on August 23 in front of his children when he was trying to get into his car.

Trump has also spread fringe conspiracy theories without any evidence that a plane full of agitators travelled to DC during the Republican National Convention. He was suggesting that a group of “radical left” agitators are traveling to places to create “chaos”, and implied that the Democratic Party is behind this. Interestingly, Trump has ignored the fact that Kyle Rittenhouse travelled from the state of Illinois to Wisconsin, unlawfully carried a lethal weapon, and engaged in violence while offered justification for Rittenhouse's shooting.

In the past week, especially since the Republican Convention, Trump has exclusively focused on this message. Trump is banking on its success. Kellyanne Conway, the outgoing advisor to President Trump, said on August 27: “the more chaos and anarchy and

vandalism and violence reigns, the better it is for the very clear choice on who's best on public safety and law and order.” Conway was the campaign manager of Trump in 2016 and knows what their supporters like.

For Biden, the challenge is not to walk into the “Trump Trap” of shifting the focus to Law and Order, abandoning the strong case he and the Democrats have so far made against Trump's re-election. It is imperative for his

They are Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. It is the first time in a long time that so many states are considered as “battleground states”. It is interesting that the number of battleground states has increased when the country seems to be more polarised than ever before. The number has grown this year because some of the previously solid Republican states are now being considered as

Michael Moore, who correctly predicted the Trump victory in 2016, has already warned about Michigan. In 2016, Hillary Clinton ignored Michigan and lost by 10,704 votes, a 0.23 percent margin, the narrowest margin of victory in Michigan's presidential election history. The same is true for Wisconsin, a state Hillary lost by 0.77 percent of votes, 22,784 votes, a 0.23 percent margin, the narrowest margin in a presidential election for the state in 176 years.

With the pandemic raging through the country and the situation becoming increasingly worse, the question is how to reach out to voters? Unlike Trump, Biden cannot be reckless and organise large gatherings; it will undercut his campaign message that the voters are still unsafe. On the other hand, if he does not show up, it will be considered as a repeat of Hillary Clinton. Besides, invisibility will hurt Biden badly. Trump has remained on the trail and will garner coverage—as the incumbent president and by making outrageous statements—either in person or on twitter. Trump will portray Biden as weak and hiding in his basement. The Biden camp has already bought a significant amount of ad time on television and social media targeting these battleground states. But yet, Biden-Harris will need to show up. A two-prong strategy, to bring back the states Hillary lost to Trump, and expand the presence in the battleground states are imperative for Democrats.

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson once said, “a week is a long time in politics”. We are eight weeks away from the election and it is an unusual time. Predictions have been wrong in 2016, early indications gave way to last-minute surprises. Avoiding the surprises this time requires avoiding the Trump trap and winning back the battleground states.

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**Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris.**

PHOTO: MANDEL NGAN/AFP

campaign that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris stay on point and continue to press on the president for his incompetency.

The second thing the Biden campaign must do is to reach out to the voters in battleground states, but not at the expense of its bases. In the US elections, there have been a few states which are neither solidly Democratic nor Republican. In the previous elections they have shifted from one party to another. These states tend to emerge as the deciding factor in a tightly contested election. They are called “battleground states”. Previously they were only a handful. This year the number is quite large. By one account it's 11.

# Rage, rage against the ragging in the campus



**BLOWIN' IN THE WIND**

ENGLISH professors are known for being sticklers for rules. Even if I try to disassociate myself from the grammar Nazis, there are times when I have to wonder about the usage of certain words. The word “rag”, for instance, is a fine example, which, in our local context, has “seen a different pulse” (“dekhosh nari”) in Satyajit Ray's “dictionary”.

Oxford English Dictionary offers a long list of meanings under the entry “rag”. The ones that I am interested in involve, as verbs: a) Make fun of (someone) in a boisterous manner; b) Rebuke severely; and, as nouns, a) A programme of stunts, parades, and other entertainments organised by students to raise money for charity, e.g. “rag week”; b) A boisterous prank or practical joke. None of them are appropriate in the sense we use it on a daily basis.

I guess my colleagues at the University of Dhaka could not decide on the meaning of the word either. On Wednesday, a meeting of the university's Academic Council decided to ban celebrating “inhuman, brutal, and unethical” festivals in the name of “rag day”. The following day, “the authorities issued another press release claiming that the information regarding banning rag day was misrepresented inadvertently in the press release that was issued yesterday” (DS, September 3, 2020).

Surely the authorities did not think it through before imposing such a ban. Even the sudden withdrawal is tagged with the formation of an

“ethical committee review” clause, suggesting they are still mulling over it. Judging from their quick response, it is obvious that they backtracked sensing that the student search engine went into overdrive, and social media was becoming heated.

Students, both present and former, did not like the “reactionary” move. Why would one deem the graduation party, or the celebration of the end of academic life, as “inhuman, brutal

Jokes apart, these men and women had their first brush with the campus with an unsavoury phenomenon that involves another denotation of “rag”. Ragging is a term used probably in the subcontinent (and Sri Lanka). Its US equivalence is hazing or the initiation ceremonies that you see among fraternities and sororities. It is argued, that hazing in the US institutions were introduced by the army men who returned to campus after WWI. It was

asked to sing an obscene song); dress code ragging (e.g. cross-dressing or stripping); funny introductions; sexual abuse; drug abuse; or playing the fool. There is another kind involving political emasculation: the death of a Buet student Abrar is still being tried at court. To some extent, Abrar was a victim of hazing as his seniors wanted to teach him a lesson for writing something on Facebook that went against the party line or narrative.

The moment a student enters a campus, she or he has to seek the blessings of whoever is in power either to get a seat in the dorm or to live a peaceful campus life. Sometimes, these students even have to pledge that they will join all political rallies, no matter at what ungodly time they are being organised. When our students attend classes, little do we realise that there is an alternative world in the dorms, where these students often maintain (or are forced to maintain) a secret life! We hear about it only when something goes terribly wrong. Abrar is a case in point. Many known instances of suicide, derangement as atrophy of ragging has made the idea a menace.

The public universities are yet to take a strong stance against ragging. In January, the High Court even summoned UGC to take steps against campus bullying. There have not been any visible measures. Some campuses have broad brush sexual harassment policies, but ragging is a unique culture that requires proper legal attention. In India, the Supreme Court has given some strong directives that allowed many of the states to curb ragging. The definition of ragging used in *University of Kerala v Council of Principals College in Kerala* is quite useful in our context. I quote it in its entirety: “the form of systematic and sustained physical, mental and sexual abuse of fresh

students at the college/ University any other educational institution at the hands of senior students of the same institutions and sometimes even by outsiders. It also means causing, including, compelling or forcing a student, whether by way of a practical joke or otherwise, to do any act which detracts from human dignity or violates his person or exposes him to ridicule or to forbear from doing any lawful activity, intimidating wrongfully restraining, wrongfully confining or by injury or by using criminal force to him or by holding him any threat of such intimidation, wrongful restraint or confinement or injury or the use of criminal force” (Sinde 2017).

There is a fine line between practical jokes and intrusion of privacy. Students, pumped up by their adrenaline rush, often fail to separate the two. Earlier this year, when a student of Jagannath University became ill after ragging, even the education minister said that the time had come to change our mindsets. There were even demands that the parliament should pass laws to stop the menace of ragging.

Ragging should be stamped out because it is “inhuman, brutal, and unethical”; rag day is a different kettle of fish. There can be guidelines to control the celebration so that the mirth making does not cause nuisance like the use of band parties or vuvuzela while classes or exams are being held. The brouhaha should be aimed at ragging, not rag day. Now that the DU academic council has moved away from its rigid stance, maybe it will finally analyse the many shades of ragging, and translate the rage against it in a productive fashion.

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and unethical”? It's true that students bring out rowdy rallies, raise funds to hold parties and concerts, and want to leave the campus with a bang. They do not want to “go gentle into the night” (Dylan Thomas). Only a hollow man would like to leave the world “not with a bang but a whimper” (TS Eliot). But these are young men in their prime youth—why restrain them from enjoying their last few hours in their protected world before they enter the jungle out there. You never know, maybe some of them will rule the jungle and get featured on newspapers, claiming, from rags to riches.

prevalent in the British army and public schools during the colonial era. In India it took a serious form, involving verbal, physical and sexual abuses, in the 1980s. *Holi* (1984) and *Three Idiots* (2009), both featuring Aamir Khan, gives us rare insights into the problem.

Ragging is an institutionalised emasculation mechanism to enfeeble and debilitate the incoming students, usually by their immediate senior batches. What started as a rag, “a boisterous prank or practical joke” has devolved and spiralled into something preposterous. These rituals usually include: verbal torture (e.g. a newbie

### ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



SEPTEMBER 5, 2001  
**Evidence provided for black hole theory**

*At a scientific conference in Washington, DC, this day in 2001, scientists described an observation of energy flares that provided strong evidence of the theorised black hole at the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy.*

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

1 Musical phrases

6 Complete

11 Knuckle-head

12 Depart

13 Power provider

14 Saudi Arabia neighbor

15 Harbor boats

17 Stop

18 Hodge-podge

22 Opposed to

23 Wild ones

27 Racing boat

29 Slow mover

30 Postponed

32 Thin coin

33 Tripped

35 Energy

38 Bangkok native

39 Rust, for one

41 Not match, color-wise

45 Harpoon

46 “Seascape” playwright

47 Brass section members

48 Film prize

**DOWN**

1 Crater part

2 Wedding words

3 In shape

4 Mountain range's edge

5 Play, as a banjo

6 Homer hero

7 Player's peg

8 Not wild

9 Flat

10 Tear

16 Yak it up

18 Schooner pole

19 Machu Picchu native

20 Ticket souvenir

21 Fliers

24 Go to sea

25 Clock reading

26 Winter glider

28 Word components

31 “Well, that's obvious!”

34 Hong Kong neighbor

35 Swanky

36 Trade fair

37 Docking spot

40 Dapper fellow

42 Jackson 5 hit

43 Cruise setting

44 That woman

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).

### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

P	E	A	T	S	B	A	B	A	R
O	L	L	I	E	O	H	A	R	E
S	A	L	E	M	B	A	B	E	S
S	P	I	R	I	T	O	N	E	
U	S	E	S	H	E	G	O	A	T
M	E	D		W	I	D	E	N	S
			C	L	I	E	N	T	
B	R	O	N	T	E	S	F	R	A
L	A	W		R	U	G	R	A	T
E	B	B	E		I	R	A	T	E
A	B	A	S	E	T	A	M	E	R
T	E	R	S	E		T	E	M	E

### BEETLE BAILEY



### BABY BLUES







POETRY

# In the Halls of the Mughal Kings

ARYAN SHAFAT

*A fading comet trail of snippets from the halls of the Mughal Kings remain immortally enshrined in memory's space.*

Former capital, you Stand tall under the continuous canter of the seasons.

Impregnable against time's infantry, with erect and smooth sandstone walls, bathed red by the beating sun for centuries.

Inside the Kingdom, lay smooth lawns: glossy green sheets with an emerald hue, maintained impeccably, guarded by lustrous bushes in lemon coloured helmets.

Inside, lay the Jama Masjid resting on infinite arches, embellished with infinite domes.

Inside, rests Salim Chisty's tomb of dazzling, spotless, pearl white marble, effortlessly reflecting the tepid winter sun.

Strings, of rainbows, dance to the congregation of followers: a sea of people with an ocean of prayers.

Amidst an eternal storm, dreams and thoughts, long buried in time's graveyard, appear as apparitions.

Tansen's songs rise like waves, his tunes of silk, weave through the air like an aurora.

They reach for and enthrall the winds ceaselessly.

Settled at the centre, the imposing palace.

A five-tiered pyramid, tinted dusty red.

Neat, patterned columns raise up one another, supporting the Dome-

The Dome of perpetual youth.

Echoes of Greatness ring throughout the city, they usher forth from the grandiose Buland Darwaza, pour out from the palace gates.

Knocking on walls, resonating from the chirps of birds, the

Grandness is omnipresent, in every breath, splendour immerses the Kingdom.

Looming on the banks of the Yamuna, Slithering trails ominously course through the brown, desolate and dismal fields, ravaged by Winter, to:

A city

Adorned with amulets bearing inscriptions of false promises,

Showered upon by a mellow, tropical sun in winter's foggy cloak, the skyline is invisible.

The numerous, quaint sweetshops are drenched with scents of syrup.



Sounds of sizzling sweets waft through the dense night air, While on display, are sweets, in assortments of colours, embroidered with history.

Aromas of incense and flower petals emanate from the temples, the tintinnabulation from the bells is a swarm, hidden in the distance.

Once daylight's head juts out from the horizon,

embraces all the nooks and alleys,

sets alight the city

there,

standing majestically beside Yamuna's bank

shrouded in a thick smog coat,

Almost unaffected by time's abrasion,

surrounded by lanky, leaning minarets,

turbaned with a gargantuan bulbous dome, glazed in shimmering white,

composed of the world's stones and sun's corona,

the tip dipped in gold:

the Shining tomb of cold marble, with a beating heart.

Winter is absent here.

Only a floating, warm aura.

Spring flowers in eternal bloom, are etched in the stones and granite.

Mere, enchanted dwarves converge at the tomb: cupid's pilgrimage site.

*Aryan Shafat is a young Bangladeshi poet. He studies at UWIC Atlantic College, Wales.*



FLASH FICTION

# The House You Cannot Put Colours on

MARZIA RAHMAN

It was a big window, like an arched doorway. It creaked loudly the first time I opened it. It sounded angry, upset. I wondered why?

I placed a couch in front of the window. Often, I sat here with a book in my hand and gazed outside. There was a mango tree, a banyan and a wall green with moss and weed in the backyard garden. I watched sparrows, ants, rain, sunshine, stars and a lone moon on lonely nights. Sometimes, a white cat sat under the banyan tree.

The cat reminded me of Mini, the white furry one I had when I was little. It reminded me of another life. And whenever those thoughts came rushing back, I shook my head hard. I didn't want to remember anything, whether good or bad. It unsettled me. I needed to get over him to move on. To fall in love with my husband, Akram. He was a good man. It made me feel sad, sometimes a bit guilty, too.

I tried to focus on the house we moved

in here right after our marriage. It had high ceilings and mosaic floor and the walls looked dull and drab. I wanted to give it a fresh look. I put colourful curtains on the windows, painted the walls, put roses in the vase, sprinkled jasmine scents here and there.

A year passed by. Akram was happy and on rainy nights, he whispered in my ear words of love. He'd often ask me if I were happy! His gentle voice, kind words seemed assuring. The little dimple that played at the corner of his mouth every time he grinned, looked cute and I wanted to love them. I ran my fingers on his chin and kissed him hard because I did not want to lie. I did not want him to know that no matter how many colours I put on the walls; the house still looked ridiculously blank.

*Marzia Rahman is a writer and translator currently based in Dhaka.*



# Begum Rokeya's Non-sectarian, Pluralist-Inclusivist Imagination

MOHAMMAD A. QUAYUM

Bengali writer, educationist and pioneering feminist activist, Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain (1880-1932), popularly known as Begum Rokeya, was born at a critical juncture in South Asian history when hostility and bloodshed between Hindus and Muslims was a recurrent experience. It was the time of *Suadashi* movement in Bengal (1905-1911) and later Gandhi's *Swaraj* (1919-1947), which although meant to overthrow the Raj and find India's independence, seized by the fanatics on both sides of the religious divide, often resulted in inter-religious strife and sectarian violence. Rokeya lived through the communal riots in Dhaka (1930), Kanpur (1931), Kashmir (1931) and Vellore (1930-31), to name a few, but her faith in the importance of Hindu-Muslim fellowship for building a modern, progressive, peaceful and prosperous India (and by extension, present-day Bangladesh) was not shaken by such dreadful incidents.

Rokeya was a practising Muslim, who recited the Qur'an regularly and prayed five times a day. Besides, she wrote primarily for Muslim women and set up a school in Calcutta in 1911 for the education of Muslim girls. Her foremost intention was to emancipate Muslim women from the clutch of repressive patriarchy that abused and exploited them by keeping them utterly ignorant as well as socially segregated and financially dependent on men. However, in attaining this goal, Rokeya never lost sight of the larger objective of the emancipation of all women, or the necessity of uniting all Indians for creating a holistic national identity.

When Rokeya opened her school in Calcutta, she had no clue about how to run a school as she had no opportunity of attending school in childhood. To gain experience in school administration, she used to visit several *Brahmo* and Hindu schools in Calcutta, where she came in close contact with leading Hindu Bengali educationists of the time, such as Mrs P.K. Roy and Mrs Rajkumari Das, who became her life-long friends. After Rokeya's sudden and premature death on 9 December 1932, a memorial was held at Calcutta's Albert Hall, where Indians of all faiths gathered to pay tribute to this remarkable woman. This commemorative event was chaired by none other than Rokeya's long-time friend Mrs P.K. Roy, who made the following remarks about Rokeya's cross-border cultural imagination in her presidential address (my translation from Bengali):

The more I saw her, the more I was impressed by her broad outlook. She knew that mere customs and rituals could not make a true faith; that which can elevate the human

condition to a higher level was the only true and lasting religion.

....

I always revered her, because she embodied the image of a true Indian woman in every sense – whatever that is truly India, is what she cultivated all her life.

Indeed, Rokeya was a patriotic Indian who cultivated Indic values throughout her life. She considered herself first and foremost an Indian national. Thus, in her essay "Sugrihini" she explained, placing her national identity over and above her religious and ethnic identities (my translation):

We ought to remember that we are not merely Hindus or Muslims; Parsis or Christians; Bengalis, Madrasis, Marwaris or Punjabis; we are all Indians. We are first Indians, and Muslims or Sikhs afterwards. A good housewife will cultivate this truth in her family. This will gradually eradicate narrow selfishness, hatred and prejudice and turn her home into a shrine; help the members of her family to grow spiritually.

As aforementioned by Mrs P.K. Roy, Rokeya also believed that all religions were in essence one, as the objectives of all religions were to elevate the human condition and to establish harmony in society. In "Educational Ideals for the Modern Indian Girl," Rokeya cites the *Upanishads* and the *Bhagavad Gita*, arguing that it is important for all Indians, despite their respective religions, to be aware of the Indian heritage of education and to assimilate the old while holding to the new. She explains:

India must retain the elements of good in her age-old traditions of thought and methods. It must retain her social inheritance of ideas and emotions, while at the same time by incorporating that which is useful from the West a new educational practice and tradition may be evolved which will transcend both that of the East and the West.

This statement is a clear evidence of Rokeya's syncretic imagination on two levels. First, she is asking all Indians to acknowledge their Indian identity and accept whatever is good in its indigenous education system. Second, she is advising them to look to the West for elements that would be of help to modernise the education system. Through this two-way process, India will retain its identity and yet become a modern society.

Rokeya also shows familiarity with Hindu myths and Puranic tales through Durga, Kali, Shitala and other Hindu goddesses in her work. Two of her essays, "Nari-srishti" and "Srishti-tawtho" are built on the Hindu Puranic tale of Tvastri's creation of the universe, in particular

the creation of man and woman. The second essay has Hindu and Muslim characters, such as Jaheda Begum, Shirin Begum, Nonibala Dutta and Binapani Ghosh living under one roof, or at least spending the night together as friends. In "Nurse Nelly," again, we are told that the narrator, Jobeda, has a good friend, Bimala Devi, a Hindu woman, whom she goes to visit at the hospital every day when she goes to Lucknow with Khuki, her younger sister-in-law, for the latter's treatment. All these are reflections of how much Rokeya valued the unity of Hindus and Muslims for the creation of an interactive and shared Indian society.

In her essay "Griha," Rokeya gives examples from both Hindu and Muslim societies to show that all women in India are



essentially "homeless," because no matter what caste, class or religion they belong to, they all have to live at the whim and mercy of men. Again, this shows that Rokeya was not concerned solely about Muslim women and their condition in society, but about all Indian women, no matter what community or religion they belonged to. She argued that Hindu women like Saudamini, Pratiba and Rama are as much exploited and oppressed by males as are Muslim women like Hasina, Jamila, Mohsena, Hamida and Jobeda.

In "Nari Puja," Rokeya has four women conversing on the purdah system, two Muslims and two Hindus: Mrs Chatterjee, Kusum Kumari, Amena and Jamila. The

women discuss how the purdah practice has plagued women for centuries in both religious communities, giving examples from both to show that men have treated women like animals, sometimes even worse than animals. When Mrs Chatterjee naïvely suggests that women enjoy the status of deity in Hindu society, Amena retorts, summing up the author's view in the piece: "Excuse me... the position of woman in this country is no better than a slave's" (my translation). Here, Rokeya's emphasis is not on women of any particular group, rather on all Indian women, which reaffirms her non-sectarian, non-communal, inclusivist outlook.

In her book *Aborodhbashini*, again Rokeya draws examples from both Hindu and Muslim

which deprived women of all opportunities of life, including education, personal and social freedom, as well as rights to work, wealth and inheritance, reducing them to subhuman creatures.

In "Prem-rashasho," an autobiographical story, Rokeya declares: "I have loved people of all religions – Hindu, Christian, Muslim – but why, I am not sure of it myself" (my translation). Although human nature is to instinctively love something attractive and beautiful, sometimes things not so beautiful can also fascinate us. Love cannot be circumscribed or compartmentalised based on race, language or creed. It crosses all borders. We are capable of loving another human being no matter what his or her cultural or religious identity is, whatever class or caste s/he belongs to, or how old or young s/he might be. To bear out this argument, Rokeya narrates three experiences of "sisterhood" from her own life: Her "love" relationship with Champa, an untouchable girl in Orissa; with Ms D, an English woman; and with an elderly woman from northern India, whom she describes as "my patient." The story documents how each of them came close to the narrator and meant so much to her, though Champa and Ms D were from different cultural-religious groups, and the elderly woman came from a different language and age group. These examples show that Rokeya not only advocated cross-cultural unity and inclusivity in her writings but also experienced and practised them in her personal life.

Rokeya wrote about a century ago, but her message remains as potent and pertinent now as ever. We know that the world has made significant strides in science and technology, but in matters of race, religion and gender we are still trapped in a "tribal" state. It has become a Sisyphean struggle for us to rid ourselves of chauvinism, parochialism and xenophobia, as is evident, among so many other recent incidents, in the brutal killing of a black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer in the US. However, Rokeya, in her prescience, imagined a pluralist-inclusivist world of cross-cultural amity, notwithstanding the adversities she lived through in her personal life; her worldview was characterised by the *Upanishadic* spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family), or a touch of cosmopolitanism.

*Professor Mohammad A. Quayum has published 34 books and more than 140 articles in different areas of literature. His books on Rokeya include The Essential Rokeya (Brill, 2013) and A Feminist Foremother (Orient Longman, 2017).*





Spain players celebrate Jose Gaya's last-gasp equaliser against Germany in their UEFA Nations League opener in Stuttgart on Thursday. Goalkeeper David de Gea, often maligned for his fumbles for both Spain and Manchester United, made a string of stunning saves during this match.

PHOTO: AFP/TWITTER

# €700m release clause not valid, Jorge Messi says

AGENCIES, Madrid



Jorge Messi, the father and agent of Lionel Messi, published a response to La Liga on Friday, insisting the Barcelona striker's 700-million-euro release clause no longer applies. La Liga released a statement on Sunday saying Messi's contract was still valid, days after his shock announcement that he wanted to leave the club and hours after he failed to attend a pre-season medical. The ruling body said the only way a club can sign the forward is if he triggers a release clause of 700 million euros but Jorge Messi's letter to La Liga president Javier Tebas states that clause is no longer applicable. But lawyers of Cuatrecasas, a law firm that represents Messi and that until recently worked with Barcelona,



and Messi senior consider that LaLiga has made "an obvious mistake". "We do not know which contract they have analysed and on what basis they have concluded it would have an applicable 'termination clause' in the event that the player decides to unilaterally revoke the contract after the conclusion of the 2019-20 season," Jorge Messi wrote in a letter published on social media.

"This is due to an obvious error on your part... This compensation will not apply when the termination of the contract by unilateral decision of the player takes effect from the end of the 2019-20 sports season'," he added referring to the clause in the contract. "It is obvious that the compensation of 700 million euros, provided for in the previous clause... does not apply at all." After the initial bombshell burofax from Messi to club stating his intention to unilaterally break his contract and leave for free, indications from Catalonia were that the player was beginning to reconsider his position, given that the club had decided to play tough and were arguing the player could only leave if his €700 million buy-out clause was paid. But Jorge Messi's bullish response indicates his son remains committed to leaving Barca this summer.

## Serena thru', Murray out

AFP, New York

Serena Williams continued her hunt for a record seventh US Open title with a straight-sets win on Thursday as Andy Murray crashed out in the second round at Flushing Meadows. Williams, the tournament's third seed, dispatched unseeded Russian Margarita Gasparyan 6-2, 6-4 under the roof of a near-empty Arthur Ashe Stadium on a wet New York evening. The 38-year-old closed out the first set with ease before a slight wobble in the second when she was broken twice by Gasparyan, before progressing into the third round. "I'm just happy to get through it and try to focus on the next round," said Williams, who will take on 2017 champion Sloane Stephens in the last 32. Williams is seeking a record-equaling 24th singles Grand Slam title at a subdued, spectator-free Billie Jean King US National Tennis Center in New York. In the men's draw Andy Murray, slumped to a 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, defeat against a dominant Felix Auger-Aliassime. The 15th seed Canadian smashed 24 aces and 52 winners in a one-sided affair that saw Murray muster just two and nine respectively. "I just felt like everything was coming in, my toss, my rhythm. Everything was going well through the whole match," said Felix Auger-Aliassime. In early men's matches, second seed Dominic Thiem celebrated his 27th birthday with an easy straight-sets win against Sumit Nagal, who became the first Indian man since 2013 to reach the second round of a Grand Slam.

# 'Not a single player can attract spectators'

One of the country's most famous footballers has been at the helm of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for the past 12 years and BFF President Kazi Salahuddin is now set to contest another term at the helm in the upcoming elections on October 3. However, with Bangladesh football's regression dominating conversations, The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman spoke to different stakeholders, asking them their thoughts on the future and how the outcomes of the elections could take the sport forward. For the fourth part, football fan Soyeab Hossain Shamim -- who had been attended matches since 1975 by selling pigeons in his younger days to buy tickets -- tells us how poor performances have kept him away from the sport.

If Soyeab Hossain Shamim is asked about the results of football matches from 1975 to late 1990, or about the squads of Mohammedan, Abahani and the national football team during that time, he will not disappoint you with the information stored in his brain. He is the equivalent of a living Wikipedia of Bangladesh football. Shamim used to travel from his home in Munshiganj to Dhaka alone to watch football matches, especially those featuring Mohammedan and Abahani, before heading to Japan in search of his fortune. However, he never left football and, in Japan, he watched at least 150 J-League matches, the FIFA World Cups and international friendlies in Japan. The 55-year-old still speaks fondly when recalling Bangladesh football's glorious past, but there is as much disappointment when he speaks about the present state. The last match he saw from the gallery was an Abahani-Mohammedan encounter in 2019. "I started watching football from the gallery at the age of 11. Vivid performances that are still fresh in my memory. I really miss those days," said Shamim, who now hangs around the gallery with the friends at their behest and recalls football's glory days rather than concentrating on matches. "Honestly, matches can't draw attention because players have no individual skill. They lack commitment, discipline and proper physique compared to former footballers," Shamim said. "As a football fan, I also made a contribution to the country's football because I spent money to buy tickets. I went to stadia to enjoy pure entertainment, but now there is not a single player who can attract spectators."



Soyeb Hossain Shamim with former national booters Jewel Rana and Ataur Rahman Khan during a match in Tokyo in 1993.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

"There were no academies but players' individual skill was really good. They had sincerity and had matured through district football leagues, which are not held regularly now. I think footballers are overvalued now and are getting more money than their ability [deserves]," he said, blaming organisers for football's downfall. "Organisers are responsible for this dreadful situation. I can't provide evidence, but I believe officials fixed matches, with the players well aware of the results. So, how will football go forward? Clubs are not even as strict about discipline as they were." He also believes the Bangladesh Premier League is a barrier to development because officials are more focused on the BPL than other leagues. Shamim is also disappointed by the BFF committee led by Kazi Salahuddin despite holding a placard in support of Salahuddin during the voting day of 2008 BFF elections.

"When Salahuddin Bhai came to contest the BFF polls in 2008, I held a placard in his support on the day of the polls because we, the football fans, had big expectations that football activities would be strengthened when the right person was going to sit on the hot seat. He knew all the disputes and problems that stood in the way of football's development. He not only failed to fulfil our expectations but pierced our balloon of expectations with a needle," said the frustrated fan. "I haven't seen any positives being inserted into football in the recent past. Instead, the BFF brought low-standard teams for the Bangabandhu Gold Cup in a bid to get results, but the national football team could not give any output," Shamim said. "I don't want to give any marks to the current BFF committee. I think the BFF should invest at the grassroots level instead of bringing Argentina and Lionel Messi. It should focus on 90 years instead of the 90-minute entertainment provided by Messi." "There may remain a path for football to get out of this position but such a revival needs a long time. I believe I will not be able to see the good day of football again in my lifetime. However, I want to keep hope intact that someone will come and get football out of this bad condition," said Shamim, who urged authorities concerned to return spectators to those glorious days. "As a spectator, I want the revival of Bangladesh football so that spectators, who were once forced to leave the gallery due to poor showings, return to stadia. I believe it is not possible overnight and the BFF must have a proper plan to bring spectators back to the gallery," concluded Shamim.

## Enrique hails De Gea as Spain deny Germany

AGENCIES

Spain manager Luis Enrique has stressed David de Gea deserves plenty of praise after playing a key role in his nation's 1-1 draw with Germany on Thursday in the UEFA Nations League. While unable to prevent Timo Werner from opening the scoring in the 51st minute, De Gea made seven saves, ensuring Spain could grab a late equaliser via Jose Gaya. De Gea has been subject to increasing criticism for his performances for both Manchester United and Spain, with Enrique adamant his good games should be getting just as much attention. "When De Gea makes a mistake we always make a big deal out of it, so when he plays like this we should be hailing him," Enrique said post-match. "It would be great to see him on the front page saying 'What a great keeper we have!' but since that won't happen I am saying it. Sadly it is his cross to bear, every time he makes a bit of a mistake it is on all the TV shows."

As De Gea impressed between the sticks, Barcelona youngster Ansu Fati made his debut for Spain as a substitute in the 45th minute at the age of just 17. Enrique clearly likes what he sees in the teenager, while also singling out two lesser-known names for praise. "Ansu has shown what we all already know him to be. He is special and different," Enrique added. "Mikel Merino is getting better and better, one of the best midfielders in La Liga, and I love Oscar Rodriguez, he brings together many things."

# 'It's a war we are waging'

## BCB chief physician says after support staff show coronavirus-like symptoms

SPORTS REPORTER



The resumption of cricket in Bangladesh amid the coronavirus outbreak initially seemed to be simple enough, but unfortunately things have become complicated with a few of the support staff -- including a trainer -- displaying coronavirus-like symptoms. Individual training sessions had been taking place over the past month and a half but the symptoms forced the Bangladesh Cricket Board to suspend training for three days. According to BCB's chief physician Debashish Chowdhury, the development reflects the difficulties in coping with the pandemic and operating within it. He said that they will increase the vigilance when the individual training resumes. "Obviously, it was never that easy to maintain all the safety measures in such testing times and I think we were lucky to some extent. It's like a war which we are waging every single day and it is difficult to maintain distancing if we think practically. But still, we are planning to have someone in the training session to monitor the distancing of players as at times players are unable to follow the protocols," Debashish told The Daily Star. While individual training was thought to be the first step towards group training, Debashish said the medical team will be able to monitor better if they get the team for the upcoming Sri Lanka tour within a few days. "It will depend on the situation, whether

we can go for individual training in the coming days after a couple of days'break. It will be easier for us to monitor and start group training if we get the team for the upcoming tour. We are planning to have one more round of Covid-19 tests as previously we were supposed to have three but now, we are thinking of an early round of tests as well," he said.

The cricketers have already had an online meeting on Thursday with the presence of two Covid-19 specialists where they were briefed not just about the medical aspect but also training issues.



"Look, it's always going to be difficult to adapt to the new normal as this is a highly contagious virus which the entire world is struggling with at the moment. It is not something you can fight against simply with force or sheer will; instead, we have to be more careful. As a player, obviously I want to return to the field but the fact is that things are not as simple as we are thinking," said a national cricketer, requesting anonymity.

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সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট

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☎ : ০৪৬৮-৬৩২২৪

ই-মেইলঃ [eebeg@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eebeg@rhd.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং-৪-৯/৬৭৬

তারিখঃ ০২-০৯-২০২০খ্রিঃ

## সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং ইজারাদার/ইজারাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে স্ব-স্ব লাইসেন্স এর ক্ষমতা/অভিজ্ঞতা অনুযায়ী সীলমোহরকৃত খামে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১ তে কোটেশন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১। ইজারা কোটেশন নং- : ০১/বাসবি/২০২০-২০২১

০২। ইজারার বিবরণ : ২০২১-২০২২; ২০২২-২০২৩ ও ২০২৩-২০২৪

আর্থিক বৎসর (০১-০৭-২০২১ হতে ৩০-০৬-২০২৪ পর্যন্ত = ৩ বছর)-এর জন্য সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট-এর অধীন নওয়াপাড়া-বাগেরহাট-পিরোজপুর (আর-৭৭০) আঞ্চলিক মহাসড়কের ১৯তম কিঃ মিঃ-এ অবস্থিত দড়াটানা সেতুর টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে ইজারাদার নিয়োগ।

০৩। ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ : ৩ (তিন) বছর (১০৯৬ দিন)।

০৪। ইজারা কোটেশনের সিডিউল মূল্য : টাকা ৫০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।

০৫। বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ : উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে।

০৬। ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ২৮/০৯/২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ পর্যন্ত।

০৭। মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ২৯/০৯/২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ পর্যন্ত।

০৮। ইজারা ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা : ভাট ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারি/বেসরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকাদার।

০৯। যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন ক্রয়ের জন্য পাওয়া যাবে : বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, খুলনা বিভাগ, খুলনা/তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, খুলনা সড়ক সার্কেল, সড়ক ভবন, বয়রা, খুলনা/তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, খুলনা ফেরি সার্কেল, সড়ক ভবন, বয়রা, খুলনা/জেলা প্রশাসক, বাগেরহাট/পুলিশ সুপার, বাগেরহাট/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, খুলনা/সাতক্ষীরা/বাগেরহাট/ফেরি বিভাগ, শিরামনি, খুলনা/উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ-১/২/বাগেরহাট/সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, ১ম সারি কারখানা উপ-বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট।

১০। যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে : (ক) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, খুলনা সড়ক সার্কেল, সড়ক ভবন, বয়রা, খুলনা।  
(খ) জেলা প্রশাসক, বাগেরহাট।  
(গ) পুলিশ সুপার, বাগেরহাট।  
(ঘ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট।

১১। ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময় : স্থান : নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট।  
তারিখ : ২৯-০৯-২০২০খ্রিঃ।  
সময় : বেলা ০৩:০০ ঘটিকা।

১২। ইজারা আহবানকারী যে কোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন/সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

**মোঃ ফরিদ উদ্দিন**

পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২১৮

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চ.দা.), সওজ

সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট

জিডি-১৩৮৫





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# WHO dampens hope of Covid vaccine soon

*Says widespread vaccination not expected till mid-2021; probe into origin of coronavirus begins*

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization yesterday said it did not expect widespread immunisation against the coronavirus until mid-2021, despite growing expectations in the US and beyond that a vaccine could be released within weeks.

Across the world, governments are hoping to announce a vaccine as soon as possible and roll out treatments for Covid-19, which has killed nearly 870,000 people and infected well over 26 million.

The UN health agency welcomed the fact that a "considerable number" of vaccine candidates had entered final stage Phase III trials, which typically involve tens of thousands of people.

"We know of at least six to nine that have got quite a long way with the research already," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told reporters in Geneva.

However, she stressed, "in terms of realistic timelines, we are really not expecting to see widespread vaccination until the middle of next year".

Under normal procedures, test administrators must wait for months or years to verify that vaccine candidates are safe and efficacious.

But as the pandemic continues to take a devastating toll, there has been massive pressure to roll out a vaccine quickly.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A woman standing near the precipice of an eroded bank in Manikganj's Harirampur upazila. The previous day, her house had fallen into the Padma river as a result of erosion. It is the fourth house she has lost because of such reason in the last 30 years. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## BORDER DISPUTE

# Defence ministers of India, China to meet in Moscow

*Beijing moves more forces in eastern Ladakh*

AGENCIES

The defence ministers of India and China are expected to hold talks in Moscow -- the highest level face-to-face political contact since tensions flared along their disputed mountain border in May, government officials said yesterday.

Both sides deployed additional forces along the frontier running through the western Himalayas, after a clash in June, during which 20 Indian soldiers were killed in hand-to-hand fighting.

Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was given clearance to meet his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe in Moscow, where both are attending a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting, an Indian government official said. The request for the meeting came from the Chinese side, the official added.

"Subsequently a green signal was given for the meeting," the official said, asking not to be identified because of Indian service rules.

There was no word from China, but

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

# Indonesian proposal for Bangladesh-Pakistan rapprochement

September 5, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

## ADAM MALIK ARRIVES IN DHAKA

Dr Adam Malik, Indonesian foreign minister, who flew into Dhaka today, brings with him a new proposal for a rapprochement between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Dr Adam Malik makes a forthright and unambiguous answer to a query by a correspondent that the twin problems of 'no talks before recognition' and 'no recognition without talks' could be settled by a simultaneous announcement of recognition and commencement of a dialogue between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Talking to newsmen at the foreign office after his first round of meetings with Adam Malik, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad says the Indonesian proposal would not be unacceptable to Bangladesh. He reiterates that Bangladesh has always stood for the settlement of issues between Bangladesh and Pakistan on a bilateral basis but Pakistan must eschew the use of force.

**BANGABANDHU DIDN'T VETO REPATRIATION PROPOSAL**

The allegation that Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



## SINHA MURDER

# Govt probe committee to submit report tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The probe committee formed by the home ministry will submit its report tomorrow over the killing of Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan.

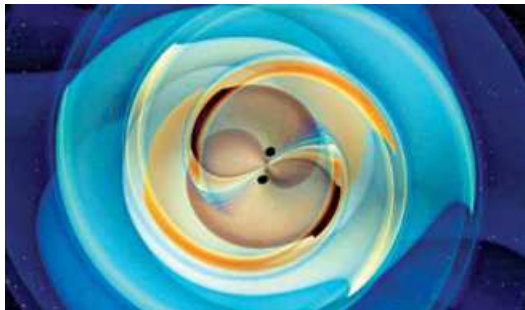
Mizanur Rahman, additional divisional commissioner of Chattogram, who is leading the four-member probe body, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said, "The committee members have talked to 68 people related in many ways to the killing incident and recorded their statements. They have finalised the report unanimously after scrutinising the information given by the people."

"The report will be submitted to the home ministry on September 6

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# Scientists detect mysterious 'mass' black hole



AFP, Paris

Scientists announced Wednesday the discovery of a black hole -- the oldest ever detected -- that shouldn't even exist according to the current understanding of cosmic monsters so dense not even light can escape their gravitational pull.

Born of a merger between two other black holes, GW190521 weighs in at 142 times the mass of our Sun and is the first "intermediate mass" black hole ever observed, two consortiums of some 1,500 scientists reported in a pair of studies.

"This event is a door opening into the cosmic process for the formation of black holes," co-author Stavros Katsanevas, an astrophysicist at the European Gravitational Observatory, said in an online press conference.

"It is a whole new world."

A so-called stellar-class black hole forms when a dying star collapses, and is typically three to ten solar masses in size.

Supermassive black holes found at the centre of most galaxies, including the Milky Way, range from millions to billions of solar masses.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# IAEA allowed to inspect disputed site in Iran

REUTERS, Vienna

Iran has let the UN nuclear watchdog inspect one of the two sites it agreed last week to grant access to after a protracted standoff, while Tehran's stockpile of enriched uranium has risen further, quarterly reports by the agency said yesterday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency inspected one of the sites and took environmental samples there, one of the two reports obtained by Reuters said, referring to samples aimed at detecting traces of nuclear material that may have been present.

The agency's inspectors will visit the other site "later in September 2020 on a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



## PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:20 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:25 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Standing in front of stumps fashioned from bits of sidewalk that are under construction, a young batsman is about to hit a ball in a game of street cricket in front of Tejgaon Adarsha School and College in the capital yesterday. Due to closure of schools since mid March amid the coronavirus pandemic, students of this school have not had access to the playground, but ensured that their games would not be sacrificed, even though face masks apparently were.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## Clarification on Change of Category in DSE and CSE

The category of the Bank was changed to 'A' from 'Z' in DSE and CSE on September 02, 2020 based on Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission letter and the provisions of Commission's Order No. SEC/CMRRCD/2009-93/08 dated September 01, 2020 which has been also widely published in different national dailies as well as electronic media.

This news was welcomed by the investors and public, particularly due to the fact that after a couple of years of marginal performance, the Bank has been able to show a substantial improvement during the calendar year 2019 due to the committed and sustained efforts of the Board and Management.

However, we observed that a news was published in DSE and CSE website on September 03, 2020 wherein they have changed the category of the Bank to 'B' with effect from September 06, 2020.

It is important to note that both the declarations i.e. declaration of our listing category to 'A', and after 2 days changing our listing to category 'B', were made by DSE and CSE as per their regulations.

It should be mentioned that the change within a short period may have caused some confusion which required this clarification on the Bank's part.

While AB Bank will apply to BSEC, DSE and CSE for reconsideration of the category of the Bank to "A", we consider it of utmost importance to bring this to the notice of our Honourable Shareholders and Investors.

Dhaka, September 04, 2020

**AB Bank Limited**  
BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka  
www.abbl.com

On behalf of AB Bank  
Company Secretary