



US ELECTION 2020
Biden battles lack of enthusiasm among Black voters
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BANGLADESH UPDATE

1,476
New cases in 24hrs

3,37,520
Total cases

4,733
Deaths

2,40,643
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

925,689
Deaths

29,029,736
Total cases

Metro not by next year

Unlikely to be completed by revised deadline as contractor seeks one-year time extension

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Wait of Dhaka dwellers for the maiden metro rail service could linger as a contractor responsible for implementing the first phase of the much-hyped project sought a one-year extension due to the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic.

This means the opening of the metro rail, one of the largest infrastructure development projects of the country, is likely to be deferred.

Overall, the project has progressed only 49.15 percent till date with only 5.9km out of 20.10km of the structure is ready for laying railway tracks.

The first phase of the project was targeted to be completed by 2019.

However, despite initial delays and struggles to speed up the construction works due to Covid-19 pandemic, the metro rail authorities have not yet changed its completion deadline of December 2021.

Italian-Thai Development Public Company Limited, the Bangkok-based construction company responsible for building metro line and stations from Uttara to Agargaon, recently sought the time extension as their contract period expired on August 31, officials said.

The company's request for time extension comes at a time when works of package 3 and 4, which constitute most of the first phase, witnessed 73.55 percent progress till August.

The metro rail authorities, however, claimed that the Italian-Thai contractor did not propose an escalation cost

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Hundreds are seen crowding in front of the Dhaka City College in the capital around noon yesterday as admissions get underway in different colleges across the country. Many of the guardians and aspiring students are not wearing masks, and the sheer force of their numbers led to traffic jams in the area.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

He siphoned off Tk 195cr to Singapore, Malaysia

CID on Samrat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled Juba League leader Ismail Chowdhury Samrat, one of the "casino kingpins" in Dhaka, siphoned off Tk 195 crore to Singapore and Malaysia with the help of Enamul Haque Arman, another leader of the ruling party's youth wing, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police found in an investigation.

The CID filed a case against the duo under the Money Laundering Act with Ramna Police Station yesterday, Jisan Haque, ASP (media) of CID, confirmed the matter.

In its investigation, the CID found that Samrat, 49, had visited Singapore 35 times, Malaysia three times, Dubai two times, and Hong Kong once between 2011 to

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- Overall progress of the project **49.15%** till August
- First phase of the project sees **75.5%** progress
- Second phase witnesses **42.5%** progress
- Only **5.03%** progress in the last five months
- Out of **20.1km**, **5.9km** viaduct ready for installing tracks
- Work on none of the **16** stations completed till date
- Current deadline for completion **December 2021**



Daily deaths from Covid still in 30's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deaths caused by Covid-19 rose to 5.81 percent compared to the previous week as Bangladesh entered the 37th week of the first detection of coronavirus case, said a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday.

In the past 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, 31 Covid-19 patients died. Of them, 28 died in hospitals and three in their homes.

With this, the total number of deaths rose to 4,733 which is 1.40 of all cases detected so far.

At least 1,876 people tested positive for the viral infection, raising the number of confirmed cases to 3,37,520.

Against a total of 12,999 tests in those 24 hours, the positivity rate was 11.35 percent, according to the press release.

This week, the

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Digital access dismal in rural Bangladesh

BIGD study on 6,500 households finds about half of them have access to neither computer nor Net

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly three-quarters of rural households in the country have low level digital access and skills, finds a survey of Brac Institute of Governance and Development.

The survey showed that about 49 percent of the households have no access to a computer and 54 percent do not have access to the internet. Although 96 percent of rural households own a mobile phone, a majority (59 percent) do not have access to a smartphone, according to the findings.

In recent years, Bangladesh has achieved commendable progress in digitising many of its public services to make them more accessible and cost-effective, said a BIGD press release yesterday.

However, the recent study by the BIGD titled "Digital Literacy in Rural Bangladesh" shows that rural households are still lagging behind in adoption and use of e-services due to lack of proper access to information and communication technology (ICT) and the skills needed to operate devices.

This persistent "digital divide" between rural and urban households in Bangladesh

- **72%** rural households have low digital access
- **61%** rural households are categorized as Low Skills
- **54%** rural households have no internet access
- **49%** rural households have no computer access
- **59%** rural households have no smartphone access
- Mymensingh, Rangpur, Sylhet divisions have lower level of digital access

continues to hinder the successful expansion of the country's e-government system.

In a webinar yesterday, Dr Wasel Bin Shadat, senior research fellow at BIGD, presented these findings from the study.

Surveying 6,500 rural households from across the country, the study was the first of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Six leaks filled mosque with cooking gas

Finds fire service probe into Narayanganj blast

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Six leakages in gas pipeline and around 17 percent of the mosque air filled with methane gas caused the blast in Narayanganj, finds the probe of fire service and civil defence.

The probe report mentioned electric sparks ignited the gas.

The explosion claimed 31 lives and several others sustained serious burn injuries.

"Blast happened due to gas leakage. After the accident, we found around 17 percent of the mosque was filled with methane gas," Brig Gen Md Sazzad Hussain, director general of fire service and civil defence, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the committee would submit the report on Thursday and they were now finalising the report.

The four-member probe body, led by Lt Col Zillur Rahman, director (operations and maintenance of fire service and civil defence), was formed on September 4.

The committee talked to locals, the authorities of Titas Gas Ltd, the mosque committee, and the power supply division to unearth the reason behind the blast.

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Border guards meet delayed as BSF plane has hiccups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The biannual director general-level talks between Border Guard Bangladesh and Indian Border Security Force, scheduled to start yesterday, was postponed as the BSF delegation failed to reach Dhaka.

"The BSF delegation could not fly to Dhaka today at the final stage due to technical glitches in their own aircraft," a BGB press release said yesterday.

The BSF team was supposed to travel on their own aircraft due to the suspension of Dhaka-Kolkata/Dhaka-Delhi flights till September 30. The meeting was supposed to end on September 18.

The revised schedule of director general-level talks (DGLT) has not yet been confirmed, added the press release.

BGB DG Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam was supposed to lead the Bangladesh side while newly-appointed DG of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Gas bubbles forming in this roadside drain near Alam Market in the capital's Jurain. A gas line runs parallel to this drain and the leaking gas has created an overpowering odour, but no action is being taken despite complaints from locals. This photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Flawed system, misgovernance cripple Titas

Say energy experts

SADI MOHAMMAD ALOK

Some Titas gas company officials are more interested in corruption than providing service to consumers and this leads to casualties due to explosions, energy experts said, while reflecting on the recent Narayanganj mosque fire that has so far claimed 32 lives.

They said people are suffering due to the greed of the dishonest and corrupt Titas officials who are thriving on a flawed system under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.

"Titas has turned into an enemy of the people. The situation has come to a point that we think if Titas does not give us any service, we will be safe," Prof M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), told The Daily Star.

"We are forced to pay Titas officials. We are giving them money in bribes, paying extra charges due to price hikes of gas and at the same time they are providing gas through an illegal network," said the energy expert, adding that gas has been leaking from around 70,000 points in Dhaka city due to poor quality and illegal gas supply.

"We have to pay through our lives [at times] due to their corruption," said Prof Alam.

Dhaka University professor Badrul Imam echoed Alam's statement.

"They are not committed to their work. The illegal network of gas pipelines is their creation and general people are suffering for that," said Imam.

The illegal gas lines are just ticking time-bombs, he said.

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TANGAIL DOUBLE MURDER

Victim's step brother, 5 others given death penalty

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday sentenced six people to death for killing a couple -- a retired government primary schoolteacher and his wife -- to grab their land in Tangail Sadar upazila in 2017.

Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka handed down the sentence in the presence of the six accused in the courtroom, said Abu Abdullah Bhuiyan, the prosecution lawyer.

The convicts are: Swapon Kumar Das, Zahidul Islam, Md Forhad, Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan, Monzurul Islam and Shayan Mia.

"The victims' family got justice through this judgement," said Abdullah, while expressing satisfaction over the verdict.

Defence lawyer Mahfuzur Rahman said, "We did not get justice in the

case. We will appeal to the higher court against this judgement."

According to the prosecution, Swapon, a step brother of victim Anil Kumar Das, made a plan to occupy Anil's land in connivance with the other five accused.

On July 26, 2017, the six killed Anil and his wife and hid the two bodies in a septic tank of the victims' house.

Nirmal Kumar Das, the victims' son, filed a case with Tangail Police Station over the double murder on July 28 that year.

Later, the case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka from Tangail's court for quick disposal.

On September 17, 2018, police pressed charges against the six accused in the case.

The court on August 7 last year framed charges against them. Twenty-seven prosecution witnesses out of 35 gave their depositions.



Three children playing a game of football in front of Mojumdari tila (hill) in Sylhet's ward-8. Parts of the hill have been shorn off for development purposes. This photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Search on for survivors as wildfires continues to ravage US West

REUTERS, PORTLAND

Crews were to resume searching for the dead yesterday among blackened ruins left by massive wildfires raging in three western U.S. states, where millions of acres have burned in weeks and "mass fatality" incidents are feared in Oregon.

A blitz of wildfires across Oregon, California and Washington has destroyed thousands of homes and a half dozen small towns this summer, scorching a landscape the size of New Jersey and killing more than two dozen people since early August.

After four days of brutally hot, windy weather, the weekend brought calmer winds blowing inland from the Pacific Ocean, and cooler, moister conditions that helped crews make headway against blazes that had burned unchecked earlier in the week.

Still, emergency officials worried that the shifting weather might not bring much relief to southern Oregon, where an apocalyptic scene of charred residential subdivisions and trailer parks stretched for miles along Highway 99 south of Medford

through the neighboring communities of Phoenix and Talent.

"We're concerned that the incoming front is not going to provide a lot of rain here in the Medford region and it's going to bring increased winds," Bureau of Land Management spokesman Kyle Sullivan told Reuters in a telephone interview on Sunday.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown called the perilous blazes a "once-in-a-generation event," and the director of Oregon's office of emergency management, Andrew Phelps, said authorities were bracing for the possibility of "mass fatality" incidents.

At least ten people have been killed in Oregon, according to the office of emergency management. Brown has said that dozens of people remained missing across three counties.

"There are going to be a number of fatalities, folks that just couldn't get warning in time and couldn't evacuate their homes and get to safety," Phelps told MSNBC on Friday.

There were 38 active fires burning in Oregon as of Sunday morning, according to the state's office of emergency management website.

In California, tens of thousands of firefighters were battling 28 major wildfires as of Saturday afternoon, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Improving weather conditions had helped them gain a measure of containment over most of the blazes.

The White House said Trump, a Republican, will meet with federal and California officials on Monday. The president has said that western governors bear some of the blame for intense fire seasons in recent years, accusing them of poor forest management.

Trump's Democratic opponent in the November election, Joe Biden, on Saturday linked the conflagrations to climate change, echoing comments made a day earlier by California Governor Gavin Newsom.

More than 4,000 homes and other structures have been incinerated in California alone over the past three weeks. Three million acres of land have been burned in the state, according to the state's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Digital access dismal

FROM PAGE 1

its kind to develop a Digital Literacy Index (DLI), which illustrates the current state of digital literacy in rural Bangladesh, BIGD said.

The study categorised rural households into four different classes, according to digital access -- none, low, basic, and above basic.

Seventy-two percent of households were found to have low access and only four percent had above basic access, the survey found.

These findings come at a time when the government is struggling to carry out regular online classes for students with uneven access to internet and devices as all educational institutions across the country are closed for an indefinite period due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Digital access, however, is only one of two aspects of digital literacy, the other being the skills that enable people to use these tools to effectively communicate, seek information, and solve problems.

The study found that among the respondents, 68 percent can read and write text messages, 10 percent can check and send emails, 15 percent can make video calls, 41 percent can participate in social media, and 28

percent can make comments on social media.

Only 27 percent search the internet for information and 59 percent obtain public service-related information through digital media.

But when it comes to problem-solving and actual utility, the percentage of households who possess the requisite skills is staggeringly low.

Among the respondents, only three percent pay bills via mobile, six percent use computers for productive activity, 20 percent use the internet for functional activities like reading news, online training, etc., three percent have online shopping experience, and less than one percent earn through online activities.

This study provides evidence of significant geographical diversity for the Digital Literacy Index.

According to the findings, rural households in Chattogram, Dhaka, and Khulna divisions possess higher digital access, digital skills, and digital literacy status, while households in Mymensingh, Rangpur, and Sylhet divisions have a significantly lower level of digital access, skills, and literacy.

The study also found that a household's income had a strong and

significant correlation with its digital access, skills, and literacy.

Imaran Matin, executive director of BIGD, said, "As a research institute, we at BIGD want to create an entire social science of digitisation, which will be highly relevant in the coming years. This survey was a part of that digital social science domain."

Mehnaz Rabbani, lead, research for policy and governance (RPG), BIGD, said "To create an e-government system, we need a critical mass of digitally literate people. This literacy should not only reflect in people's access to digital devices but also in their behaviour. And like any other behavioural shift, this will require carefully designed innovative interventions."

Gregory Chen, policy lead, CGAP said, "Digital literacy is the outcome of numerous determinants affecting one another. Only when all of these different determinants are identified and addressed, will the level of digital literacy improve."

Asif Saleh, executive director, Brac; Anir Chowdhury, policy advisor, a2i; Dr Sajjad Zohir, executive director, Economic Research Group (ERG), among others, spoke at the webinar.

Trial of British-Iranian aid worker Zaghari-Ratcliffe postponed

Says UK lawmaker Tulip Siddiq

REUTERS, LONDON

A trial of British-Iranian aid worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe scheduled for yesterday in Iran has been postponed, a British lawmaker said on Sunday, citing a conversation with Zaghari-Ratcliffe's husband.

Member of parliament Tulip Siddiq said in a tweet she had spoken to Richard Ratcliffe and he had told her

the trial had been postponed. She added that more information would follow later on Sunday.

There was no immediate comment from Iran's judiciary.

Last week Zaghari-Ratcliffe was summoned by an Iranian Revolutionary Court and informed about a new charge, state television reported.

Flawed system, misgovernance

FROM PAGE 1

"People were killed. In many places these [death traps] are in a latent situation."

He identified poor quality of raw materials used for illegal gas connections and worn pipes as the main reasons for frequent gas explosions.

He said Titas should snap the illegal connections and think of overhauling the existing network to avert further accidents and casualties.

"We saw that whenever there is any eviction against illegal connections, resistance comes from influential people."

Imam suggested that the government make alternative fuel for domestic and industrial use popular to ease the burden on gas from pipelines.

"If needed, the government can subsidise LPG prices so that people do

not run after pipeline gas."

Energy expert and BUET professor M Tamim thinks the main problem of Titas lies in its management.

"Basically, poor administration and poor management merged together. Illegal gas connections, gas line leakage, corruption are all interrelated," said Tamim, former adviser to a caretaker government.

Only seven to eight percent of the people get access to natural gas from the pipelines, which is unfair for those who are deprived of it.

"One person is getting gas round the clock for TK 950 a month and the next one is using an LPG cylinder for TK 1,000. There is a discrepancy and if we don't address it, the demand for illegal gas connection will be there," said M Tamim.

Tamim said poor maintenance of old gas pipelines is another reason for accidents.

He siphoned

FROM PAGE 1

2019, according to the case statement. In those eight years, Samrat's associate Arman, 56, also visited Singapore 23 times.

In the FIR, the CID mentioned that Samrat earned money through various illegal activities in Motijheel, Fakirapool, Paltan, and Kakrail areas.

On October 6, 2019, Rapid Action Battalion arrested Samrat, who was the president of Dhaka South unit Jubo League, and his close aide Arman, former vice-president of the same unit, from Cumilla after raiding a house near the Indian border.

He came under the spotlight after Rab busted his illegal casino business at different sporting clubs in Dhaka and later was expelled from the Jubo League.

Samrat was then brought to the capital, and the elite force conducted operations at various establishments where the Jubo League leader either lived or carried out political and "business" activities.

Rab also took Samrat to his political office in Kakrail, where he had stayed after the crackdown began on September 18 last year.

A Rab mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam, sentenced Samrat to six months' imprisonment for possessing wild animal hides and another six months for possessing illegal liquor.

The Anti-Corruption Commission also filed two cases against Samrat and Arman for amassing wealth through illegal means.

Border guards meet delayed

FROM PAGE 1

BSF Rakesh Asthana was supposed to lead his country at the meeting at BCB's Palkhana headquarters in Dhaka.

The issue of killings along the Indo-Bangla border was likely to dominate the talks between the two border forces.

Until August this year, 33 Bangladeshis were killed along the Bangladesh-India frontiers.

According to rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), 15 people were killed along the Bangladesh-India border in 2018, and the number rose to 43 last year.

BCB's Director (operations) Lt Col Fayzur Rahman earlier told The Daily Star that all important border related issues would be discussed and border killings was one of them.

Untreated household, industrial, and medical waste flowing into Bangladesh via a canal in Akhaura would also take priority during the discussions, officials said.

Lt Col Fayzur said, "The entry of waste from India through Akhaura-Agartala ICP [check post] will also get

priority in the talks as we have been trying hard to stop the inflow of such waste."

The BCB official said chemical waste was flowing in via a canal even though India had been claiming that it was only human waste.

Other issues to be discussed at the meeting included cross-border smuggling -- especially of drugs -- and construction of structures like barbed wire fences and other installations.

Officials in India earlier said issues like better mechanisms to stop attacks and assault on BSF personnel and Indian civilians by criminals of both countries were expected to be discussed, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

The Indian side was also expected to take up the issue of joint border security management, fencing of unfenced areas, and effective steps to curb cross-border crimes.

Cattle smuggling, smuggling of fake Indian currency, illegal migration, human trafficking, breaching or damaging the border fence and illegal crossing by Rohingya refugees would also be discussed, Indian officials said.

PM to open chancery complex in Ankara today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to virtually inaugurate the newly-constructed Bangladesh Chancery Complex in Ankara today.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen would join his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu at the inaugural ceremony.

Dr Momen left for Turkey yesterday morning, a senior official said.

The foreign minister will hold bilateral talks with his Turkish counterpart tomorrow, he said.

Rohingya crisis, D-8 summit, trade and investment issues are expected to come up for discussion at the meeting.

The foreign minister is scheduled to return home on Wednesday, said the official.

The construction of Bangladesh Chancery Complex in Ankara at a cost of Tk 45.76 crore was completed on September 3.

Main features of the Complex include Chancery Building, Embassy Residence, 229 seat hi-tech auditorium named "Victory 1971", automated mechanical and electrical systems, mosque, gymnasium, display centre for Bangladesh items, library for the reference books on Bangladesh primarily on Bangabandhu, War of Independence and socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

As reflection of Bangladesh's history of independence, a bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Shaheed Minar were also installed at the Complex.

Moreover, 36 sqm mural works titled "Invincible Bangladesh" as well as terracotta works on the rural life of Bangladesh was also placed at the Complex.

Six leaks filled

FROM PAGE 1

According to the investigation, the explosion took place when the methane gas came in contact with electric sparks. It was not air condition blast.

The probe body found evidence of gas bubbling inside the mosque and also at the mosque gate.

Lt Col Zillur said Titas Gas workers dug the adjacent area of the mosque and found six leakages and the gas accumulated in the mosque.

"We did not get any other reason except the gas leakage," he said when asked whether they found any negligence of Titas Gas.

Titas Gas suspended eight of its officials and staffers in connection with the blast.

The fire service and civil defence official said they rushed to the spot within 20 minutes after the blast and found the presence of methane gas there.

Asked whether they had any evidence that the mosque committee talked to the Titas Gas authorities about the leakage, he said, "We did not get any evidential documents in favour of the mosque committee's claim."

The blast took place in Pashchim Talla Baitus Salat Mosque after Esha prayers on September 4. At least 39 people suffered burn injuries and of them, 31 have died so far.

The Criminal Investigation Department is also probing the incident. It also primarily suspected that the explosion happened due to leaky gas pipes.

Daily deaths

FROM PAGE 1

detection of the cases decreased by 14.76 percent compared to the previous epidemiological week.

Bangladesh has now the 15th highest number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the world, according to the worldometers.info.

This position is one step behind the United Kingdom and one step ahead of Saudi Arabia.

As 2,372 patients were added to the recovery list, the total number rose to 2,40,643. This is more than 71 percent of detected cases.

Compared to the previous week, recovery of the patients rose by 7.53 percent, according to the DGHS.

Six of yesterday's deceased were females.

One of the 31 deceased was aged between 31 and 40, two were aged between 41 and 50, seven between 51 and 60, and the highest 21 were above 60 years.

So far, more than 50 percent casualties were from the age groups.

One each of the deceased was from Mymensingh and Khulna divisions, two each were from Rangpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions, five from Chattogram division, and the rest 18 were from Dhaka division, according to the press release.

Dhaka division saw more than 48 percent of the deceased so far.

According to the press release, 3,241 patients were in general beds in the Covid-19 hospitals across the country and 295 were in ICUs as of yesterday morning.

SC stays HC order on Titas to pay Tk 5 lakh for each victim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed till December 1 a High Court order that asked Titas Gas Ltd to give Tk 5 lakh as initial costs to each family of the victims, who died and suffered burn injuries in the Narayanganj mosque blast.

Chamber judge of the SC's Appellate Division passed the order following a petition filed by Titas, seeking stay on the HC order. The judge also sent the stay petition to its full bench for hearing.

Titas Gas lawyer AM Amin Uddin told The Daily Star that his client does not need to give Tk 5 lakh to each victim following the order.

During the hearing, he told the SC that the HC has delivered the order without hearing Titas' arguments. It has not been determined whether Titas is responsible for the explosion, as no probe report is yet to be found, he argued.

Titas' another lawyer Mejbahur Rahman also made similar remarks.

Following the petition filed by SC lawyer and a resident of Narayanganj Marum Khondaker, the HC on September 9 directed Titas to give Tk 5 lakh as initial costs in seven days to each family of the victims.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



These drums by the footpath, with water-taps attached at the base, were installed in the capital's Kamalapur for nearby garment workers to wash their hands before entering the factory. Sadly, as people are getting increasingly desensitised to the health crisis, these remain there virtually unused for the whole day. This photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Third time's the charm?

Road transport ministry issues same old directives over field-level officials not attending office regularly

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Amid growing allegations that many project and field-level officials of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) are not attending field offices regularly, the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry has come up with almost similar directives it issued earlier to stop the malpractice.

The ministry issued the order hours after Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader had expressed serious discontent over the issue at a meeting with top officials of RHD and SASEC 1 and 2 projects on Thursday.

However, the ministry had issued almost similar directives twice in the last two and half years, and it seems that such directives did not work at all.

Meanwhile, the minister also raised serious questions about the necessity of huge number of project offices in the capital and asked the officials concerned to inquire about the necessity of permanent buildings for projects while preparing those.

As per the Thursday's order, all project and field level officials must attend their respective offices regularly.

Additional chief engineers of all zones must take permission from the chief engineer before leaving work station and also inform the additional or joint secretaries who are responsible for monitoring the particular zones, read the order.

Also, officials at the sub-division, division and circles must have to take prior permission before leaving stations. The order would come into action immediately, it added.

"It has been noticed recently that officials involved in different projects and field level works are not remaining present at office regularly. For this

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Helping defaulters secure loans with fake NIDs

5 including election office operators held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They are data entry operators of election offices.

Having access to the NID database server, they -- in collusion with some others -- created a gang that provide fake National ID cards, helping defaulters secure bank loans using those.

The two operators used to enter the fake ID in the central NID database, making it difficult for the banks to identify the loan defaulters.

Detectives shared the information yesterday after they arrested five members of the gang, including the duo.

They were arrested during a drive in Mirpur Zoo area around 8:30pm on Saturday, said Razib al Masud, deputy commissioner (Lalbagh division) of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Twelve fake NID cards were seized from their possession.

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Private A-level examinees demand no physical exams

Students want predicted grades due to health risks

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A group of private A-level examination candidates urged authorities concerned to not hold exams amid the pandemic, as it will put students in severe health risks.

They demanded cancellation of the October-November exam session in Bangladesh, and asked for results based on predicted grades, as was done during May-June session for school students.

The students asked for the government's intervention to reach the international boards responsible for arranging O- and A-level exams, as they believe a state party will be able to relay their demands assertively.

Private candidates have been staging a virtual movement on social media. They have also contacted Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, and will contact other officials of the ministry, seeking their intervention.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

The decades-old Balaka Cineworld, one of the top spots for cinephiles of the capital, has been asleep for over six months, as has every other movie theatre in the country.

Silver screens still grey

Despite announcement of govt assistance, film theatre owners stare down the barrel

SHARMIN JOYA, Arts & Entertainment Desk

Cinema halls across the country, much like most countries of the world, have had their lights out for six months now owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, and those few still involved with the industry can only see bleak days ahead.

Single-screen theatres have seen a drastic decline in numbers over the last two decades, and the 70-odd in the country that were in operation, have missed out on the three big occasions where mainstream movies makes business -- Pehela Baishakh, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha -- as people were confined to their homes to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

A beacon of hope for them came late last month when the government recently floated a plan to form a Tk 700 crore fund to help the industry, but some industry insiders are still sceptical.

However, owners of theatres have doubts about whether these plans will truly help sustain them.

Iftakhar Uddin Naushad, owner of the capital's Modhumita cinema hall, said, "If we cannot produce good quality movies, can we truly expect people to support our content? We can't even bring foreign movies, and under such circumstances, it will be impossible to keep the market alive in the long run."

He also noted that if the allocated government fund does not reach the right people, then all these plans will go to waste.

The news that the Bashundhara City outlet of Star Cineplex -- the first multiplex in the country -- was shutting down, generated a buzz in the media earlier this month. However, the decision was later reverted, much to the rejoice of cinephiles in the capital. However, there is still no news on when they can actually visit the theatre to catch their favorite films on the big screen.

Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, senior manager (media and marketing) at Star Cineplex, said they have been eagerly waiting to resume operations. "We have the movies lined up. We are just waiting for the government's instructions for reopening," he told this newspaper.

If the halls are given the green signal to reopen by the end of this month, Star Cineplex plans to have a premiere of "Wonder Woman 1984", one of the most-anticipated Hollywood releases of the year.

Similarly, authorities of Balaka Cinema Hall said they are also waiting for an official notice from the government.

While a number of local films are awaiting their theatrical releases, owners of cinema halls are concerned about maintaining the moviegoing culture and drawing audiences back to the theatres, as people are turning to streaming services more than ever to watch movies at home, and with the threat of the coronavirus still very much present, the question of survival looms large over the cinema theatres of the country.

SEDITION CASE

SC upholds bail of CU teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that granted bail to Anwar Hossain Choudhury, an assistant professor of Chattogram University's sociology department, in a sedition case.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed "no order" on a government petition seeking stay on the HC order of bail.

The HC order that on August 20 this year granted six weeks' bail to Anwar Hossain in the case will remain effective following the apex court order, Anwar's lawyer Motaheer Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star.

He said former Fatikchhari upazila Chhatra League convener Asaduzzaman Tanvir filed the case with the court of metropolitan magistrate in Chattogram on May 17, 2018 following a news published in Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj translating the observations Anwar made on the Liberation War, Bangabandhu Sheikh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

No battery-run rickshaws to ply DSCC roads: Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh has announced they have started taking legal action against all battery-run motorised vehicles from yesterday.

The mayor termed all non-motorised vehicles which were motorised using batteries as illegal. "We will take legal action against rickshaws or rickshaw-vans that were turned into motorised vehicles with batteries if they are found running inside DSCC areas," he said while inaugurating the renewal process of rickshaw, rickshaw-van, pushcarts and horse carts at Nagar Bhaban on Saturday.

"All non-motorised slow moving vehicles like rickshaws will be brought under new registration and renewal process with a view structure their operations," he said.

"We have already started conducting a study to find out the effectiveness of vehicles on city roads," the mayor said. After the study, DSCC will be able to determine which roads should be allocated for motorised vehicles and which roads for non-motorised ones, he added.

Taposh said this will be his first move to make Dhaka a movable city, which was one of his election pledges. He also announced the start of a process

to fix distance-based rickshaw fares.

Responding to a question about new registration of rickshaws which may put bad impact on city roads, the DSCC mayor reminded that there has been no registration process for rickshaws for the last three decades so the ones plying the roads now are doing so illegally. The registrations are thus a way to formalise their operations.

He said many artists and literary people call Dhaka city a "City of rickshaw" as it is a tradition of the capital city.

Meanwhile DSCC has already published a public notice asking interested people to take application forms from Nagar Bhaban or its zonal offices for changing ownership, renewal or registration for a new non-motorised vehicle.

Interested persons will have to pay Tk 100 for an application form and will have to submit it to the DSCC authorities.

DSCC will give registration or renewal after scrutinising the documents and will charge a certain amount of fees.

The registration, which started on September 13, will continue till September 27.

DSCC currently has 52,712 non-motorised registered vehicles, most of which are rickshaws, though many more are running illegally.

Establish value-based healthcare system

Says chairman of Intel, Medtronic at Rotary Club Dhaka event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In order to establish a proper healthcare system in the country, importance must be given on awareness, infrastructure and specialised training, said Omar Ishrak, executive chairman and chairman of the board of Medtronic PLC and chairman of the board of Intel Corporation.

He said this while speaking as chief guest of the 38th Annual Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka (RCMD), a part of Rotary International, organised virtually on Saturday.

Speaking on post-Covid-19 healthcare facility needs for Bangladesh, he said, "Value-based healthcare means the provider should get paid when the outcome is reached. Today, when a patient goes to hospital or to a doctor, s/he has to pay to get the treatment. If the treatment does not work, or someone makes a mistake, the patient has to go back to the hospital and pay for the treatment again."

"So, there is no financial accountability on the provider's part to ensure that the services they offered reached the result which they had promised," he added.

"When people do provide treatment for a purpose that someone will get better, there are ways of telling how you will get better and when you will get better. And, if you can formalise the process, you will be able to create a system which will be far more accountable," he said.

Ishrak also said three things are required to establish a proper healthcare system in Bangladesh: awareness, infrastructure and specialised training.

"Awareness means more general training about the healthcare -- knowing that certain conditions can be treated and certain conditions have these symptoms."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



This road in Jurain Railgate area of the capital has become a virtual human hauler stand, and for good reason too. The dilapidated carpeting on the road with puddles all over has left it unfit for vehicular movement. Locals say the situation has been like this for a long time.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

CPB (Marxist) to besiege jute ministry tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) yesterday announced to besiege the Ministry of Textiles and Jute tomorrow to realize a three-point demand including jute minister's resignation for his "failure" to protect the industry.

The two other demands are reopening of all closed jute mills, and reinstatement of jute mill workers and payment all of their arrears.

CPB (Marxist) General Secretary MA Samad announced the programme through a release.

Instead of modernising the jute mills and stopping looting and irregularities in the jute sector, the government has decided to close down state-run jute factories which is not acceptable, Samad said in the release.

He also said thousands of workers in this sector have become unemployed as a result of closure of jute mills. Besides, millions of workers in other sectors are unemployed today due to the impact of coronavirus. Unemployed workers are also returning from abroad. "But the government has no headache in this regard."

He said there is no alternative to wage movement against the government to protest such injustice.

DHAKA-5, NAOGAON-6 BNP picks Salahuddin, Rezaul for by-polls

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday picked Salahuddin Ahmed and Sheikh Mohammad Rezaul Islam as its candidates to contest the Dhaka-5 and Naogaon-6 by-elections respectively billed for October 17.

A day after BNP's nomination board took virtual interviews of the party aspirants, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced the names of the two candidates of "Sheaf of Paddy".

"Our party nominated Salahuddin Ahmed for Dhaka-5 by polls while Sheikh Mohammad Rezaul Islam for Naogaon-6," Fakhrul told the news agency.

BNP chairperson's media wing member Sayrul Kabir Khan said Salahuddin is the commerce affairs secretary of BNP and a three-time former MP while Rezaul is the party's Naogaon unit convening committee member.

On Saturday night, he said, BNP's nomination board took interviews of 28 aspirants for contesting the upcoming by-polls to Dhaka-5, Dhaka-18, Naogaon-6 and Sirajganj-1 constituencies.

Of them, 15 aspirants, including six for Dhaka-5 and nine for Naogaon-6, faced the interviews.

The party, however, did not disclose the names of its nominated candidates



Salahuddin Ahmed Rezaul Islam

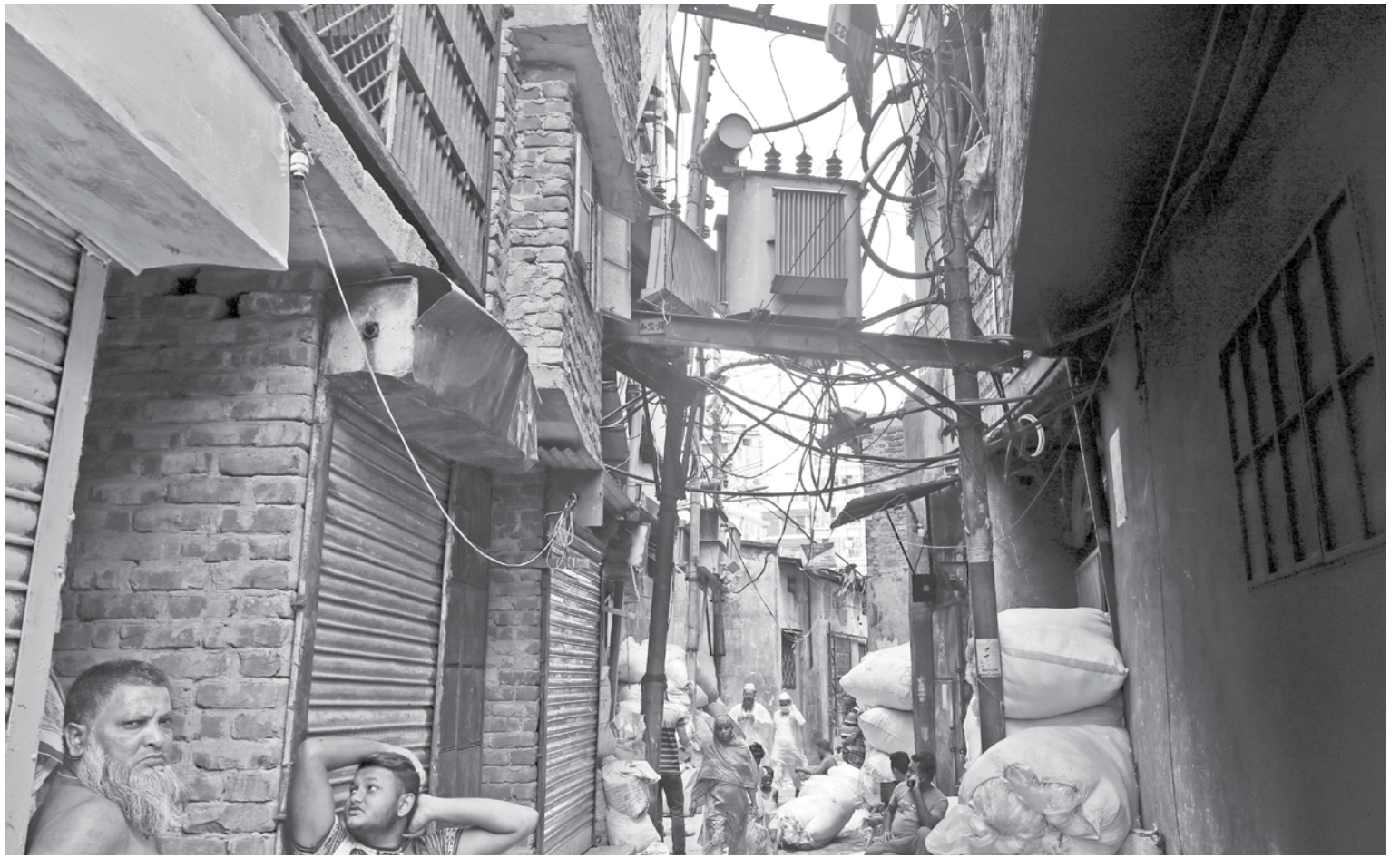
for Dhaka-18 and Sirajganj-1 by-polls since the Election Commission did not yet announce the schedule.

As per the schedule announced by the EC, the by-polls to Dhaka-5 and Naogaon-6 will be held on October 17 next.

The Dhaka-5, Dhaka-18, Naogaon-6 and Sirajganj-1 seats fell vacant following the deaths of Awami League MPs Habibur Rahman Molla, Sahara Khatun, Israfil Alam and Mohammad Nasim respectively.

On September 7, AL picked Monirul Islam Monu for Dhaka-5 and Mohammad Anwar Hossain Helal for Naogaon-6 as its candidates.

On Saturday, Jatiya Party also nominated its presidium member Mir Abdus Sabur Asud and its Raninagar upazila unit president Kazi Golam Kabir as the candidates of "Plough" in the Dhaka-5 and Naogaon-6 by-elections respectively.



This transformer was installed in this extremely narrow alley in Old Dhaka, virtually squeezed between the two buildings on both sides, and if that wasn't enough, right above ongoing pedestrians. With so many chemical shops in the area, if the transformer ever bursts, as these machines often do, it can cause devastating damage.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Establish

FROM PAGE 3

"The second thing is infrastructure, such as building primary healthcare offices, hospitals, operating rooms or treatment centres."

"And, the third thing is providing specialised training to healthcare providers so that they can correctly perform medical procedures," he said at the conference.

Rotarian Rubayet Hossain MPHE, B District Governor, RI District 3281 Bangladesh, also attended the virtual conference as the guest of honour.

He said, "We want to build partnership with the government and non-government organisations to fight the pandemic. We are providing equipment such as high flow nasal cannula to treat Covid-19 patients and we are also working to contribute to our healthcare system in the post-Covid-19 scenario."

Rotarian Wafi Shafique Mehnaz Khan, president of the organisation, other speakers and members of RCMD presented the club's activities during pandemic and charitable activities throughout the year.

Third time's

FROM PAGE 3

reason, faults have been found in the ongoing projects and the works for constructing quality roads and their maintenance," read the order.

On April 5, 2018, the ministry had issued an order saying many field-level RHD officials remained absent at their office, which was hampering normal works. It asked all field level officials including the additional chief engineers of all zones to take prior permission before leaving work stations.

The ministry on February 2 last year issued the same order saying that "it has been noticed recently that the previous order was not followed properly, which is unexpected."

Asked about Thursday's order, an RHD official involved with a major project, said, "This [order] is nothing new. I think it's a reminder."

The official, wishing anonymity, said a project director (PD) has to attend "numerous" meetings with different ministries and agencies regularly and most of those meetings are held in Dhaka.

"If the number of meetings can be reduced, or someone from the chief engineer's office can take part on behalf of a project director at lesser-important meetings or if the meeting can be held through Zoom like it is happening now, it would be easy for the PD to stay at a project site," he said.

Another RHD official, who is also a PD, said, "Apart from meetings, we have to come to Dhaka on a regular basis as we have to receive all project related expenditure from the capital. This issue should be settled first."

TOO MANY PROJECT OFFICES IN DHAKA IRKS OBAIDUL QUADER

Quader yesterday held a virtual meeting over the projects of his ministry, which are being implemented under Indian Line of Credit (LoC).

Apart from Indian High Commissioner Riva Ganguly Das, RHD and project officials joined the meeting.

At one stage of his speech, Quader, also the general secretary of ruling Awami League, said, "I am observing that project offices are being built across the city. Wherever I go, I find project and RDH's offices. Are all these offices necessary?"

He directed the planning wing of his ministry to inquire about the necessary of permanent buildings and other structures for projects while preparing those.

The minister also directed the officials concerned to take necessary initiatives to expedite the projects being implemented under LoC.

Dr Ibrahim Khalil no more

CITY DESK

Dr Ibrahim Khalil, chief geologist of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, passed away yesterday.

He was only 48 years old.

He left behind his two daughters, a son and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death, says a press release.

Dr Ibrahim, elder brother of Md Ismail Amin, director Gungchil Ltd, was a dedicated scientist of the country.



Private A-level

FROM PAGE 3

Contacted, Mohibul said, "Premises of all educational institutions are closed, and no physical classes are taking place due to the pandemic. In this situation, if they want to hold exams, they must obtain government approval... If they do so without approval, it would be considered a criminal offence."

Earlier, all boards that arrange the exams globally decided not to hold exams for May-June session due to the outbreak. Instead, they prepared results based on predicted grades and previous academic records submitted by schoolteachers.

Two UK boards, Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) and Pearson's Edexcel, arrange exams internationally. British Council Bangladesh administers their exams in the country.

The private candidates said students from both UK boards were supposed to appear for exams during May-June session.

After cancellation, the boards gave predicted grades to school candidates only, and all private ones were shifted to October-November session, without any consultation.

Seeking anonymity, some private candidates voiced their opinions to this correspondent regarding the issue.

"Who'll take responsibility if the candidates contract the virus for attending exams? I think it'll be a bigger fiasco," said one of the candidates.

"Moreover, our education was halted for seven months. We didn't get to attend physical classes since March, nor were we facilitated with resources. There's no way candidates can self-study and sit for exams in this situation," he said.

"We want assessment-wise grades like the ones school students received, because we don't want a gap in our education. We have dreams too; our parents spent a fortune to turn our dreams into fruitful outcomes. Many students are going through mental stress due to all this," said an A-level candidate.

"Boards can easily give us predicted grades based on our previous exams," proposed another A-level candidate.

English-medium students can sit for these exams, either through schools or as private candidates. O-Level is equivalent to Secondary School Certificate of the national curriculum, and A-Level to Higher Secondary School Certificate.

A-level examinations under Cambridge are scheduled to start from October 1, and from October 5 under Pearson.

Pearson's O-level exams are planned to start from November 2 and Cambridge's from November 5.

Helping

FROM PAGE 3

The operators used to make entry of the dual and fake NIDs in the NID database and it takes at least one month to report the dual NID.

By this time, the fake NID card holders used to apply to get bank loans, Madhusudan, who led the drive, said.

Suman used to approach clients, mostly loan defaulters, as they could not apply for loans with previous NID cards, DB officials said. According to detectives, Suman and Majid used to take Tk 60,000 to Tk 1 lakh from each client and made a deal of taking 10 percent of the total loan amount once it was approved by respective banks.

Siddhartha and Anwar used to charge Tk 35,000-40,000 to make each fake NID.

A case has been filed against them with Mirpur Police Station. Detectives are trying to arrest others.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission's NID wing yesterday suspended Siddharth and Anwarul, following their arrest.

SC upholds

FROM PAGE 3

Mujibur Rahman and Awami League in an article published in a US journal.

Bhorer Kagoj has published the news distorting his observations, he said.

Anwar had then sent a rejoinder to Bhorer Kagoj office, saying that he did not make any objectionable observations on the Liberation War, Bangabandhu and AL in his article published in a US journal.

But Bhorer Kagoj did not publish the rejoinder, he added.

Anwar's article was reportedly published in the Global Journal of Human-Social Science: C, Sociology & Culture, Volume 17, Issue, 3, Version 1.0 in 2017, according to the case statement.

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বাড়ী/অফিসের জন্য ভাড়া দেওয়া হইবে
নিকট এলাকায় সম্পূর্ণ মনোরম পরিবেশে প্রায় ৬০০০ বর্গফুটের চত্বর তথা বিশিষ্ট পার্কিং সুবিধা সহ বাড়ী/অফিসের জন্য ভাড়া হইবে।
রোড#৪, বাড়ী#১/এ, নিকট, জিএসসি, ঢাকা। মোবাইল ০১৭৯১৬৬০৮১৭

Advertorial

Successful management of Stroke at United Hospital

A lady of 68years arrived at United Hospital Limited Emergency department on 29th August at around 1pm mid-day with 2-hours history of sudden onset left sided weakness with mild slurred speech followed by fall on ground with minor head trauma. Patient recently recovered from COVID 5weeks back.

Patient presented to hospital emergency within three hours of onset of stroke (therapeutic window), immediately United Hospital Stroke Team rushed and suspected this to be a case of acute stroke. Rapid neurological assessment was done along with immediate CT scan of brain with CT Angiogram. Acute Ischemic Stroke on right frontal lobe was confirmed by **Dr. S M Hasan Shahriar**, Consultant Neurologist at CT room and decision for thrombolysis was taken after informed consent from patient's son.

Rt-PA (Tissue Plasminogen Activator; Alteplase) started within less than one hour time of patient arrival, and patient was transferred to Stroke Unit. She was monitored in stroke unit and rt-PA was completed without any complication. After receiving treatment patient improved significantly, her NIH Stroke Score was improved from 5 to 2. She developed full left hand grip strength and her left lower limbs muscle power improved. Repeat CT brain done after 24 hours showed no evidence of hemorrhage or any complication. After 7days post-stroke, patient is now moving limbs very well, talking and also she is now trying to stand and walk on support.



If one can be brought to United Hospital within 3 hours of the first symptoms of an ischemic stroke, after neurological assessment & necessary investigation, a thrombolytic (a "clot-busting" drug) tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) is given by the skilled Stroke Team to break up blood clots, which improves the chances of recovering from a stroke. Unfortunately, many stroke victims don't get to the hospital in time for tPA treatment. This is why it's so important to recognize the signs and symptoms of stroke right away and call for hospital ambulance support.

Stroke Management done by Dr. S M Hasan Shahriar, Consultant, Neurology Department of United Hospital Limited and his team

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি
মৎস্য বন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম

পত্র নং-৩৩.০৭.০০০০.০০১.০০.০৫৬.১৯-৬২৬ তারিখঃ ১৩/০৯/২০২০

আউটসোর্সিং-এর মাধ্যমে জনবল নিয়োগের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মৎস্য ও প্রাণিসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয় অধীনস্থ "মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি" এর নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে সাক্ষ্য বেতন আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবলের সেবা গ্রহণের উদ্দেশ্যে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ অনুযায়ী এতদসংক্রান্ত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচনের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১.	মন্ত্রণালয়	মৎস্য ও প্রাণিসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২.	বাস্তবায়নকারী সংস্থা/এজেন্সি	মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি।
০৩.	সেবার প্রকৃতি	এ দপ্তরের জন্য ক্যাটাগরি-১ এ সুপারভাইজার, কেয়ারটেকার, ক্যাটাগরি-২ এ ড্রাইভার (লাইট), পাম্প অপারেটর, জেনারেটর অপারেটর, স্যানিটারি মিস্ত্রি (প্রাণার মিস্ত্রি), রাজমিস্ত্রি (ম্যানস), ক্যাটাগরি-৩ এ ডুবুরি, ক্যাটাগরি-৪ এ সহকারী ইলেকট্রিশিয়ান, স্কানারী, বাউচি (কুক), ক্যাটাগরি-৫ এ সিকিউরিটি গার্ড (নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী), ক্লিনার (পরিষ্কারকারী), ইলেকট্রিক্যাল হেল্পার, স্যানিটারি হেল্পার, পাম্প হেল্পার, গাড়ির হেল্পার, ল্যাব এটেন্ডেন্ট, হোস্টেল এটেন্ডেন্ট, লিফট ম্যান, লঙ্কর, ইনস্পেকশন বাংলা এটেন্ডেন্ট ও অডিটোরিয়াম এটেন্ডেন্ট সরবরাহ (দরপত্র সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত উল্লেখ আছে)।
০৪.	অর্থের উৎস	জিওবি রাজস্ব।
০৫.	দরপত্রের ধরন	খোলা দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
০৬.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	(ক) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও আয়কর প্রদানের সনদ। (খ) প্রতিষ্ঠান/সংস্থা কর্তৃক বিগত তিন বা ততোধিক বছরের সরকারি/বেসরকারি সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠিত ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠানের জনবল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র। (গ) দরপত্র সিডিউলে আরোপিত সকল যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ও শর্ত পালনে সক্ষম। (ঘ) ঠিকাদারী সংস্থা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত আউটসোর্সিং ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স।
০৭.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১০০০.০০ টাকা (নগদ)।
০৮.	দরপত্র জামানত ও নিরাপত্তা জামানত	দরপত্র জামানতঃ যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে অধ্যক্ষ, মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি এর অনুকূলে পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর তফসিল-২ মোতাবেক ১,০০,০০০ টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দাখিল করতে হবে। নিরাপত্তা জামানতঃ নির্বাচিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের পূর্বে সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর তফসিল-২ এর ২৭(১) মোতাবেক সরবরাহকৃত জনবলের জনপ্রতি ০১ (এক) বছরের মোট সেবামূল্যের ১০% হারে নিরাপত্তা জামানত যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে অধ্যক্ষ, মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দাখিল করতে হবে। মোয়াদাতে নিয়ম মোতাবেক কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত বিনাসুদে ফেরত দেয়া হবে।
০৯.	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি, মৎস্য বন্দর, ইছানগর, কর্ণফুলী, চট্টগ্রাম।
১০.	দরপত্র সিডিউল জমার স্থান	মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি, মৎস্য বন্দর, ইছানগর, কর্ণফুলী, চট্টগ্রাম।
১১.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৮/০৯/২০২০, বিকাল ৩.০০টা।
১২.	দরপত্র সিডিউল জমার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৯/২০২০, দুপুর ১২.০০টা।
১৩.	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ, সময়	২৯/০৯/২০২০, দুপুর ১২.৩০টা।
১৪.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি, মৎস্য বন্দর, ইছানগর, কর্ণফুলী, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৫.	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	ক্যান্টেন মাসুক হাসান আহমেদ, (জি), পিপিএম, পিএসসি, বিএন।
১৬.	সংরক্ষিত ক্ষমতা	মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখে।
১৭.	বিশেষ নির্দেশিকাঃ দরপত্রের সকল কার্যক্রম পরিচালিত হবে পিপিআর ২০০৮ (সংশোধনসহ) অনুযায়ী। শর্তাবলী দরপত্র দলিলে বর্ণিত আছে।	

মাসুক হাসান আহমেদ
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জিডি-১৪৫২



Fishers, traders and transport workers are way too busy dealing with a good flow of hilsa at KB wholesale fish market in Bagerhat. None of them, however, seem to be worried at all about Covid-19, the contagious disease that continues to kill people by the dozens across the country every day.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Larger hilsa floods Bagerhat fish market

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Much to the delight of fish lovers and buyers alike, a decent sized hilsa fish of around one kilogram is now selling for a little over Tk 600 at KB wholesale fish market in Bagerhat.

The price of an 80-piece lot, locally known as 'pone', of one kg sized hilsa came down to as low as Tk 50 thousand, while a 'pone' of smaller hilsa, weighing between 600 and 800 grams, dropped to Tk 35 thousand at the market.

Located on the bank of the Daratana river, KB market in Bagerhat town is a hotspot for wholesale trading of hilsa as well as of various saltwater fish.

Usually around 6 in the morning, the market is abuzz with hundreds of buyers and sellers, with different sellers positioned at different spots and rhythmically chanting a phrase that somewhat translates to: "Come on over, take one now".

With ample supply of hilsa at the market over the last three or four days, prices remained

within the reach of buyers, resulting in a good amount of transactions.

Fishers, meanwhile, had nothing to complain as they have been netting a good number of hilsa during this time and been able to sell the catch for good profits.

"I've got a plenty of hilsa at the sea this time and the size is good too. Even though most of the ones over the size of half a kilogram have eggs in them, I got a good price," said Babul, a fisher, after selling his catch at the market.

Fish trader Akhlas Sheikh said, "This time the size and weight of hilsa are better than before. For two or three days, a hilsa weighing a kg has been selling for Tk 600 to Tk 800 and those weighing between 500 and 600 grams have been selling for Tk 300 to Tk 400 a piece."

Wholesale buyer Bappi said many buyers like him were delighted to be able to buy hilsa at very low prices at the market.

Amid all the hubbub of activities, not a single person, however, was seen at all bothered

about wearing any face covering or maintaining social distancing measures -- the health rules recommended to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Explaining the reason behind the good catch of hilsa at the Bay at this time, Khaled Kanak, fisheries officer in Bagerhat, said timely enforcement of fishing ban during the breeding season of hilsa contributed to the growth of hilsa population as well as their size.

In addition, the multiple campaigns they conducted during this period to motivate fishers to refrain from catching or destroying young hilsa, known as 'jatka', also contributed to the increase in the hilsa population at sea and adjoining rivers.

Regarding precautionary health rules being ignored at fish markets, he said, "At meetings with leaders and members of the market association, we explained the significance of health rules for both fishers and fish traders. Despite that, many are still not following the health rules."

Man arrested with heroin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an alleged drug dealer with two kilograms of heroin from Rajshahi's Godagari upazila on Saturday.

The arrestee, Kiron Hossain, 40, son of Jafar Ahmed, is a resident of Arambagh area of Chapainawabganj Sadar municipality.

Camp Commander of Rab-5 in Chapainawabganj ASP Azmal Hossain said, on secret information, a team of Rab-5 raided Basudebpur area around 1:00pm.

Later, seeing Kiron's suspicious movement they detained him and recovered two kilograms of heroin from his possession.

During primary interrogation, Kiron confessed that he had been involved in drug trading for long.

After filing of a case in this regard, the arrestee was handed over to Godagari Police Station, the ASP said.

LAND DISPUTE

6 get death penalty for killing couple in Tangail

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced six people to death for killing a couple in a bid to grab their ancestral property in Tangail Sadar upazila in 2017.

Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman of Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka handed down the verdict in presence of the six accused, said Advocate Abu Abdullah Bhuiyan, a prosecution lawyer.

The convicts are Swapon Kumar Das, a step-brother of victim Anil Kumar Das, and his associates Zahidul Islam, Farhad, Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan, Monzurul Islam and Shayan Mia.

According to the case statement, Swapon made a plan to embezzle Anil's land property in connivance with the other five accused.

As per the plan, the six convicts killed Anil Kumar Das, a retired government primary school teacher, and his wife on July 26 in 2017.

They also concealed the two bodies inside a septic tank of the victims' house.

Being informed, police recovered the bodies and sent those to hospital for autopsy.

On July 28, victims' son Nirmal Kumar Das filed a case with Tangail Sadar Police Station over the double murder.

Later, the case was transferred to Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 for quick disposal.

On September 17 in 2018, police pressed charges against the six accused in the case and the court framed charges against all the six accused on August 7 last year.

Besides, 27 prosecution witnesses out of 35 gave their depositions in the case.



Journalist of different print and electronic media form a human chain in front of the Rangamati deputy commissioner's office in the town yesterday, protesting the attack on fellow journalist Sujauddin Rubel, Cox's Bazar correspondent of Somoy TV, and demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the attackers.

PHOTO: STAR



Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Dipak Kumar Dev Sharma turns the three-hundred-year-old building into land research museum.

PHOTO: STAR

Centuries-old building turned into land research museum

AC (land) Dipak Kumar Dev Sharma took the initiative

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A centuries-old building (kachari-ghar), which is locally known as Maharajar Kachari-ghar of Cooch Behar, has been turned into land research museum.

Earlier, the three-hundred-year-old building was used as a local land office in Patgram upazila. It has been reported that this building has been used for land rent collection since the time of Maharaja of Cooch Behar.

On August 1 in 2019, Patgram upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Dipak Kumar Dev Sharma renovated the building and turned it as a land research museum to capture the history and heritage of land management.

There are many old monuments scattered in different parts of the upazila.

There is also information on various subjects including land measurement, land rent collection

and land allotment in ancient times. It has preserved those things used by kings at different times.

Ancient specimens include three chests, swords and gunter chains (land measuring instruments) used during the reign of the then kings and emperors are also showcased at the museum.

The museum has a land-related form gallery and a history of land management on display. Land Library has also been set up. There are different types of flowering plants in the garden next to it. There are special arrangements for visitors and union land officials to read books.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Dipak Kumar said the building has been named the Land Research Museum as it is the centre of land discussions. Every day visitors flock to see these materials of the museum in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat.

Jobed Ali, 75, a farmer from Jongra village in Patgram upazila said, he is

happy seeing the old building used to collect land rent has been turned into land research museum.

Another farmer Hemanata Chandra Sen, 70, from Bawra village of the upazila said various type of land-related documents during the era of Cooch Behar kings have been preserved in the museum.

Patgram Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Dipak Kumar Dev Sharma told The Daily Star that the three-hundred-year-old building was used for collecting land rent since the time of that king.

The museum has been established to capture the history and heritage of 1000 years of land management, he added.

He has preserved various materials related to ancient lands, the AC said, hoping that through this, the new generation will be able to know various issues related to the ancient land management.

Man stabs wife and son, then kills himself

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man took his own life after stabbing his wife and son allegedly over a family feud in Gopalganj Sadar upazila on Saturday.

The victim, Monir Mollah, 55, a farmer, was a resident of Raghunathpur village in the upazila.

Critically injured Tanjila Begum, 40, and their son Emdadul Mollah, 22, are now undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Quoting the villagers, Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station Mohammad Monirul Islam said Monir, who was suffering from mental disorder for long, had a quarrel with his wife over a family feud on Saturday night.

At one stage, he stabbed Tanjila with a machete indiscriminately.

He also stabbed their son Emdadul when he tried to save his mother, leaving them critically injured.

Later, all on a sudden, he slit his throat with the same weapon.

Hearing cry for help, local people rushed to the spot, rescued Tanjila and Emdadul and first took them to Gopalganj General Hospital.

মেঘনা পেট্রোলিয়াম লিমিটেড
(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন এর অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)
৫৮, আশ্রাবাদ বা/এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম

মূল্য সংবেদনশীল তথ্য

সমানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারবৃন্দ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ব্যবসা সম্প্রসারণের উদ্দেশ্যে কোম্পানির নিবন্ধিত ফিলিং স্টেশনসমূহে জ্বালানি তেল বিক্রির পাশাপাশি এলপিগিজ (অটোগ্যাস) রি-ফিলিং স্টেশন বা তরলীকৃত পেট্রোলিয়াম গ্যাস রূপান্তর ওয়ার্কশপ স্থাপনের মাধ্যমে এলপিগিজ বিক্রির নিমিত্তে অদ্য ১৩ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০ ইংরেজি বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় ইউনিটেড এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড, সাইহাম টাওয়ার, ১১তলা, বাড়ি-৩৪, রোড-১৩৬, ব্লক-এসই(সি-১), গুলশান মডেল টাউন, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২ এর সাথে মেঘনা পেট্রোলিয়াম লিমিটেড এর চুক্তি সম্পাদিত হয়। উক্ত চুক্তি অনুযায়ী প্রতি লিটার এলপিগিজ বিক্রয়ের বিপরীতে অত্র কোম্পানি ০.৫০ টাকা হারে রয়েলটি প্রাপ্য হবে।

ধন্যবাদান্তে,
রেজা মোঃ রিয়াজউদ্দিন
কোম্পানি সচিব
জিডি-১৪৪৮

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Bangladesh Railway
Outer Circular Road, Kamalapur, Dhaka-1217

Bangladesh Railway

No. PD/DTJDLPT/TENDER/WD2-1064 Dated: 12.09.2020

Package No. WD2: Design, Supply, Installation and Testing-Commissioning of Computer Based Interlocked Signaling system at 7 (Seven) stations including interlocking of selected level crossings and installation of optical fiber cable based telecommunication system for block operation and CTC interface work (Turnkey Works) in connection with construction of 3rd and 4th Dual Gauge Track in Dhaka-Tongi section and Doubling of Dual Gauge Track in Tongi-Joydebpur section.

Ref:

- IFT No: PD/DTJDLPT/TENDER/WD2-831 ; Dated 20.02.2020.
- Corrigendum 07: PD/DTJDLPT/Tender/WD2-1026, Dated 20.08.2020

Corrigendum No.-08

SI No. of IFT	Provision as per Corrigendum-07		Provision as per Corrigendum-08	
17.	Tender Last Selling Date	20.09.2020 (during office hours).	28.10.2020 (during office hours).	
18.	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date 21-09-2020	Time Up to 12:00 hrs BST	Date 29-10-2020
19.	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date 21-09-2020	Time At 12:30 hrs BST	Date 29-10-2020
			Time At 12:30 hrs BST	

All other Terms and Conditions of the Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.


(Md. Afzal Hossain)
 Project Director
 Construction of 3rd and 4th Dual Gauge Lines in Dhaka-Tongi section and Doubling of Dual Gauge line in Tongi-Joydebpur section Project.
 Phone: +8801711506113
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GD- 1449

'Shocking'

Blair, Major chide UK plan to breach int'l law; EU chief says Britain's credibility is at stake

REUTERS, London

Former prime ministers Tony Blair and John Major yesterday said Britain must drop a "shocking" plan to pass legislation that breaks its divorce treaty with the European Union, in a breach of international law.

The British government said explicitly last week that it plans to break international law by breaching parts of the Withdrawal Agreement treaty that it signed in January, when it formally left the EU.

"What is being proposed now is shocking," Major and Blair, who were adversaries in the 1990s as Conservative and Labour leaders, wrote in a joint letter published by the Sunday Times newspaper.

"How can it be compatible with the codes of conduct that bind ministers, law officers and civil servants deliberately to break treaty obligations?"

Theresa May, the predecessor of current Prime Minister Boris Johnson, has also questioned whether international partners would be able to trust Britain in future.

Johnson's Internal Market Bill is aimed at ensuring Britain's four constituent nations can trade freely with one another after leaving the EU, but the government

says that requires overriding part of the withdrawal treaty it signed with Brussels.

British ministers say the bill is a "safety net" in the event there is no trade deal reached with the bloc, but top EU officials say it undermines both the withdrawal treaty and trust in future talks.

European Council chief Charles Michel yesterday warned Britain its international credibility is at stake, saying it must fulfil its responsibility to implement the Brexit withdrawal agreement.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier yesterday said that the Withdrawal Agreement on Northern Ireland "is not a threat to the integrity of the UK", and had been agreed by the two sides to protect peace on the island of Ireland. "We could not have been clearer about the consequences of Brexit," Barnier said on Twitter.

His British counterpart David Frost responded by saying London had to reserve powers in the new bill in order to keep the peace in Ireland.

European lawmakers have warned they would not approve any new trade deal unless the withdrawal agreement was fully implemented, while there is also talk of possible legal action.



Opposition supporters take part in a rally against police brutality in Minsk, Belarus, yesterday. At least 100,000 Belarusian anti-government protesters flooded the centre of Minsk yesterday defying government orders, a Reuters eyewitness said. Police detained around 250 people. Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko is facing a groundswell of public anger after declaring a landslide win at last month's presidential election that his opponents say was rigged. Lukashenko denies these allegations.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Clashes in Afghanistan amid Doha peace talks

REUTERS, Kabul

Taliban and Afghan government forces clashed across Afghanistan hours after the start of long-awaited peace talks in Doha on Saturday, officials said, underscoring the uphill challenge of settling a 19-year insurgency.

Talks between the two sides were to begin shortly after a US-Taliban agreement in February, but began only over the weekend after months of delays, caused in part by continuing Taliban offensives in the war-torn country.

"With the start of intra-Afghan talks we were expecting the Taliban to reduce the number of their attacks, but unfortunately their attacks are still going in high numbers," a spokesman for the Afghan defence ministry said.

Representatives from a number of countries who spoke at the inauguration of the peace talks called on the Taliban to announce an immediate ceasefire before negotiators sat down to find a way to end decades of war in Afghanistan.

The Taliban did not say anything about a possible ceasefire at the ceremony.

Achieving a significant reduction in violence and how to get to a permanent ceasefire would be among the first issues the sides would discuss when they meet.

No meeting between the two has been reported by either side in Doha yesterday, but Qatar's state news agency reported teams led by Taliban's political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Abdullah had met the Qatari Emir.

Will Biden get the expected Black votes?

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Racial inequality in the United States came into sharp focus this year, and became a defining topic of the national debate, after police killings of Black Americans ignited months of widespread protests and galvanised the nation to demand racial justice and police reforms.

The unrest has forced US President Donald Trump, a Republican who is running for re-election on a "law and order" platform, and his main challenger, Democratic nominee Joe Biden, to wrestle with the complicated issue of race in America, and try to appeal to Black voters.

But with less than two months before the election, in the middle of a pandemic and record-high unemployment rates, whether Black Americans will be energised to come out in large numbers to vote remains uncertain - potentially defining the outcome of the 2020 election.

A recent poll shows Biden by far outperforming Trump among Black voters, with 78 percent support.

US ELECTION 2020



Data shows that Black voters have overwhelmingly supported the Democratic Party since at least the 1960s, when the party passed civil rights legislation that outlawed racial segregation and prohibited racial discrimination in voting.

But Black turnout, which rose in the 2008 and 2012 elections when the US elected and then re-elected the nation's first Black president, Barack Obama, waned in 2016 when Hillary Clinton was the Democratic presidential nominee.

Trump's campaign this year has been trying to appeal to Black voters, particularly Black male voters and improve on his 2016

results, when 8 percent of Black people voted for him. According to a recent poll, 13 percent of Black voters said they plan to vote for Trump this election.

Democratic pollster Terrance Woodbury said, according to recent data he compiled, about half of Black voters believe the Democratic Party takes Black voters for granted and may choose to stay home or vote for Trump.

"What we saw at the Republican National Convention was a very overt attempt to speak directly to the issues that are most important to Black men: criminal justice reform and unemployment," Woodbury said.

And yet for many, voting Trump out of office, is a motivation on its own. Trump refused to condemn white supremacists and more recently, he allegedly called Black people "too stupid" to vote for him, according to his estranged former lawyer Michael Cohen.

James Lance Taylor, a professor at the University of San Francisco, said many Black people will vote for Biden for no other reason than "to deal with the emergency of removing Donald Trump from office".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russians vote in local polls

Russians yesterday voted in dozens of local elections that will be scrutinised for signs of discontent with the ruling United Russia party following the suspected poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny. Navalny, 44, had hoped to undermine United Russia's grip on regional power and had urged his supporters to vote against it tactically before he fell gravely ill in what Germany and his allies said was an attempt to kill him last month. United Russia, which backs President Vladimir Putin, dominates regional politics, but the elections come at a time of public frustration over years of falling wages and the government's handling of the pandemic. Seen as a dry run for next September's parliament elections, the regional polls will elect 18 governors and an array of local parliaments and city councils.

Amit Shah admitted to hospital



Indian Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who fought back coronavirus last month, has been admitted to Delhi's AIIMS on Saturday night again since his recovery. Amit Shah was admitted to a private hospital Medanta in Gurugram on August 2 after testing positive for the deadly virus. The 55-year-old BJP leader was admitted to AIIMS for post-Covid care on August 18 after a complaint of fatigue and body ache. At least seven ministers and two dozen lawmakers in India have come under Covid-19 attack. On August 18 also, Amit Shah complained of "fatigue and body aches" for the last 3-4 days after testing negative for coronavirus. He was discharged from hospital on August 14.

Ninety Lebanon peacekeepers contract coronavirus: UNIFIL

Ninety UN peacekeepers in south Lebanon have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, a spokesman for the UNIFIL force said yesterday, the first reported cases of the illness. The confirmed cases were transferred to a special UNIFIL facility equipped to deal with Covid-19 cases, UNIFIL spokesman Andrea Tenenti said in a statement. He said 88 of those infected belonged to the same contingent, but he did not specify the nationalities of the 90 peacekeepers. "We have undertaken robust contact tracing, and applied a thorough regime of testing and isolation" to prevent a larger outbreak, he said. Some 45 countries contribute peacekeepers to UNIFIL, which was set up in 1978 to patrol the border between Lebanon and Israel which are technically at war.

SOURCE: AFP



A woman reacts as she and her partner visit their home gutted by the Almeda fire in Talent, Oregon, on Saturday. Top officials in US West Coast states where record-breaking fires have killed 31 people yesterday accused President Donald Trump of being in denial about climate change, as he prepared to meet emergency services workers in California.

PHOTO: REUTERS

TENSION IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN 'Positive first step'

Greece welcomes return of Turkey vessel to base

AFP, Istanbul

The Turkish research ship at the centre of a row between Greece and Turkey over gas exploration in the eastern Mediterranean returned to a port in southern Turkey, local media reported yesterday.

Turkey sent the Oruc Reis research vessel to disputed waters near a Greek island on August 10 and prolonged the mission three times despite repeated calls from the European Union and Greece to stop.

But its deployment was scheduled to end on Saturday and has not been renewed by the Turkish authorities, pro-government newspaper Yeni Safak reported, adding that it had returned to Antalya port.

The decision not to extend the ship's mission was viewed as "a step towards giving diplomacy a chance," the newspaper wrote, linking it to attempts to kickstart talks between Greece and Turkey.

Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas welcomed the apparent withdrawal in an interview to Skai TV yesterday.

"The fact there seems to be no new NAVTEX (deployment) is a positive step. We assess that as such and we are following the situation," he said.

Nato said earlier this month that officials from both sides had agreed to take part in technical talks to avoid accidents between their navies.

Athens denied this was the case, but the Turkish defence ministry said on Thursday that the first round of talks between Greek and Turkish military delegations took place at Nato's headquarters in Brussels.

While Turkey repeatedly said it was ready for dialogue without preconditions, Greece said there could only be talks once Ankara stopped making "threats".

Tensions escalated after Turkey sent the seismic research vessel and a small navy flotilla to waters claimed by Greece last month. Greece then responded by shadowing the Turkish ships and staging naval exercises with several EU allies and the United Arab Emirates in its own show of force.

Leaders of seven European countries on the Mediterranean met at a summit last week in Corsica where they said they were ready to back EU sanctions on Turkey over the dispute.

TIT-FOR-TAT CURBS ON DIPLOMATS US brands China's actions 'escalation'

AFP, Washington

The US has called a decision by Beijing to impose restrictions on all American diplomats on Chinese soil an "escalation," the latest rebuke in an ongoing tit-for-tat dispute over foreign missions.

Relations between the world's top two economies have deteriorated in recent months, with both sides locked in fierce recriminations over trade disputes, human rights and the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

On Friday China announced "reciprocal restrictions" against US diplomats, days after Washington announced new restrictions on staff working for Beijing's foreign missions. Beijing said that the unspecified countermeasures will apply to all US embassy and consulate staff, including the consulate-general in Hong Kong and its personnel.

The dispute over foreign missions flared up in July when US ordered the closure of the Chinese consulate in Houston, prompting China to shutter the US presence in Chengdu.

The battle over diplomatic outposts is only one front in an escalating confrontation between the powers. Washington has imposed sanctions on Chinese officials over Uighurs, Hong Kong and moved against China tech giants from doing business in US, prompting similar actions from Beijing.

Stop students from calling for monarchy reform

Thailand government tells universities

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thai authorities have summoned the heads of universities to tell them to stop students demanding reform of the monarchy, warning that such calls could lead to violence, a member of the military-appointed Senate said yesterday.

Thailand has faced near daily protests since mid-July calling for the departure of PM Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former junta leader, and for a new constitution and elections.

Some groups have also listed 10 demands to curb the powers of King Maha Vajiralongkorn's Royal Palace, breaking a long-standing taboo in the Southeast Asian country. Among the reforms sought are a reduction in the king's constitutional powers as well as his personal control of the royal fortune and some units of the army.

Senator Somchai Sawangkarn told Reuters that letters had been sent by state-appointed provincial governors to

university heads, summoning them to meetings ahead of protests planned on Sept 19 in Bangkok and elsewhere.

A letter to one university reviewed by Reuters said: "There are concerns about the behavior of some groups taking part in the protest that are inappropriate, for example those that want to topple the monarchy and those that demand voiding Article 112 of the criminal code."

Article 112 refers to Thailand's lese majeste laws, which sets a jail term of up to 15 years for insulting the king.

It said police would take legal action against anyone behaving inappropriately at protests while the digital ministry would take legal action against anyone using social media "to distort and defame the monarchy" or to incite protests.

A participant at one meeting said authorities asked his university to draw up a list of potential troublemakers. Most Thai universities are sponsored by the state.



People protest against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's alleged corruption and economic hardship stemming from lockdown during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, near his residence in Jerusalem, late Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



(L) Suffrage universel dédié à Ledru-Rollin, painted by Frédéric Sorrieu in 1850, pays tribute to French statesman Alexandre Auguste Ledru-Rollin for establishing universal male suffrage in France in 1848, following the French Revolution of 1848. The establishment of universal male suffrage in France was an important milestone in the history of democracy. (M) A marble relief showing the People of Athens being crowned by Democracy, inscribed with a law against tyranny passed by the people of Athens in 336 B.C. (R) Ancient Greek bronze secret ballots used to cast a juror's vote on a case, 3rd century BC, Ancient Agora Museum in Athens, housed in the Stoa of Attalus

Is democracy possible?

ALI AHMED ZIAUDDIN

Discourse on democracy is so overwhelmingly taken for granted that even the blatant autocrat or invader claims to act in the name of saving or installing democracy. Yet, it stumbles, and often awfully – raising doubts of its universal applicability free from context and condition. This is a brief attempt to explore why it falters in view of its evolution and practice.

Grownup Democracy

The present form of representative 'democracy' is relatively a recent phenomenon; starting only after the series of revolutions in Europe and America in the 18-19th centuries. In the wake of massive socio-political upheavals the hitherto feudal order and all the trappings that come with it were turned topsy-turvy, or discarded, or diluted in varying scales in different societies. People from different walks

thrif were the creators of the western democracies but they were sustained by the colonial pillage. Systemic genocide of the Red Indians, their stolen land, and slavery paid for the American democracy, while the Afro-Asian colonies bankrolled the European ones. This is vital evidence these widely admired and so-called mature democracies graduated by demonising the colonies. In this project the working classes were co-opted by their capitalist rulers (M Beaud, *A History of Capitalism*). So, democracy evolved as a social contract between conflicting classes. And in the process got locked with capitalism in a perpetual battle over who will control whom and how much. This process was sustained by regular colonial wars.

These wars were meant to create captive markets for supply of raw materials and sale of finished products of the industrial world. Gradually,



constant war footing that makes them grow into national security states. Since most people have no stake, the media is deployed to create war hysteria by manipulating public opinion. The whole system is rigged in favour of the rich and the powerful. Transparent periodic elections are held, faces change, but imperial policies remain the same. Democracy has become a public relations exercise.

All the trappings of a free, fair and open society exist in varied scales but an invisible boundary also exists that must not be crossed by ordinary mortals. The inner wheel of this power centre is anything but open, democratic, or accountable. Anyone daring to cross that line is branded traitor and treated like Assange, Snowden or Chelsea. It couldn't care less about public/world opinion or any rules/regulations. Its will must prevail at any cost. It goes on exerting global influence by diplomacy, finance, or when necessary flexing muscle. This is what the West (G7) dominated post-WWII neoliberal world order is all about, enforced by NATO and the US military machine. After the Soviet

All the trappings of a free, fair and open society exist in varied scales but an invisible boundary also exists that must not be crossed by ordinary mortals. The inner wheel of this power centre is anything but open, democratic, or accountable. Anyone daring to cross that line is branded traitor and treated like Assange, Snowden or Chelsea.

implosion it has simply gone berserk. In the colonial days, the excuse was the white man's burden to civilise the world, in present day its democracy, human rights, international law, crimes against humanity and what not – none of which apply to G7 states. But in the developing states they are carried out by media vilification, sanctions, financial squeeze, curbing market access, regime change – and when all fails military invasion. G7 expects the world to recognise this double standard as the international rule of law.

Growing Democracy
Under this prevailing neoliberal global

independence during the 19th century or the Afro-Asian ones that gained theirs from the mid-20th century. Consequently, nearly all needed to create nations out of whatever the tiny elite imagined it to be which, however, remained contested. Moreover, they soon found out their independence did not give them the choice to pursue independent policies whether at home or abroad. Except very few, economies of all the post-colonial states were integrated with the prevailing global neoliberal capitalist order under the firm control of the erstwhile colonial states. The new ones had no choice but maneuver whatever little space they could create within this structure. The little they achieved was mostly because of the Cold War, but was controlled by the few instead of the many.

Interacting with the imperial centre represented by the multilateral financial institutions, the UN bodies, and the MNCs had benefits as well as costs. It offered global connectivity, access to credit and market, and recognition as an independent entity bringing some diplomatic leverage. But the cost proved huge. The new states had to abide by the stiff rules, regulations, and strings tagged with every benefit they availed. Thus began the economic control that gradually created conditions for political control as well. Caving in to these controls and yet uphold democratic governance, or meet the endless demands of the vast majority of ordinary people, proved hopeless. Soon in quick succession nearly all the new states restored autocratic governance whether of the left or right variety, in khakis or civvies, with or without a parliament. The last remaining hope of creating a democratic society in a developing world was India. But after three quarters of a century it too seems to be rapidly and irreversibly sliding into autocratic governance. This of course was in the making for some time. Arundhati Roy observed, "Tidal waves of money crash through the institutions of democracy—the courts, parliament as well as the media, seriously compromising their ability to function..." (Outlook India, April 9, 2012).

However, within this constrained condition some of the states did attain economic success and a reasonable level of political stability. But even in such few bright cases where they do have functional legislatures, the real levers of power are held by unelected corporate bodies (public or private). By and large the general trend across the developing world is concentration of wealth in fewer hands. In every state a new breed of 'Nabobs' has cropped up; in absence of colonies they loot the exchequer. This in turn leads to regression, repression and finally creates the national security apparatus. The state agencies, the people associated with them or the MNCs, big businesses, or other donor agencies benefit immensely while most of the people are deprived of a decent livelihood. Crime syndicates run amok. Hence, a regular state of tension prevails across the entire developing world.

Where does democracy or rule of law fit into this scheme of things? The organic nature of democratic/participatory governance has slowly but surely eroded in the West over the past several decades. In the developing world the absence of the organic birth of democracy coupled with predatory neoliberal capitalism makes a mockery of democracy. But it's a sin to give up hope. The need is to explore alternatives and strive for improvement.

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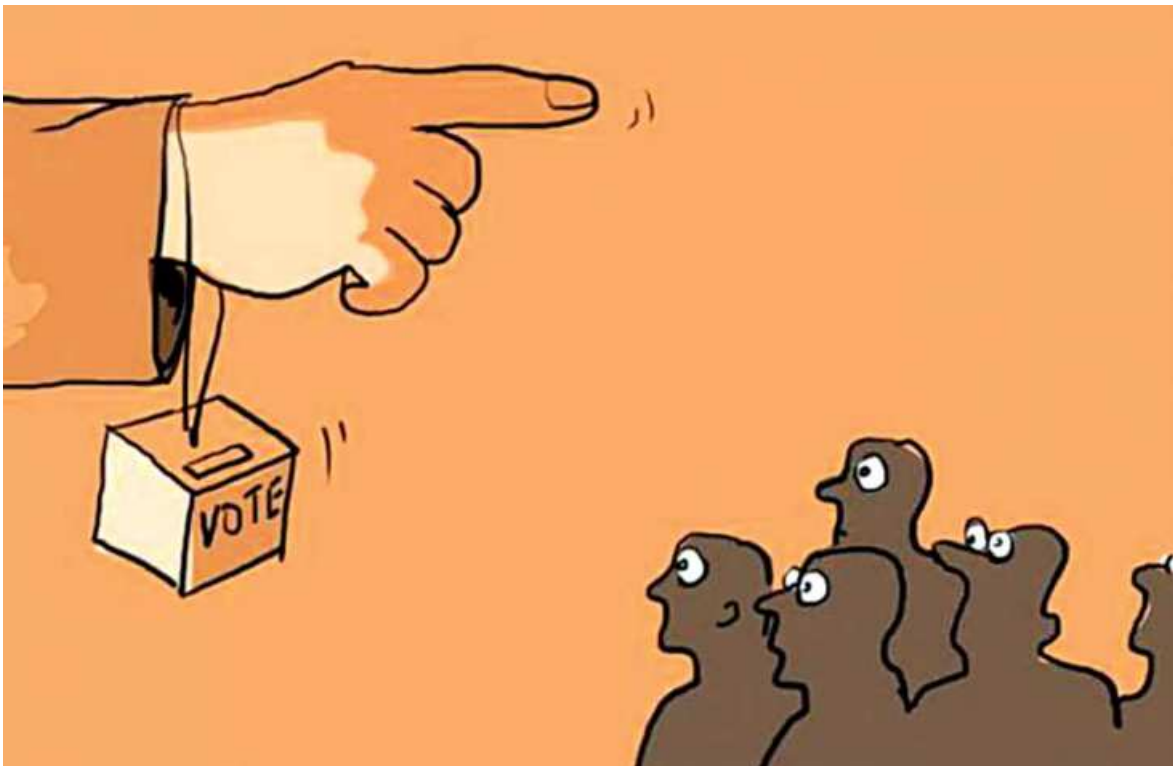


ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

of life had participated in these popular uprisings. Naturally all claimed a stake in the pie. But the wealthier classes wanted to preserve their wealth while the subalterns sought redistribution. The former, small but powerful, kept the vote to themselves. Universal suffrage was still more than a century away. Democracy early on got rigged in favour of the wealthy by deploying any devious means necessary. This conflict of interest wouldn't go away but has been managed since, which however was not at all peaceful.

It was carried out by the state with the infamous 'blood and iron' tactic while providing bare survival wages to the workers that too after persistent agitation (Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Capital*). It's a story of heart-wrenching realpolitik, devoid of any morality. It was a long protracted battle of nerves fought in the streets, chambers and parliaments of Berlin, Paris, London, New York, Chicago and other big cities of the western world all during the 19th century, culminating in World War I. Eventually a bargain was reached to maintain a working relationship. The wealthier classes will govern, the working classes would get the right to vote, 8-hour workdays, safety at work, right to strike, demonstrate, and few social security benefits, emancipation from slavery (E P Thomson, *Making of the English Working Class*). But women got to vote much later. All these must have cost a lot of money. Who footed the bills?

In comes the colonial project. Yes, the renaissance, the reformation, the revolutions, and above all the capitalist

one East India Company gave way to dozens of similar but far more powerful multinational companies, which grew to control the world's economy and finances. Their global reach was phenomenal; they virtually dominated respective governments. And they did it by controlling the political parties. A visible functional democracy is alive alright, but the key decision-making power that influences the lives of the majority of the electorate is no longer controlled by the parliament or the Congress.

That's been silently taken over by a plutocracy: a collective of powerful bankers, industrial barons, media owners, generals, and bureaucrats. To this power centre, public participation in the decision-making process is a nuisance (Chomsky & Herman, *The Washington Connection and the Third World Fascism*). This is affirmed by the last speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow, "The parliament has become a cross between a rubber stamp and a talking shop." In a recent interview published in *The Independent*, a US voter said, "... the candidates are chosen by the DNC or RNC despite popular opinion (we saw this with the DNC essentially staging a coup against Bernie), and with systems in place such as voter suppression, polling place closures, redlining; it isn't a fair system to begin with, and it's designed to give the illusion of democracy."

It's for the gain of the plutocracy the western states once embarked on the colonial project and presently control the global order. This demands a

Prices of daily essentials going up

How will the low-income people survive?

AS the prices of essentials continue to go up in the city's kitchen markets, lower- and middle-income people, already grappling with the fallout of the pandemic, are finding it hard to make both ends meet. Our correspondents visited four kitchen markets and one wholesale market of the city and found that the prices of kitchen essentials like rice, onion, oil, chicken, potato and fish rose by Tk 5 to Tk 90 per kg while the prices of vegetables rose by Tk 10 to Tk 15 per kg. While each kg of aubergine was being sold at Tk 80, a Tk 20 jump in a week, green chillies were being sold at Tk 200 per kg and local onions sold for Tk 60 to Tk 70 per kg, a hike of Tk 10 from a week ago and Tk 30 from a month ago.

The reason for vegetable and onion price going up is understandable as acres of vegetable farms were submerged in the recent floods damaging the production and traders also blamed the insufficient import of onions for the increased price of this essential item. But what could be the reason for the rice price hike?

Those who earn their living by doing small businesses like running fruit stores or grocery shops or selling vegetables on footpaths are finding it hard to live in the city with their families since their earnings fell drastically over the past few months. Being unable to meet their daily expenses, many have already sent their families to their village homes.

Under the circumstances, the government should act immediately to check the prices of essentials in the city's kitchen and wholesale markets. Continuous market monitoring is needed to stop dishonest businessmen from hoarding the daily necessities. Also, the government will have to consider reducing taxes and port charges to stop the price hikes of essential imports. It is good to know that the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) has started selling onion, lentil, sugar and soybean oil at reasonable prices from today. We hope they will continue these programmes until the prices of essentials are brought in to the reach of common people.

Regional cooperation more important than ever

ASEAN countries must work together to solve Rohingya crisis

AT the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which was recently held online, foreign minister AK Abdul Momen expressed his worries over the resolution of the Rohingya refugee crisis, saying the delay in a diplomatic situation can frustrate the hope for regional peace and stability. He also mentioned that Bangladesh signed three instruments with Myanmar for Rohingya repatriation, where Myanmar agreed to take the refugees back and create a conducive environment for their voluntary repatriation, safety and security. Yet this "conducive environment" is a far cry from reality.

The minister is right to be concerned, especially as violence continues to escalate in the state of Rakhine in Myanmar. While the majority of the 1.1 million refugees trapped in Bangladesh have expressed their desire to return to their homeland, we must also remember that repatriation will not be possible while the threat of genocide continues to hang over the heads of this persecuted minority. In such a situation, it is not just the responsibility of Bangladesh but of all countries in the region, as well as the nations that consider themselves global leaders, to protect the Rohingya and other minority communities who are facing great risks in Myanmar.

This is where the ASEAN countries can play an important role. Dhaka has already suggested that major regional powers like China, Russia and India, as well as organisations like ASEAN, can play a role by sending non-military civilian observers to Myanmar to assess the situation. However, simply observing is not enough. The entire international community has so far played a shameful role in failing to condemn the continuous human rights abuses in Myanmar. The onus is not just on Bangladesh—every single country in the region and across the world, especially those who claim to uphold the universal tenets of basic human rights and justice, must pressurise Myanmar to set their human rights record straight and put a stop to the continuous conflict within this nation.

The pandemic has shown us how now more than ever, we need to work together to collectively come up with solutions to our problems. Myanmar cannot continue to do as it pleases without a second thought on the impacts on its neighbours. The ASEAN countries must stay united and work with the international community to address the long-term causes of the civil conflict in Rakhine and create conditions for the safe, voluntary, sustainable, and dignified return of refugees.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Drug trade still strong

Drug addiction, and especially to yaba, has become a very common thing in our society. Teknaf was once the haven for yaba trade, but after law enforcers cracked down heavily in that region, drug traders established new routes for smuggling the mad drug into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

This harmful habit is taking away numerous lives every year. If we, as a society do not become conscious of the serious negative effects of addiction and act accordingly, it will be devastating for our children as well as the development of our nation. We must raise our voices now before it is too late.

Shakhi Ahmed, by email



The brunt of the pandemic on MSMEs in the Asia Pacific Region

MACRO MIRROR



FAHMIDA KHATUN

WHILE economies around the world are reeling from distress due to the debilitating impact of the coronavirus pandemic, some sectors are facing the brunt of Covid-19 the most. The micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is one such sector which has been affected severely. This is evident in the economies of the Asia Pacific region as in other regions. The region had started to face the impact of the corona pandemic before many other economies in the world since it originated from here. Due to the pandemic production has suffered, the supply chain has been disrupted within and outside the countries, and business operations have been hampered since the beginning of 2020. Thus, the sector which contributes significantly to the economic growth, employment, and trade in these economies have experienced significant losses. This is worrisome since about 96 percent of enterprises in the region fall into this category.

Many MSMEs have also been totally wiped out during the pandemic. Due to limited economic activities and lockdown in most countries in the region, the MSMEs have fallen into such crisis that they are finding it difficult to survive. A survey on 30,000 businesses across 50 countries by Facebook, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank shows that 18 percent of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Asia Pacific region had to close their operations between January and May 2020. Compared to global average this was better. Globally, 26 percent of SMEs had to close their businesses during the period. Several enterprises had to cut down on their employment. Businesses from the South Asian region had to experience a larger hit by the pandemic with a 46 percent closure of the SME operations. Women-led SME businesses have been affected disproportionately. This is because their operations are smaller, their profits are low and they have very little savings. In the East Asia and the Pacific region 22 percent of the businesses owned by women had to be closed down as opposed to 16 percent for male run businesses.

Governments across the region have

adopted various fiscal and monetary measures for the MSMEs to revive their businesses. These include stimulus and relief packages to the affected businesses. Such stimulus packages offer credit facilities at a reduced rate of interest. This has been a welcome initiative. However, the MSMEs need special attention as they have limited resources and flexibility to survive during crisis. They lack savings which can help them stay afloat. In this regard, a number of issues need to be considered by policymakers.

First, most MSMEs in the region currently operate informally. Therefore, they are not included in the national dataset of companies. Given that a large number of people earn their livelihoods

through fiscal measures such as lower taxes and wage subsidies. Many countries in the region are already supporting the MSMEs with some of these measures. For example, in Bangladesh, the government has announced a stimulus package of Tk 20,000 crore for the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) at a subsidised interest rate. Under this package, the CMSMEs will pay four percent interest rate out of nine percent while the government will pay the rest five percent interest against the credit support under this stimulus package. Countries such as China and South Korea have deferred tax payments and reduced value added tax for small businesses. Cambodia and Indonesia have cut the rate for the

hesitant to provide loans to the MSMEs as banks are apprehensive about the repayment of the loans given to these MSMEs. Moreover, banks also do not find it cost effective to give loans to these businesses as their operational costs will be high for the MSMEs.

Thus, despite stimulus packages being announced by the governments, the MSMEs are yet to benefit from those fully. Many governments have provided credit guarantee schemes to the banks. The Indian government has introduced the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme. In Bangladesh, the central bank has announced a credit guarantee scheme equivalent to Tk 2,000 crore for the CMSMEs. This will cover a part of the



A small business woman making handmade Pappor (deep-fried bread) at Dinajpur Palace.

PHOTO: WORLD BANK

from this sector, all MSMEs should be listed and recognised so that they can benefit from all types of support measures offered by respective governments.

Second, during corona catastrophe, businesses have become more dependent on technology. E-commerce has increased. However, most MSMEs are yet to adopt technology due to both lack of resource and skills. This risks creating further gaps between large and small enterprises. Due to this, further inequality is also feared in society. In order to help them sustain during the digital era and to reduce the glaring disparities between the MSMEs and the large businesses, governments should provide continuous support to the MSMEs during the crisis and post-Covid period.

Third, the MSMEs should be supported

priority sectors. India has announced liquidity support for the SMEs and bail out to more than 200,000 ailing SMEs.

These initiatives are indicative of the respective government's commitments towards the sector. However, given the susceptibility of the sector and its contribution to the economy the MSMEs need further attention. In many countries in the Asia Pacific region there are real problems in implementing the stimulus packages announced by the governments. For example, the MSMEs do not usually go to the commercial banks for credit even though there are dedicated policies and packages in place. Therefore, many of them do not have transaction or loan records with the commercial banks.

Now, when stimulus packages have been announced, the commercial banks are

risks by the lending banks. Hopefully, commercial banks will now be willing to extend loan facility to the MSMEs.

The underlying reason behind increased support for the MSMEs is that the sector is the engine of growth in the Asia Pacific region. As a source of economic output, employment and income, the sector has a critical role to make growth inclusive. Indeed, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals also depends on the success of this sector. Therefore, all recovery measures from the fallout of the corona pandemic will have to take special consideration of the MSME sector.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. A shorter version of the article was published in the Asia Pacific Watch by the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Politics by blackmail: Eulalie syndrome in Indian public life



SAEED NAQVI

IF the Gandhi trio stirred themselves into action as a serious opposition, is there a possibility that they would end up in jail? If they were spared despite this affront, it would imply that the

Modi outfit has come to the conclusion that the Gandhis are now totally harmless.

Requirements of the media in this regard are helpful to the Narendra Modi establishment in a peculiar way. It keeps the Gandhis in frequent focus with the express purpose of sustaining the delusion that they are still the rallying point for a national opposition. This salience given to the Gandhis keeps them in the public eye and thereby a massive roadblock in the way of any opposition unity, particularly since the Gandhis and their limping cohorts constantly "emote" an urge to "revive". They know that such a revival is impossible but the belief serves a purpose indicated above: it obstructs opposition unity. The media is content with the simplicity of the

tweedledum versus tweedledee narrative. After all, coalitions and regional diversities are complexities impossible to contain in soundbytes.

In recent times, a story that has wafted out of the Gandhi enclosure is one of differences between them. Sonia Gandhi, with reliable retainers like Ahmad Patel is averse to rocking any boat. Status quo, uncomfortable though it be, is about the best she sees for the brood in the given circumstances. Her listless politics is also

RSS in the Bihar movement of 1974 under the leadership of arch Gandhian, Jayaprakash Narayan.

The 1969 split had a Left-Right dimension to it because it was in the context of the Cold War. In the post-Cold War world "Inequality" has emerged as the principal affliction of democracies where people's demands are dismissed as "populism". Crony capitalism thrives but no political party is allowed to find its feet if it intends to harness the discontent

electric. Spode becomes white as a sheet and collapses in the chair like a deflated balloon. It turns out that before Spode began to float in London's high society, he owned a store called Eulalie which sold lingerie known for its bras with bold designs. Eulalie, then is harmless blackmail. But the blackmail which has become the staple in contemporary politics is brutal.

A whisper on the National Herald case or Robert Vadra's land deals and Sonia Gandhi will begin to resemble Spode after the latter heard the threat made to him, "I know all about Eulalie."

After the BJP's stunning victory in UP in 2017, the opposition, armed with data on electoral fraud, sought Sonia Gandhi's permission to hold a press conference. She refused to get involved in "controversies". Likewise, she backed away from "snoogate" which had both Modi and Amit Shah in difficulties.

Take a look at Lucknow. Jockeying has begun for the 10 Rajya Sabha seats from UP. Conventional wisdom concedes eight to the BJP and one to the SP. One would have expected the opposition to jointly keep the BJP out on the solitary remaining seat. But individual party leaders are in an almighty state of funk just in case the Enforcement Directorate comes knocking at their door.

Even though the opposition has a comfortable majority in the Upper House, the BJP rammed through nearly a hundred bills without any vote. A petrified Akhilesh Yadav is hiding behind columns to avoid political leaders who are pressing him to approach the Supreme Court. What if Yogi Adityanath sets the dogs on him?

In uniformed cities like New Delhi these examples of the ruling party's impunity, away from the media's critical glare, enhance an impression of the BJP's invincibility. Forgotten are dismal economic figures and the simple catalogue that the party is not in power in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Delhi. Just as your eye settles on these facts, India Today thrusts before you its poll results: Modi's approval ratings are 78 percent. Like the Priest in Kurosawa's Rashomon, you walk away nodding your head, "What is the truth?"

Saeed Naqvi is a senior Indian journalist, television commentator and interviewer.



Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

PHOTO: AFP

a function of her indifferent health. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's status quoism derives from her personal anxieties, family problems and an inability to cope with responsibilities. Ask Kishori Lal Sharma, appointed years ago to nurse the "family boroughs" of Rae Bareilly and Amethi and he will guardedly spill the beans. The poor fellow's Stan Hardy (as in Laurel and Hardy) moustache greyed waiting for Priyanka to address the "Congress volunteers". But Priyanka, like Godot, never showed up.

Rahul Gandhi, meanwhile, is being more assertive about beliefs he has long held and which approximate to the line Rajiv Gandhi enunciated at the 1985 Congress Centenary in Mumbai chastising the "power brokers". Is Rahul Gandhi looking for that kind of a platform?

In 1969, when his grandmother, Indira Gandhi, split the Congress away from the "power brokers", the regional satraps, the capitalists, eventually joined up with the Socialists and the

of the people who have borne the brunt of, say, the extended lockdown in India. There is a huge Left-of-Centre space for the opposition to occupy. It does not have to be terribly ideological. All it has to do is to make available to the people social benefits such as health, education, housing etcetera. Surely Rahul is aware of this opening, even though Sonia Gandhi is averse to any politics that would incur the wrath of the state.

Politics these days is at a standstill because of the lockdown, of course, but also because of what I call the "Eulalie" syndrome. This light hearted diversion comes from Wodehouse. The resourceful Jeeves has come to the assistance of his master, Bertie Wooster, at a particularly challenging moment. Spode, the Earl of Sidwick, has become a permanent social menace in a country house which is Bertie's favourite haunt. How to cut down Spode's bombast? That is Bertie's challenge. Jeeves provides the panacea. Bertie's has to sneak up to Spode and whisper, "I know all about Eulalie." Bertie follows Jeeves' advice. The result is

Small can be beautiful in a post-Covid world



RMG NOTES
MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

THE huge changes we are seeing in the global apparel industry right now are bewildering and unsettling for many of us. A tsunami has swept through the Bangladesh apparel sector and it is hard to believe that things will ever be quite the same again in our industry. Perhaps I am wrong, although whatever happens, the scars from the pandemic and the damage it has inflicted on our business community will be long-lasting.

Moreover, the pandemic is far from over. Across Europe, our main export market, countries are still opening and closing, locking down one week, opening up the next. Spikes in coronavirus cases have got governments everywhere running scared, while consumers are staying at home, worried about heading to the high street for fear of catching the deadly disease.

This all impacts us as manufacturers. It would be remiss of me to even attempt to estimate what Bangladesh RMG exports will be over the next few months and how much of a fall-off we may see over a 12-month period. Every business in our industry is struggling right now and double-digit falls in production are inevitable.

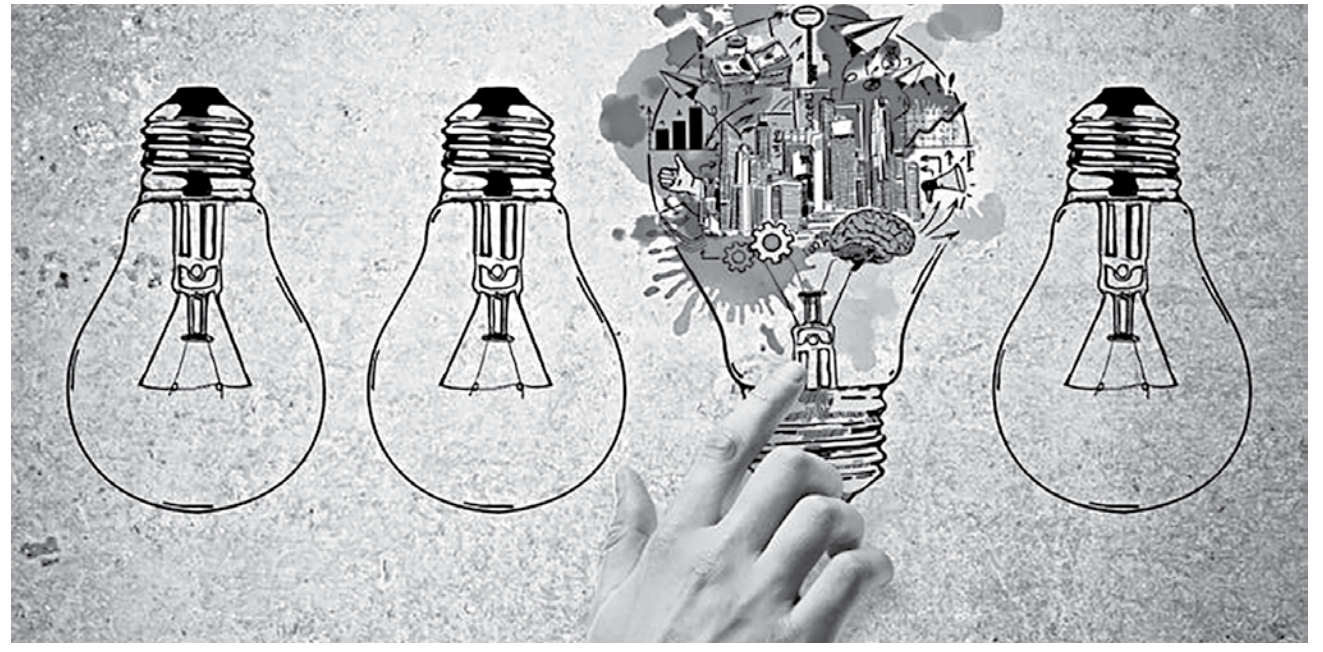
All that said, history tells us that from crisis, comes opportunities—it is just a matter of who is ready to take them.

One thing I think we will see more of in the coming months and years is the growth of grassroots success stories. It used to be that if you wanted to have influence, you needed size and scale,

and the apparel and textile industry is a classic example of that. Size has traditionally mattered.

Moving forwards, I sense this picture may change. One of the problems with being a large business is that it is difficult to respond quickly to sharp economic shocks, the likes of which we are experiencing at the moment. Few would want to be steering the ship of a global retailer right now. Beyond the largest companies of all, the fact is that ALL companies are vulnerable, and I include the apparel industry in that. Many will go to the wall in the next 12-months simply because their overheads are so high, and they cannot afford to continue incurring losses of major markets going on lockdown.

As the market changes, as powerful market dynamics sweep through the industry, this will create opportunities for small, nimble players. That's why I talk about grassroots organisations—



History tells us that many of the most successful businesses were formed during the darkest days of recessionary periods. While some business owners sit licking their wounds, mourning for the good old days, the movers and shakers of this world are looking for the next big opportunity.

businesses that can get up close and personal with their customers and take advantage of the uncertainty in the marketplace.

Social media marketing makes it relatively easy right now to spread the word about a small business and quickly to create a brand and win a loyal following.

In the apparel industry this could bring serious opportunities. There has been talk for years of apparel manufacturers selling directly to end consumers. This has never really taken off in the way it should have as manufacturers have found it easier to deal directly with brands, where they don't have to worry about issues such as marketing, PR, dealing with end consumers and so on.

I think now is the time that a business model of apparel manufacturer selling directly to end

consumers could take off. Such a model could start small but think big. A couple of years ago, when the market was stable and conservative with small quantity, I would not have seen such a model gaining much traction. Ironically, at a time when there is so much uncertainty around, I believe this type of model has the greatest chance of working. Let us be honest—many of our manufacturers have very little to lose at the present time; at the very least, they could be exploring such an approach.

I don't see this pandemic going away soon and the worst thing that any business could do would be to sit and wait for it to pass over, hoping it will be business as usual in 2021.

History tells us that many of the most successful businesses were formed during the darkest days of recessionary periods. While some

business owners sit licking their wounds, mourning for the good old days, the movers and shakers of this world are looking for the next big opportunity. That's not to be flippant and make light of our current woes, rather, to point out that there are opportunities out there, new ideas are gaining traction and the world is changing before our very eyes.

I believe that being small and starting from not very much at all need not count against you in this brave new world. In fact it might be an advantage, providing the fleetness of foot required to go out and seize the day in this most strange and challenging of economic environments.

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).
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Parental overprotection: Why is it not questioned?

ARAF MOMEN AKA

THE policy of protectionism is loosely referred to as the policy where an entity of higher authority, whether it is a guardian or the government of a state, closely monitors and controls another entity.

What I, as a young adult, am interested to discuss, is the protectionism that occurs on a smaller scale. That is, within the household only. And within a household, the guardians would often be the parent(s), since if any grandparents were to live in the common South Asian household, it is more likely that they would relinquish the responsibility to their kin. And the children are too young or inexperienced to take major decisions yet.

Now the relationship between parents and their children is no doubt sophisticated and rather complicated. Parents undoubtedly have far more experience about the world than their children. But what I would like to point out is the level of control parents exert upon their children. There is a reason why stereotypes exist about South Asian parents being overly strict and excessively involved in their children's lives: that is because this stereotype is generally true.

Parents in South Asian middle-and-higher-income households tend to be very much involved in their children's lives for a very long time, often up to their children's late-20s. This involvement can sometimes be based on the notion that their children have not grown up. Some parents often take it to the extreme of micromanaging every move their children make and have significant control over the

decisions of their children. That does not mean that parental involvement in a child's life is a bad thing. There is no doubt that children need someone to give them several nudges in the right direction, someone to teach them about the outside world, and someone to nurture them until they grow up to become functional adults. And their parents are the ones who are supposed to fulfil that role. Children who have absent parents can suffer from a poor upbringing. However, there is a difference between being there for your children when they need you, and being an

overbearing presence above your children. Much like the drawback of protectionism where local firms are unable to cope with the new competitive environment once the government suddenly opens the market up to the world, the children know very little of what to do once they "leave the nest", because every decision that they were supposed to make by themselves, were often made for them by their guardians. While the young adults that leave their nests are not oblivious, they tend to suffer from indecisiveness—often

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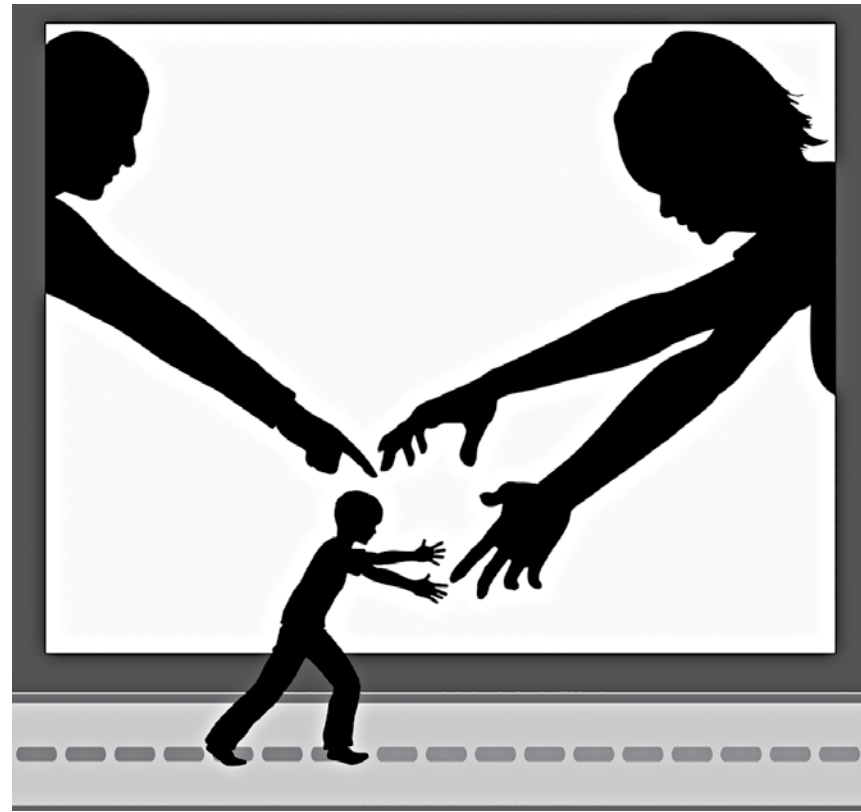
suffer having a dangerously low self-esteem throughout their lives and are incredibly susceptible to self-harm. Sadly, parents often resort to such over-controlling behaviour thinking that they are doing the best for their children, without realising how they are stifling their child in the process. Most parents do not even know that they are suffocating their children with their own rules and expectations, and are actually pushing their children away.

Parenting is no easy task. Taking the decision to bring another human being into the world and taking up the responsibility to nurture that infant into a functioning and healthy adult is nothing short of a monumental task. The dedication and sheer willpower needed to properly raise a child is immense. However, all that effort could go in vain if the upbringing eventually ends up with the child growing up into an indecisive young adult who finds him/herself to be incapable of taking major decisions every now and then.

Being frank with one's children and expecting the same frankness from their side would be a good start. Instead of pushing ideologies onto them, parents should try to know their views once they are old enough to have their own philosophies. Listen and act accordingly. If something they believe seem wrong, explain to them why that is instead of talking down to them.

Protecting your children from the evils of the world is a necessity, but try not to make them think that they cannot tackle those evils themselves. Do not fall into the stereotype of South Asian parents.

Araf Momen Aka is an undergraduate student of Jahangirnagar University.



they cannot decide for themselves what to do with their lives after they venture out to live on their own. And this sometimes creates bitterness and leads them to develop mental health issues because of certain dissatisfaction, stress, unfulfilled desires, etc.

Despite how much the problem of parental protectionism sounds like the ramblings of a first-world problem, it still exists in the third world. This does not eliminate the fact that there are many children born into strife and poverty, and survival is a bigger priority than having a fulfilling life to look forward to.

But returning to parental protectionism, sometimes the overshadowing presence of the parents or guardians over a child, teen, or even a young adult can be so overwhelming, that it may border on abuse. Such as in the case where parents expect their views to be treated as the gospel truth by their children, and to be followed as such. And if those views are not followed accordingly, and expectations are not matched, their children are belittled to the extent that they

QUOTABLE Quote

FREDERICK DOUGLASS
(1818-1895)
African American who was one of the most eminent human rights leaders.

Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Expansive
- 5 Brooch part
- 10 Rap sheet name
- 12 Led Zeppelin's "Whole - Love" product
- 13 Barista's creation
- 14 Squirrel's find
- 15 Running bird
- 16 Bun
- 18 Tom Cruise movie
- 20 Mamie's mate
- 21 Mimic
- 23 Homer's neighbor
- 24 Spanish cat
- 26 Work units
- 28 Atlantic catch
- 29 Newborn's need
- 31 Hagen of acting
- 32 Fred Astaire movie
- 36 Tournay favorite
- 39 Brewpub
- 40 ATM button
- 41 Banish
- 43 Take the wheel
- 44 Admit
- 45 Edward V and Richard III
- 46 Confession list

DOWN

- 1 Parking pro
- 2 Texas landmark
- 3 Crunch kit
- 4 Tit for -
- 5 Applaud
- 6 Door feature
- 7 Lent effort
- 8 Coxswain's count
- 9 Gaspred for breath
- 11 Attacked
- 17 Count start
- 19 Gangster's gun
- 22 Work on a room
- 24 Boarded
- 25 Travel kit plug
- 27 Workout unit
- 28 Coyly mannered
- 30 Devoured
- 33 Half of Hispaniola
- 34 Bold poker bet
- 35 Prom group
- 37 Search out
- 38 Blunders
- 42 Crosses out

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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

C	I	R	C	L	E		O	S	L	O
H	O	O	R	A	Y		S	T	A	R
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A	C	E	S		P	O	I	S	O	N

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

BEETLE! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?!

SARGE TOLD ME TO STAY IN MY TENT

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

INTERESTING ATTIRE.

IT'S OUT THE 'I'M BORED' COMPLAINTS DOWN TO ZERO.

LOOK BUDD! SHE'S WEARING THE JOB SHIRT AGAIN!

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 12 on his way home from Geneva. It is understood that the two leaders discuss the question of recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan, the prisoner of war issues and the entry of Bangladesh into the United Nations, besides bilateral issues.

Talking to the press after his discussion with Indira, Bangabandhu says Bangladesh would not have any objection to talking either to Bhutto or any Pakistani official once Pakistan recognises Bangladesh. Referring to the question of prisoners of war, Bangabandhu says, "They killed three million Bengalees, they committed genocide -- it is a known fact. They destroyed the country. Ten million Bengalees had to take refuge in India and you still ask me this question."

When asked about the Chinese veto against Bangladesh's entry into the UN, Bangabandhu says, "Truth will prevail. Bangladesh is a reality and this position will be accepted by all powers at one time or the other."

A documentary film on the rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam is presented to Bangabandhu before his departure for Dhaka from New Delhi. SOURCES: September 15, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Man digs

FROM PAGE 12 "For the last 30 years, I would go to the nearby jungle to tend my cattle and dig out the canal. No one joined me in this endeavour... Villagers are going to cities to earn a livelihood but I decided to stay back," he added.

Kothilwa village is surrounded by dense forest and mountains, about 80 km away from Gaya district headquarters. This village is marked as a refuge for Maoists.

The main means of livelihood for the people in Gaya are farming and animal husbandry.

"He has been carving out the canal for the last 30 years that too single-handedly. This will benefit a large number of animals and to irrigate the fields as well. He is not doing it for his own benefit but for the entire area," said Patti Manjhi, a local.

Ram Vilas Singh, a teacher who resides in Gaya praised Bhuiyan for benefiting the villagers and their fields.

"A lot of people will benefit here. People are now getting to know him because of his work," he added.

HC questions

FROM PAGE 12 Shahadat Hossain is the managing director of Sazin Construction Ltd, which supplied the products to the living quarters in Pabna.

He was released from jail after a Pabna court on August 26 granted bail to him in two corruption cases.

The ACC then filed two revision petitions with the HC, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

After virtually hearing one petition, the HC yesterday issued a rule and it might hear the other revision petition today, he said.

Lawyers Shafique Ahmed and Mahub Shafiq appeared for Shahadat while Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the state.

Shahadat Hossain and several others were sued by the ACC on December 12 last year on charges of corruption involving Tk 16 crore. Shahadat was arrested on the same day.

Ex-MP

FROM PAGE 12 during its investigation over accumulating wealth from unknown sources of income. We told this before the court during the hearing," he added.

"Bodi is now on bail in the case," said Lavlu.

Abul Kalam Azad, the then deputy director of ACC Chattogram's regional office, filed the case with Double Mooring Police Station on December 17, 2007, alleging that Bodi made wealth illegally and had concealed the information in his wealth statement.

Bodi, who was the mayor of Teknaf municipality that time, was charged with illegally amassing wealth worth of over Tk 65 lakhs and concealing information of wealth worth of over Tk 43 lakhs.

Although then ACC deputy director Azad filed the case, another DD, Ali Akbar, investigated the allegations.

In 2008, Akbar submitted a charge sheet against Bodi.

Bodi was elected lawmaker of Cox's Bazar-4, consisting Teknaf and Ukhia upazilas. But he failed to gain party's nomination in the 11th national elections in 2018.

His wife Shahin Akter got the party's nomination and won. She is now serving as the incumbent lawmaker of Cox's Bazar-4.

Contacted, Bodi said the charges against him were false.

"I will not make any comment over court proceedings. I will go through legal procedure and prove that the allegations against me are not true," he told The Daily Star.

Our correspondents from Chattogram and Cox's Bazar contributed to the story.



Law enforcement officers detain protesters during a rally against police brutality following protests to reject the presidential election results in Minsk, Belarus, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

New cases reinstate curbs

FROM PAGE 12 After a spate of local lockdowns this month, new government restrictions will come into force across England today, limiting social gatherings to no more than six people.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz told citizens the country was already facing "the beginning of the second wave" as new daily infections climbed towards 1,000.

Kurz said the government would further restrict events and extend the areas where mask-wearing is mandatory to include all shops and public buildings.

Meanwhile France reported 10,000 new infections Saturday, close to the peak of the first wave in April.

Prime Minister Jean Castex declined to announce any new major restrictions Friday despite noting a "clear worsening" in the country's outbreak.

Around the world, as of yesterday, 921,219 people had died of the virus from among 28.8 million cases.

India reported 94,372 new cases of the novel coronavirus yesterday, taking total cases past 4.7 million, as infection numbers rose in several states amid a gradual opening up of businesses. The number of deaths rose to 78,586, with 1,114 new deaths, health ministry data showed.

In South Korea, authorities in Seoul said they would ease some infection control measures introduced in recent weeks after a spike in cases in the capital region, home to half the country's 52 million population.

Coffee shops, restaurants and bakeries will return to normal service while gyms and private cram schools can reopen.

While the country largely overcame an early Covid-19 surge with extensive tracing and testing, it has seen triple-digit daily new cases

since mid-August after weeks with numbers in the 30s and 40s.

Police arrested dozens of participants in an anti-lockdown demonstration in the southern Australian city Melbourne yesterday that drew around 250 people.

Defying stay-at-home orders, the crowd gathered at the central Queen Victoria market where they were met by a heavy police presence.

The Australian event followed a number of demonstrations in Germany and Poland on Saturday at which people protested against anti-coronavirus measures and defied mask-wearing rules.

Meanwhile Democratic US presidential candidate Joe Biden slammed incumbent Donald Trump as "reckless" for holding a packed rally Saturday in Reno, Nevada, where many attendees did not wear masks.

The Republican president is under pressure as the US toll continues to rise, nearing 6.5 million cases on Saturday with more than 193,000 deaths -- by far the most in either measure in the world.

In Latin America, which this week passed the milestone of eight million virus cases, worst-hit Brazil charted more than 131,000 deaths from Covid-19 as of Saturday, the second-highest in the world behind the US.

In Britain, regulators gave pharma company AstraZeneca and Oxford University the all-clear for clinical trials to resume on one of the most advanced experimental Covid-19 vaccines.

Researchers had "voluntarily paused" their vaccine trial after a UK volunteer developed an unexplained illness.

Even during the pause, AstraZeneca said it remained hopeful that the vaccine could still be available "by the end of this year, early next year."

Bahrain opposition rejects Israel normalisation, calls for resistance

REUTERS, Dubai

Bahraini opposition groups have said they reject a decision by the Gulf state to normalise relations with Israel, with a leading Shia cleric yesterday calling on the ayatollah of the region to resist.

Cleric Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim, living in Iran, said he was against normalisation between Arab countries and Israel, in a statement published by dissolved Bahraini opposition party al-Wefaq, a group close to Qassim.

The accords struck between Israel and the UAE last month, and between Israel and Bahrain on Friday, go against the will of the people, he said.

"There is a great divergence between the rulers and the ruled in thought, mind, aims and interests. Governments are experiencing a psychological defeat and want to impose it on the people, and the people have to resist this defeat," Qassim said.

A group of Bahraini political and civil society associations, including the Bahrain Bar Association, on Sunday voiced their opposition to the deal in a joint statement.

Top Iraq Shia cleric backs early election after UN meeting

AFP, Najaf

Iraq's top Shia cleric yesterday endorsed early parliamentary elections set for June 2021, following his first meeting in nearly a year with a senior United Nations official.

"The parliamentary elections scheduled for next year are of great importance," said Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, 90, in an online statement after the bilateral meeting.

Iraqis should be encouraged to participate "widely," he added, while warning that failing to hold the polls on time or in a free and fair way would "threaten the unity and future of Iraq's people."

Sistani does not make public appearances and typically issues a weekly Friday sermon through a representative.

He avoids meeting political figures, but has traditionally made an exception for the UN, which is seen as unbiased.

This year, the cleric has been quieter than usual -- weekly prayers stopped in late February with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, which also sparked fears for Sistani's health.

On Sunday, Sistani hosted the UN's top representative in Iraq Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert in his modest home in the shrine city of Najaf, 10 months since their last meeting.

"If done in the right way, in the right and credible way, they could open an important chapter for the country," she said, referring to early elections.

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi had announced in late July that Iraq would hold parliamentary elections nearly a year early, seeking to make good on one of the main promises he made when he came to power earlier this year.

Bangladesh sees a huge

FROM PAGE 12 before the pandemic and got stuck because of the suspension in air communication.

Citing data from the Prabashi Kalyan Desk set up at the airport in Dhaka, Brac in January this year said 64,638 migrant workers came in 2019.

The ministry report, prepared based on information from the Prabashi Kalyan Desk, said 78,043 migrants arrived between April 1 and August 22 this year.

It also said most of the Bangladeshis either failed to get a job or their employers sent them back as there was no job prospect amid the pandemic. Many of those sent back were assured that they would be rehired once the situation turned normal.

Also, workers came back after obtaining "out-pass" after serving jail terms for various offenses, and following the expiry of their work permits.

The report said of those who returned since April, 99,939 had valid passports, and 27,270 came back with the "out-pass."

It said the highest 36,533 workers flew from the United Arab Emirates, followed by 30,531 from Saudi Arabia and 10,575 from Qatar.

Also, 9,361 workers returned from the Maldives, 8,626 from Kuwait, 8,609 from Oman, 5,249 from Iraq, and 5,000 from Malaysia.

At present, 13 airlines, including Biman Bangladesh Airlines and US-Bangla Airlines, are carrying passengers to Dhaka in 46 direct flights every week from destinations like the UAE, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Maldives and Turkey every week, said an official at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

The Prabashi Kalyan Desk was set up at the airport under the expatriates' welfare ministry to help both departing and arriving migrant workers regarding immigration.

There are more than one crore Bangladeshis workers in 160 countries, according to government officials.

The majority of them are employed as low-paid workers in the Middle East countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, and Lebanon, and also in Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia and Singapore.

Migrant workers sent home more than \$18 billion in fiscal 2019-2020, shows Bangladesh Bank data. The remittance they send is one of

the main pillars of the country's economy.

Following the coronavirus outbreak, thousands of Bangladeshi migrant workers faced economic hardship after losing jobs in the host countries.

On Wednesday, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad told parliament that assistance of Tk 13 crore was provided to Bangladeshi workers abroad to deal with the crisis.

Besides, initiatives have been taken to bring the workers back to the country and for their reintegration after return, the minister added.

He, however, said the number of Bangladeshi migrant workers returning from abroad due to the pandemic was "not alarming".

In a statement, Imran Ahmad said, "A small number of our workers, who were in deportation centres due to the coronavirus pandemic, have returned as different countries have deported irregular workers."

Asked, Expatriates' Welfare Ministry Secretary Ahmed Munir Saleheen yesterday said they were aware that many Bangladeshis returned in the past few months.

"It happened to many Bangladeshi workers too. Instead of getting worried about the number, we have taken various initiatives to help and reintegrate them socially and financially."

"Our reintegration programmes include providing soft investment loans, training and facilitating their re-employment at home and abroad," he added.

The ministry has created a Tk 200-crore fund for handing soft loans to returnees and the family members of those who died from Covid-19 abroad, for their economic reintegration.

Also, the government announced a separate loan package of Tk 500 crore for the expatriates who lost jobs amid the pandemic.

Earlier in May, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Chief of Mission in Bangladesh Giorgi Gigauri said hundreds of thousands of migrants were expected to return to Bangladesh once countries relaxed restrictions and airlines resumed flights.

"For many of these migrants, it isn't a happy homecoming as they have lost their source of income and due to the global recession it is unlikely that they will be able to return to work abroad until the global labour market recovers from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic," Giorgi said in a statement.

Greek PM promises permanent migrant centre after fire on Lesbos

AFP, Lesbos

Greece will build a permanent migrant reception centre on Lesbos to replace the overcrowded refugee camp destroyed by a fire last week, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said yesterday, calling for closer European involvement.

The fire at the Moria reception centre last week left more than 12,000 people without shelter, forcing most to sleep out in the open without proper sanitation or access to food and water, and pushed the migration issue back up the European agenda.

Mitsotakis said the construction of a new reception centre on the island to replace the notoriously squalid and overcrowded Moria

End violence

FROM PAGE 12

The Court in February this year ordered provisional measures to prevent acts of genocide in Rakhine.

The International Criminal Court is also investigating the forced displacement of Rohingyas from Bangladesh to Myanmar.

Early last week, two former Myanmar soldiers confessed that they were involved in killing and burning Rohingya villages on orders from the high commands in Rakhine.

Meanwhile, rights groups said the situation in Rakhine state has deteriorated amid escalation of fighting between the Arakan Army in Rakhine and Kachin states, frustrating the hope of Rohingya repatriation anytime soon.

facility would be the chance to reset the policy behind handling migrant arrivals.

"We want to turn this problem into an opportunity," he said. "Europe should be a lot more involved in the management of the new centre wherever we finally decide it should be," he told a news conference.

He appeared to dismiss protests by Lesbos residents who have opposed the creation of a new centre as well as by migrants demanding to be resettled away from the island.

Rampaging

FROM PAGE 12

Abul Kalam, inspector (investigation) of Shibpur Police Station, said Badal-Nazma duo often engaged in altercation.

Such a family feud occurred yesterday morning and Nasima started screaming. Locals came to rescue but Badal started stabbing them as soon as they entered the house.

At one point, Badal's son Sohaq hit him with a brick that left him unconscious. Locals then rushed the injured to local hospital where doctors declared two dead.

Tajul Islam died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

"Initially, we suspect the incident occurred due to family dispute. The offender Badal has been detained," the police official said.

Police launched an investigation to the murder, however, no written complaint was filed from the victims' families, he added.

ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ				
মধুপুর, ডাকঘরঃ ধামসোনা, থানাঃ আতুলিয়া উপজেলাঃ সাভার, জেলাঃ ঢাকা				
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সাভার উপজেলাধীন ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের অধীনে লোকাল গভর্ন্যান্স সাপোর্ট প্রজেক্ট-৩ (এলজিএসপি-৩) এর আয় খাতের আওতায় নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজসমূহ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য উল্লিখিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (গেটিএম) মাধ্যমে হালনাগাদকৃত তিকাদার/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।				
১। মঞ্জুরাদ	স্থানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।			
২। এজেক্টিভ/প্রতিষ্ঠান	ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ, আতুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।			
৩। প্রকৃতির এনটিটির নাম	মুহাম্মদ সাইফুল ইসলাম, চেয়ারম্যান, ধামসোনা ইউপি, আতুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।			
৪। প্রকৃতির এনটিটির জেলা	ঢাকা।			
৫। দরপত্র সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (গেটিএম)।			
৬। অর্ধের উৎস	লোকাল গভর্ন্যান্স সাপোর্ট প্রজেক্ট-৩ (এলজিএসপি-৩) এর আয় (ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ)।			
৭। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	০১/২০২০-২০২১			
৮। দরপত্র জারি তারিখ	১৩/০৯/২০২০			
৯। প্রি-টেন্ডার মিটিং এর তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৪/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ, সময়ঃ সকাল ১১ ঘটিকা, স্থানঃ ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ হলরুম।			
১০। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	তারিখঃ ৩০/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা, স্থান:- ক) উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, সাভার, ঢাকা। খ) ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ কার্যালয়, আতুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।			
১১। দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	তারিখঃ ০১/১০/২০২০খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা, স্থান:- ক) উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, সাভার, ঢাকা। খ) ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ কার্যালয়, আতুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।			
১২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	তারিখঃ ০১/১০/২০২০খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ দুপুর ৩.০০ ঘটিকা, স্থানঃ ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ কার্যালয়, আতুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।			
১৩। দরপত্র সহিত সংযুক্ত কাগজপত্রাদি	দরপত্র দলিলে উল্লিখিত অভিজ্ঞতার ও লিকুইড অ্যাসেটের সত্যায়িত সনদপত্রসমূহ, হালনাগাদকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশনপত্র, টিআইএন সার্টিফিকেট এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।			
১৪।				
প্যাকেজ নং	কাজের নাম	বায়না টাকার পরিমাণ (টাকা)	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (টাকা)	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
Sav/Dup-Igsp/20-21/W-01	ডেভেলপার হাজী বান্দু মিয়ায় পুকুরের পূর্ব পাড় হতে কমর আলী এবং করিমের বাড়ীর, লিঙ্ক মিরাজের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৫০,০০০.০০	১৫০০.০০	৯০ দিন
Sav/Dup-Igsp/20-21/W-02	কাইচাবাড়ী দক্ষিণ পাড়া মজিবর দেওয়ানের বাড়ী হতে মাহবুবের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৪৪,৯০০.০০	১৫০০.০০	৯০ দিন
Sav/Dup-Igsp/20-21/W-03	কাইচাবাড়ী বাতানটেক সোরতের বাড়ী হতে রিপনের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	২৭,৬০০.০০	১০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
Sav/Dup-Igsp/20-21/W-04	কাইচাবাড়ী বাতানটেক সোহাবান সাহেবের বাড়ী হতে সেলিমের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৩২,০০০.০০	১০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
Sav/Dup-Igsp/20-21/W-05	কাইচাবাড়ী দক্ষিণ পাড়া ইমাজুদ্দিনের বাড়ী হতে সাইফুল ইসলামের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৩১,৫০০.০০	১০০০.০০	৯০ দিন
Sav/Dup-Igsp/20-21/W-06	নয়া নগর ফজলুল হকের বাড়ী হতে কাবিলের বাড়ীর রাস্তা লিঙ্ক রোড তাইজুরের বাড়ী হতে মফিজের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৫০,০০০.০০	১৫০০.০০	৯০ দিন
১৫।	দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত টেন্ডার বায়নার যে কোন অফিসিয়াল ব্যাকের পে-অর্ডার/চ্যেক ড্রাফট চেয়ারম্যান, ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ বরাবর দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন, টিকাদার নির্বাচন এবং পরবর্তী প্রতিষ্ঠিত ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ (পরবর্তী সংশোধনীসহ) সর্বল বিধি বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে।			
১৬।	বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যদেয় প্রদান/বিল পরিশোধ করা হবে।			
১৭।	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।			
মুহাম্মদ সাইফুল ইসলাম চেয়ারম্যান ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ আতুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা				
জিডি-১৪৫১				

SPORT

What to WATCH **STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**
PREMIER LEAGUE
Sheffield Utd v Wolves
Live from 11:00pm
Brighton v Chelsea
Live from 1:15am (Tuesday)



Naomi Osaka beat Victoria Azarenka 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final

Osaka, 22, became the first woman since 1994 final to come back from a set down to win title

For the first time since 1980, both semifinals as well as the final were decided in three sets

Osaka became the first woman to win her first three Grand Slam finals since Jennifer Capriati

Azarenka, 31, was playing in the final for the first time since 2013

This was the third US Open final defeat for the two-time Australian Open winner.

Naomi Osaka kisses the US Open trophy after beating Victoria Azarenka in a three-set final at Flushing Meadows on Saturday. (Bottom) The 22-year-old wore a different face mask for each of her matches, each carrying the name of Americans that were slain by members of police. With no fans in the stands this year, for her it was all about bringing Black Lives to the front seat.

PHOTO: US OPEN

Champion, in more ways than one

REUTERS, New York

Naomi Osaka capped a transformative US Open with another Grand Slam title and a challenge to the millions watching across the globe on Saturday to "start talking" about racial justice.

Striding into Arthur Ashe Stadium for her first-round match 12 days ago, Osaka put her activism front-and-centre from the start, wearing a mask to honour Breonna Taylor, a Black woman killed by police officers who burst into her apartment in March.

Osaka would go on to recognize seven different Black Americans -- one for each of the seven rounds of the tournament -- bringing the Black Lives Matter protests against police brutality to her sport's broad international fan base. Asked after her final what message she hoped to send with her masks, she turned the question on her interviewer, "What was the message you got?" "The point is to make people start talking," she added.

Osaka, who was born in Japan to a Haitian father and Japanese mother, spent her formative years in the US and lives in Los Angeles. She represents her birth country



in competition but her influence defies international borders.

"Everything that I was doing off the court was on the court at the same time," she said after her three-sets win over Victoria Azarenka. "It made me stronger because I felt like I have more desire to win because I want to show more names."

One of the most recognized personalities in Japan, Osaka sent

shockwaves through her sport before the tournament even began.

She forced the postponement of the Western & Southern Open semifinal late last month after opting out in protest over the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin. Athletes in the NBA and WNBA mounted similar boycotts.

"Watching the continued genocide of Black people at the

hand of the police is making me sick to my stomach," she wrote on social media at the time.

Tennis pioneer Billie Jean King said the action put her in the pantheon of the greatest athlete activists. "It has been more than 50 years since athletes like Muhammad Ali, John Carlos and Tommie Smith and the Original 9 of women's tennis all stood up and used their sport, their voices and their actions to change humanity," she said. "The baton has been passed and Naomi has accepted it."

Her final mask of the US Open bore the name of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old child who was holding a toy gun when a police officer shot and killed him in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2014. She said she thought about wearing the mask for her trophy ceremony but was told not to don a face covering for the exchange.

Osaka, who has immersed herself in Haitian history as she forms her views on racial and social justice, said she would be interested in meeting with the families of the seven people who appeared on her masks.

"I learn more through experiences," she said. "For me, I feel like sharing stories and hearing people's experiences is very valuable."

HP squad's tour of Sri Lanka in doubt

SPORTS REPORTER



There are question marks over Bangladesh's upcoming tour of Sri Lanka and as per the latest updates, Sri Lanka Cricket is only willing to host the national team and not the High Performance (HP) squad. SLC have rejected the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) request to bring a 65-member contingent, a Sunday Observer report said yesterday.

There had been complications over the delay in finalising health protocols and following SLC officials' discussion with government health authorities, it was decided that a "mandatory 14-day quarantine period" will have to be met as part of safety measures.

Till Saturday no official update was made over the suggested quarantine for the visitors by the Sri Lankan health authorities. But according to BCB, SLC officials had previously informed them of a seven-day quarantine ahead of the three-Test series.

The BCB had planned to send both their

national and HP squads after completing a short residential conditioning camp at home. The HP side were supposed to have a training camp along with the national team in Sri Lanka and were expected to play a few warm-up matches before taking part in a series against their Lankan counterparts.

According to sources, SLC has now asked the BCB to reduce that number to 30, which means the HP team's tour may be suspended.

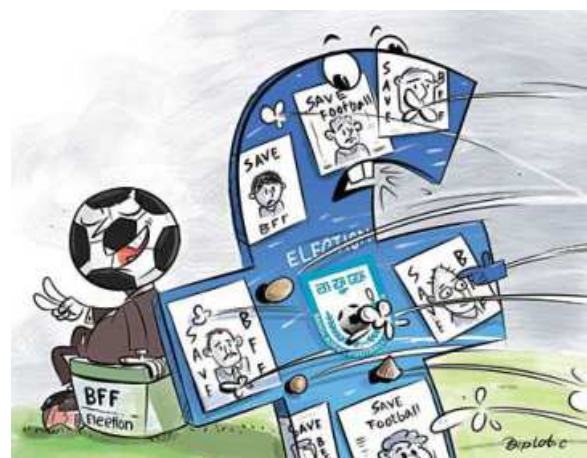
"Nothing is final yet, it will take another three-four days to finalise. We are in constant touch with them. The players and support staff of the national team together total to about 32-34 members. But it's not just about the Sri Lankan board -- it's a national issue. They are discussing the matter and we are thinking. Until everything is clear we are unable to talk about HP separately," Naimur Rahman Durjoy, chairman of High Performance unit, told reporters yesterday.

According to BCB, the SLC is facing some problems in developing their plans and may need some late adjustments due to the delay in preparing the official schedule as well as creating a bio-secure bubble.



In search of cover, Mushfiqur Rahim jumps over a practice pitch with two bats in his hands as rain interrupted the Bangladesh batsman's training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



For a light-hearted look at the Bangladesh Football Federation elections and the fallout on social media, scan the QR code and read 'As the ball rolls, so does BFF'.

Roy 'still in' BFF race

SPORTS REPORTER

Although Badal Roy decided to withdraw from contesting the post of president in the upcoming Bangladesh Football Federation elections on Saturday, his withdrawal letter was not taken into consideration by the election commission as it was submitted after the deadline.

Roy allegedly drafted the withdrawal letter in face of 'pressure from some quarters' but its rejection means he will contest the post of president alongside incumbent Kazi Salahuddin and former footballer Shafiqul Islam Manik.

Roy's wife had brought a withdrawal letter to the BFF House on Saturday, but election commission chief Mezbah Uddin informed that the communication was after the deadline. So, they did not take it into consideration as per BFF electoral regulations and FIFA electoral codes.

"We neither accepted nor rejected his nomination because there was no opportunity to take the matter into consideration as the letter was placed after the deadline," Uddin said at the BFF House yesterday. "We first considered electoral regulations. As per the regulation (6/A/11), candidates must withdraw their respective candidature through a signed withdrawal letter within the timeframe of the withdrawal mentioned in the schedule. But his withdrawal letter came after the deadline," explained Uddin. "FIFA's instructions are also very important here. As per article (6/C), the deadline must be strictly enforced. Roy is now a legal candidate and if he gets more votes than other candidates, he will be declared the winner."

"There is nothing I can do if my name has been put on the ballot as per regulations," Roy, the incumbent BFF vice-president, said.



Olympiakos complete double

AFF, Volos

An early goal by Serbian midfielder Lazar Rangelovic on Saturday lifted Olympiakos past AEK Athens 1-0 in the twice postponed Greek Cup final as the Piraeus side won a record 18th double.

Rangelovic scored in the ninth minute to secure a record 28th domestic cup for Olympiakos, who finished the regular season unbeaten in June and won an unrivalled 45th Super League crown.

The final was played at a neutral venue, Panthessaliko Stadium in the northern city of Volos, without spectators in line with government health protocols brought on by the coronavirus epidemic.

AEK suffered a fourth straight defeat in the final.

'Very special' Salah denies Leeds

AGENCIES



Mohamed Salah's Premier League numbers are up there among the best of the era but Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp insists he offers his side much more than bare statistics after he got them off to a winning start in the Premier League.

The Egyptian's hatrick in a 4-3 win over Leeds took his tally to 76 in 109 matches since moving to Anfield. He has reached 50 goals in 63 home games, second only to Alan Shearer (47 appearances), and Liverpool have won each of the last 35 league fixtures in which he has found the net -- overtaking Wayne Rooney's competition record set between September 2008 and February 2011.

Since his blistering maiden campaign, when he scored 32 times in 36 appearances, the 28-year-old's yearly total has been falling but what makes him so important to Klopp's side is his all-round game.

"First and foremost,

congratulations to him. He is a very special player," said the Liverpool manager of Salah.

"The numbers tell the story a little bit. All the rest around you probably don't know about. But this is a very good example of it. He put three more goals on his scoring list, but the performance all-round

was absolutely exceptional.

"He deserved the goals 100 per cent. Two were penalties, one was a sensational finish, but he deserved them as he was constantly pressing, pressing, constantly causing the opponent massive problems, one-v-one situations, played his football.

"There have been a lot of good performances for us from Mo for sure, but this was one of the better ones. He should be proud of it because it's very special to get these kind of numbers."

Salah was one of the few players close to the top of their game as the Premier League champions began their defence with error-strewn, victory to end Leeds' hopes of a dream start on their return to the top flight after 16 years.

Marcelo Bielsa's side did what few visitors have done to Liverpool during their run of 60 unbeaten home league matches, stretching back to March 2017, and dominated possession. They enjoyed 52 per cent of the ball but their manager was unhappy they did not make the most of that, although a 100 per cent conversion rate from three shots on target suggested they fully capitalised.

Salah scored two penalties in his hatrick to bookend the scoring, the first in the fifth minute and the last in the 87th, along with a rasping half-volley. Virgil Van Dijk scored the other while Jack Harrison, Patrick Bamford and Mateusz Klich netted for Leeds.



Mohamed Salah lit up Anfield with a cracking hatrick, including this sublime volley, in Liverpool's 4-3 win over Leeds United on the opening day of the Premier League season on Saturday.

PHOTO: LIVERPOOL FC

Koeman displays new style in friendly

REUTERS, Barcelona



Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman said his side could play a different style of football to which the club's fans are used to this season after his side earned an underwhelming 3-1 win over Gimnastic de Tarragona in a pre-season friendly on Saturday.

The Dutchman lined up with a 4-2-3-1 system with two holding midfielders, a shape rarely used by Barca coaches in the past.

He started Sergio Busquets and Carles Alena in the middle in the first half and then Frenkie de Jong and Riqui Puig, as he changed his



Lionel Messi started and played 45 minutes in Barcelona's pre-season friendly against Gimnastic de Tarragona at the Johan Cruyff Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

entire team at halftime.

"It's perhaps a little different and more defensive to what we have seen in the last few years," Koeman told the club's official channel.

"But the aim is to move the ball, hold on to it and create space to play between the lines, behind the opponents' midfielders. I think this team is capable of doing this because we have midfielders who are able to play in that way."

Ousmane Dembele opened the scoring for Barca while Antoine Griezmann and Philippe Coutinho scored from the penalty spot in either half in Koeman's first game since quitting his role with the Netherlands to coach the Catalans.

The coach played close to a full-strength team in the first half, starting Lionel Messi even though the captain had only started training on Monday after ending his stand-off with the club following his request to leave on a free transfer.

Barca will play at least another friendli before starting their campaign at home to Villarreal on September 27.

"It was important for those players to play now because this is not a normal pre-season, we only have four weeks, not six and it's very difficult," Koeman added. "What we want to do right now is focus on fitness and then over the next two weeks focus on more tactical questions."



4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA EXPRESS HIGHWAY BUILT WITH BSRM XTREME

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT BSRM building a safer nation



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

End violence in Rakhine now

UNSC members, including the US, UK, France, urge Myanmar to comply with international justice mechanisms

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) members have called on Myanmar to put an immediate end to violence in Rakhine state and create conditions conducive for Rohingya repatriation from Bangladesh.

The UNSC members including the USA, the UK and France stressed on holding those accountable who are behind the violation of international law in Myanmar.

They also urged Myanmar to cooperate with all international justice mechanism including the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar.

The call came at a UNSC consultation on Myanmar attended by Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Tunisia, UK and USA on September 11.

UN Special Envoy for Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, and Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director of the UNDP Kanni Wignaraja briefed on the latest situation on Myanmar.

Since some 750,000 Rohingyas fled a brutal military crackdown against the Rohingyas in Rakhine three years ago, not a single Rohingya returned as the situation in Rakhine state has not been safe and conducive for repatriation, despite agreements Myanmar signed with Bangladesh and UN agencies.

The UNSC so far could not take any concrete steps mainly because of opposition from veto powers China and Russia. Myanmar now faces a genocide case filed by the Gambia with the International Court of Justice.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Villagers dumping sacks of dirt to save their locality from the mighty Jamuna. Erosion began in the different parts of Tangail as the river's water level started to drop. This photo was taken at Bhuapur's Bhalkutia on Saturday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

GRAFT CASE Ex-MP Bodi's trial begins in Chattogram

STAR REPORT

A court in Chattogram yesterday started trial proceedings of a corruption case against former Awami League lawmaker of Cox's Bazar-4 Abdur Rahman Bodi.

Acting Judge of Chittagong Divisional Special Judge Court Md Ismail Hossain framed the charges against him around yesterday noon and set October 15 for the start of recording testimonies.

Bodi, who drew huge criticism across the country over his alleged involvement with Yaba trading, was present in the courtroom, court sources said.

"Commencement of the trial was delayed for different reasons. Bodi filed appeals with the High Court and Supreme Court seeking stay on the case proceedings. But his appeals were rejected," said Kazi Sanwar Ahmed Lavlu, public prosecutor of the ACC's Chattogram regional office.

"As all the obstacles were cleared, the trial has begun today [Sunday]. We hope the trail will be completed soon," he told The Daily Star.

"The ACC has found evidence against Bodi

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

MIGRANTS RETURNING

Bangladesh sees a huge surge in last three weeks

JAMIL MAHMUD and RASHIDUL HASAN

The number of Bangladeshi migrants returning to the country has increased sharply in the last three weeks compared to the previous weeks of the pandemic.

After August 22, as many as 49,166 workers flew back home from different countries. Since April, a total of 1,27,209 migrants, including 11,703 women, came back from 28 countries, mostly the Middle Eastern ones, according to the latest data of the expatriates' welfare ministry, mentioned in a report.

The number of migrants who returned amid the pandemic this year is almost double the number for the entire year last year. Besides, many returned

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu back home



Bangabandhu being garlanded by his cabinet colleagues after the president received him at Dhaka Airport on September 14, 1972.

September 14, 1972 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU RETURNS Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman arrives in Dhaka today at 4:25pm. President Justice Abu Sayeed Choudhury greets the prime minister. As Bangabandhu emerges from the plane he is cheered by the crowd who assembled at the airport to receive him. Shiekh Lutfur Rahman, Bangabandhu's father, is also present at the airport to receive his illustrious son. Bangabandhu takes his blessings by touching his feet. The prime minister drives straight to his Dhanmondi residence from the airport.

TALK WITH INDIRA Bangabandhu today holds a 135-minute discussion with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on problems of mutual interest during a three-hour stop in New Delhi



SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Rampaging man kills wife, 2 others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbara

A man reportedly stabbed three people including his wife and house owner to death in Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi early yesterday.

Two other people were also injured in the incident that took place around 4:30am in Kumardi village in the upazila's Putia union.

Police detained the accused Badal Mia after the incident.

The deceased are Badal's wife Nazma Akter, 42, house owner Tajul Islam, 58, and Tajul's wife Monoara Begum, 48.

The injured persons are Badal's son Sohag, 15, and house owner Tajul's daughter Kulsum, 23.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Man digs 3km canal in 30yrs to irrigate farmland



NDTV ONLINE

A man has carved out a three-kilometre long canal to take rainwater coming down from nearby hills to fields of his village, Kothilawa in Lahtua area of Gaya in India's Bihar state.

"It took me 30 years to dig this canal which takes the water to a pond in the village," said Laungi Bhuayan who has dug out the canal single-handedly in Gaya.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:17 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Some stray dogs gather in front of a poultry shop for scraps of chicken at Talla in Narayanganj on Saturday. Shop owner Babu has been feeding around 60-70 dogs for the last one and a half months.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

New cases reinstate curbs in Europe

UK to limit social gathering to no more than 6 persons; Austria tightens restrictions facing 'second wave'

AGENCIES

Austria and Britain were among European nations grappling with mounting coronavirus infections yesterday, while restrictions were eased in the South Korean capital Seoul and work resumed on a much-hyped potential vaccine.

New cases in the UK reached more than 3,000 in 24 hours for the second day in a row Saturday, with the Sunday Times newspaper reporting that around one-third of those were at elderly care homes where the virus has roared back.

"I think one would have to say that we're on the edge of losing control," Mark Walport, the British government's former chief scientific adviser, told BBC radio.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ROOPPUR PURCHASE SCAM HC questions contractor's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the lower court order that granted bail to contractor Shahadat Hossain in a case filed over last year's infamous corruption in purchasing furniture and household products for officials of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

The HC issued a rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the lower court order should not be scrapped.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel came up with the rule following a revision petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) challenging the lower court order.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

আমরা স্বাবলম্বী হব সকলে কর দেব
একটি স্বদেশপ্রেমী পেশা হাট

আয়করের প্রবৃদ্ধি দেশ ও দেশের সমৃদ্ধি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়
কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা
২য় ১২-তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন (৪র্থ ভলা), সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অগ্রিম আয়করের ১ম কিস্তি প্রদানের অনুরোধ

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরের ২০২১-২০২২ কর বৎসরের জন্য প্রযোজ্য ০৪ (চার) কিস্তিতে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়করের ১ম কিস্তি প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০ খ্রিঃ। আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ধারা ৬৪ [Advance payment of tax] অনুযায়ী যে সকল করদাতার সর্বশেষ নিরূপিত আয় ০৬ (ছয়) লক্ষ টাকার বেশি তাহাদের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের বিধান প্রযোজ্য হইবে। এই প্রেক্ষিতে কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে ১ম কিস্তির অগ্রিম আয়কর ১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০ তারিখের মধ্যে পরিশোধের জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হইল।

করদাতা বিধি অনুসারে অগ্রিম কর যথাসময়ে প্রদান না করিলে ধারা ৬৯ [Failure to pay installments of advanced tax] অনুসারে খেলাপী করদাতা [Assessee in default] হিসাবে গণ্য হইবেন এবং ধারা ৭৩ [Interest payable by the assessee of advance tax] অনুসারে ১০% হারে সরল সুদ আরোপ করিবার বিধান রহিয়াছে।

নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধ করা না হইলে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ধারা ১২৫ [Failure to pay advanced tax] অনুসারে প্রদেয় করের সমপরিমাণ অংক জরিমানা আরোপ করিবার বিধান রহিয়াছে।

প্রদেয় অগ্রিম কর, সম্মানিত করদাতা তাহার স্বত্বসিদ্ধি সার্কেলের উপ কর কমিশনার এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ক্রসড চেক/চালানের মাধ্যমে কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার নিম্ন বর্ণিত হিসাব কোডে পরিশোধ করিবেন :

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার আয়কর জমার হিসাব কোড নিম্নরূপঃ
কোম্পানী করদাতার জন্য : ১-১১৪১-০০৩০-০১০১
ব্যক্তি শ্রেণীর করদাতার জন্য : ১-১১৪১-০০৩০-০১১১

অধিকতর তথ্য ও অনুসন্ধানের জন্য যোগাযোগ :	
১। অতিরিক্ত কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-১ ফোনঃ ০২-৯৫৮৫০৭২	৪। যুগ্ম কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-৪ ফোনঃ ০২-৯৫৫০৫৩৬
২। অতিরিক্ত কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-২ ফোনঃ ০২-৯৫৫১৭০৭	৫। উপ কর কমিশনার (সদর দপ্তর- প্রশাসন) ফোনঃ ০২-৮৩২২০৪০
৩। যুগ্ম কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-৩ ফোনঃ ০২-৯৫৫৯০৪৭	৬। উপ কর কমিশনার (সদর দপ্তর-টেকনিক্যাল) ফোনঃ ০২-৯৩৩৫৭৭৬

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা আশা করে যে, সম্মানিত করদাতাগণ নির্ধারিত তারিখে বা তার পূর্বে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধ পূর্বক নাগরিক দায়িত্ব পালনে সচেষ্ট হইবেন।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব আয়কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা আপনার সহযোগিতা প্রত্যাশা করে।

(মোঃ হারুন অর রশীদ)
কর কমিশনার
কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা
ফোনঃ ৫৮৩-১০৬০৩