

## Food must

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The conference, which lasts for two and a half hours, discusses the stock position of food grains in the country and requirements for the next three months of the year. The distribution programme for the next three months, including the transportations arrangements to move food grains to deficit areas, is thoroughly discussed. Special emphasis is given on the movement of the allotted food grains to the affected areas. The prime minister emphasises the need for making food grains available in time to the people of distressed pockets in the country. The conference also discusses the stock position of edible oil and its distribution and transportation programmes.

### RIPPON CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

The visiting British Minister Geoffrey Rippon calls on Bangabandhu at the Gono Bhavan today. During the 30-minute meeting, they discuss various issues relating to the Bangladesh-UK relationship.

### BANGLADESH INCLUDED IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Pushing aside hurdles placed by China and three other countries, the general committee of the United Nations today votes for inclusion of the Yugoslav item for UN membership for Bangladesh in the agenda of the General Assembly. The Yugoslav motion may come up before the Assembly late in October.

### PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS MEET THE PM

Three members of the Bangladesh Planning Commission meet the prime minister at the Gono Bhavan today and submit a report on necessary measures relating to resolve pressing economic problems in the country. The members are Rehman Sobhan, Dr Mosharraf Hussain and Dr Anisur Rahman.

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

## Covid-19 test

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The CRISPR is a genome editing technology developed by the Tata Group, the CSIR and the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology to diagnose diseases and meets high-quality benchmarks with 96 percent sensitivity and 98 percent specificity for detecting coronavirus, the CSIR said in a statement.

This test uses an indigenously developed CRISPR technology for detection of the genomic sequence of SARS-CoV-2 virus, said the statement.

The Tata-CRISPR test deploys a specially-adapted Cas9 protein to successfully detect the virus causing Covid-19, it said.

The innovation in the technology has been done by a young research team led by two Bengali scientists Debojyoti Chakraborty and Souvik Maiti.

## Trial of lone

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The tribunal yesterday asked journalists not to write or print details of the statements.

During yesterday's hearing, the lone accused --Majnu -- was produced before the tribunal.

On January 5th, a DU student was raped while she was walking from Kurmitola bus stop to a friend's house near Shewra Rail gate in the capital around 7:30pm after getting off a university bus.

The next day, the girl's father filed the case with Cantonment Police Station, accusing unknown people.

On January 8th, Rab arrested 30-year-old Majnu from Shewra area. On March 16th, Inspector Abu Bakar Siddique, of the detective branch of police and also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Majnu to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

On August 26th, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka framed charges against the accused in the case.

## OC, 4 cops

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The closed police officials arrested Lutfar Rahman, manager of RFL's Best Buy, from a level crossing check point in Shayestaganj on September 14.

After five hours of taking him into police custody, OC Mozammel took bribe from him and released him, the ASP said.

Lutfur, in a written complaint filed to Habiganj Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohammad Ullah, mentioned that he had to pay Tk 28,500 that night for his release from police custody.

Lutfur said he went to Alipur on Dhaka-Sylhet highway on his customer's motorbike.

Policemen from Shayestaganj Police Station stopped the motorbike and asked them to show necessary papers.

The driver of the motorbike said he could show them after bringing those from home and left the motorbike and Lutfur with police.

The driver, however, did not return and later that night police took Lutfur to the police station.

He alleged that OC Mozammel threatened him with narcotics case if he did not pay the money.



**Demonstrators clash with policemen in front of The Assembly of Madrid in Madrid, Spain yesterday, during a demonstration to protest against the new restrictive measures to fight Covid-19. The Madrid region, the epicentre of an explosion of virus infections in Spain, would place a partial lockdown on hundreds of thousands of people.** PHOTO: AFP

## Asian Paper Mill take steps

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and will abide by the guideline to keep the environment safe," he said.

In August last year, Hathazari upazila administration, along with a DoE team, shut down the paper mill and slapped a Tk 20 lakh fine on it after a probe body found the factory releasing untreated liquid waste into a canal that ends up in the Halda River, causing the death of brood fish and other aquatic life.

The Water Development Board (WDB), under the water resources ministry, submitted their inspection report on August 16, a copy of which The Daily Star obtained.

As part of giving its opinion, WDB visited the factory at Nandihar area of Hathazari upazila towards the end of July where it saw the few steps taken by the management -- including building a retaining wall against the drain via which the waste used to be released, repairing the effluent treatment plant (ETP), building a sludge bed and waste reservoir, and appointing a chemical engineer.

WDB suggested DoE appoint an observer to monitor the activities of the paper mill and submit an observation report after; if satisfactory, permission to resume operations can be given.

Akhil Kumar Biswas, chief engineer of the WDB south eastern zone, Chattogram, who inspected the factory last month, told The Daily Star that in their inspection, they found the ETP to be functioning properly.

"We opined that permission to allow operations could only be given after three months of observation, [after seeing] whether the ETP remains operational or not," he said.

The fisheries and livestock ministry, in its report, opined to allow the factory to resume operations based on three conditions -- monitoring the sludge and waste discharge method for two months, evaluating the standard of water sample of the canal adjacent to the factory, and reusing the water after recycling the waste in

the factory.

Farhana Lovely, Chattogram district fisheries officer, told The Daily Star, "We clearly said their ETP must be functional and DoE can monitor the ETP operation for six months -- if all this is found to be satisfactory, DoE can allow them to resume operations," she said.

AKM Rafique Ahammed, director general of the DoE, told The Daily Star that the honourable High Court formed a committee several months ago to oversee mammals, mother fish, and Halda River's overall biodiversity.

"I asked the committee through a letter to inspect the real condition of the paper mill. We will act in accordance with their recommendations as Asian Paper Mill is known to violate the promise they make," he said.

"Halda is one of the most important rivers... which this year saw the largest amount of eggs hauled in the last 26 years, thanks to the drop in pollution. So, we can't let anyone destroy these," he added.

Deputy Commissioner of Chattogram district administration Md Elias Hossen, who is convener of the committee formed in May this year to protect dolphins, brood fish, and biodiversity of the river, told The Daily Star that the committee will inspect, with experts and concerned officials, the anti-pollution facilities which the factory claims to have reactivated.

"If everything is found to be satisfactory, we will recommend positively. Otherwise, it will remain shut down as it is now."

In 2013, the factory was fined Tk 2 lakh for pollution and a further Tk 1 crore 15 lakh for their ETP being dysfunctional.

DoE also fined the mill Tk 7,98,000 for releasing untreated sludge into a nearby canal in 2015.

Despite repeated action, the factory continued to pollute the canal, prompting DoE to shut it down in August 2019.

## Biman waiting to start

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The Caab chief said they have asked the Saudi authorities to know Biman's status and were waiting for a reply.

Sources at Caab said they have given clearance to Biman to resume flight operations to the Middle East country.

Wishing not to be named, an official of Saudi Arabian Airlines on Saturday said they were ready to resume flights from Dhaka from September 23.

The Bangladesh government suspended regular flight operations with all countries, except China, from mid-March to contain Covid-19 spread.

Although regular air communications with some countries have resumed on a limited scale, regular flight operations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia remained suspended till date.

At present, 13 airlines, including 11 foreign air carriers, are operating 46 weekly flights in seven countries from Bangladesh, said sources.

Saudi Arabia is home to more than 22 lakh Bangladeshis most of them are involved in low-paid work.

The Kingdom is also the prime destination of Bangladeshi migrant workers and the biggest remittance-generating country for Bangladesh.

Many Bangladeshi expatriates came to the country on vacation from Saudi Arabia before the closure of flights amid the pandemic.

They remained stranded as only few chartered and specially arranged flights were operated between the two countries amid the pandemic.

Before the pandemic brought a halt to labour recruitment process, some 1.81 lakh Bangladeshis had new overseas employment between January and March this year.

Of them, 1.33 lakh were employed in Saudi Arabia, said data of Bureau of Manpower, Employment, and Training.

International flights resumed in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday following the decision of the Saudi authorities to exempt certain categories of Saudis and expatriates from the temporary travel ban imposed since March as part of precautionary measures to stem the spread of coronavirus, reported Saudi Gazette.

In a circular sent to travel agencies and airline companies in the Kingdom on Tuesday, the General Authority of Civil Aviation informed that the airlines are permitted to transport GCC citizens as well as non-Saudi passengers holding a valid visa, including exit and reentry, residency permit (iqama), and visit visas to and from the Kingdom, said the report.

The GACA said all the passengers returning to the Kingdom shall remain in home quarantine for three days and they should undergo another PCR test 48 hours after entering the Kingdom to prove that they are not infected with the coronavirus.

The authority said it would update the guidelines for passengers in line with the approved health protocols, said the Saudi Gazette report.

On September 3, Arab News reported Saudi Arabia's move to resume international flights is meant to revive the country's economy.

"Opening international borders in line with preventative measures" will "help to revive the economies of our countries" and restore hope in beating Covid-19, the Kingdom's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan told a virtual meeting with G20 foreign ministers, said the report.

## India's

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public health workers that they have been in contact with someone infectious.

France confirmed nearly 13,500 new cases over a 24-hour period on Saturday, setting another daily record in the number of infections in the country since the coronavirus pandemic began.

The new cases bring the total number of recorded instances of the virus in France to 442,194.

The number of people who have died from the virus also rose by 26 during the same 24-period, bringing the total deaths from Covid-19 in France to 31,274 since March.

The pandemic has killed at least 957,948 people in the world since emerging in China late last year, according to an AFP tally yesterday based on official sources.

More than 30.8 million people have been infected.

The United States has the most deaths with 199,268, followed by Brazil with 136,532, India with 86,752, Mexico with 73,258 and Britain with 41,759.

Belgium passed the 100,000 milestone of infections following a sharp increase in cases in recent weeks, according to figures from the research institute Sciensano.

The trend accelerated markedly in the first half of September, reaching an average of 1,000 new daily infections during the week of September 9 to 15, according to the data.

## Daily new cases drop

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"I think transmission is stagnant at a particular place. If there is intervention, coronavirus transmission may be decreased in the days to come. However, we can't say anything firmly."

Urging the DGHS to publish detailed analysis on Covid-19 situation, he said, "We do not know the detailed case analysis of Covid-19 cases or deaths. Also, the number of studies is also too little. We need an overall study to know the situation."

In the previous week, the deaths caused by Covid-19 rose by 5.81 percent compared to the previous [36th] week.

Compared to the previous week, the number of tests decreased by 3.41 percent while the number of recoveries decreased by 21 percent in the 38th week, according to the press release.

On March 8, the DGHS reported the first three Covid-19 cases while the government body reported the first deaths on March 18.

In the past 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, 26 Covid-19 patients died. Of them, 24 died in hospitals and two in their homes.

With this, the total number of deaths rose to 4,939 which is 1.42 of

all cases detected so far.

A total of 1,544 people tested positive for the viral infection, raising the number of confirmed cases to 348,916.

Against a total of 11,591 tests in those 24 hours, the positivity rate was 13.32 percent, 1.42 percent up from the previous day's 11.9 percent, according to the press release.

As 2,179 patients were added to the recovery list and the total number of recovered patients rose to 256,565. This is more than 73 percent of all detected cases.

Nine of yesterday's deceased were females while 17 were males.

One of the deceased was aged between 21 and 30 years, one between 41 and 50, seven between 51 and 60, and the highest 17 were above 60 years.

One each of them was from Rangpur, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions, four from Chattogram and the rest 19 were from Dhaka division, according to the press release.

Dhaka division saw more than 49 percent of the deceased so far.

According to the press release, 3,006 patients were in general beds in the Covid-19 hospitals across the country and 301 were in ICUs as of yesterday morning.

## As dismal as 2018

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lynching and border killings reveal a very gloomy scenario of the overall human rights situation in Bangladesh, observed the report.

It said human rights violation has become the norm in Bangladesh notwithstanding the country's constitutional commitment to safeguarding fundamental rights and its ratification of numerous international treaties and conventions.

"The situation has become so grave that common people feel insecure, whether they are in their bedrooms or on the streets," said the report.

According to the report, at least 396 people were killed extra-judicially in 2019. Of them, 357 people were killed in the name of "crossfire/gunfights", 16 were tortured to death, one was shot to death while 22 died in the custody. The deaths occurred during raids and operations conducted by the law enforcement agencies, the report added.

In 2019, according to the report, a total of 23 persons were "disappeared" by the law enforcement agencies in different incidents.

The report said 45 people were arrested and 49 cases filed under digital security act 2018 last year. Besides, a Journalist was killed, 51 injured, 33 were threatened, 17 were arrested and 7 were assaulted.

Violence against women, in particular, gang rape and child rape are on the rise, said the report that found a total of 1,429 females were raped in 2019, and of them, 595 were adult while alarmingly 834 were children under

the age of 16.

"It's a rising concern in the incidence of raping crime that among victims at least 195 have been gang-raped," the HRSS report observed.

Among the victims, at least 58 were brutally killed after being raped. The report further said 241 girls and women fell victims to sexual harassment and 27 females were injured in acid violence during the period. It is also alarming that in a total of 112 violent incidents against children in 2019, 56 lost their lives and 157 were critically injured. According to the report, in different attacks on minorities, 11 people were injured. Four people fell victim to land grabbing and 38 temples were attacked.

Moreover, at least 49 people were killed and 2863 injured in political violence while around 73 people were killed in public lynchings.

The report further said last year, 42 Bangladeshi citizens were killed by the Indian Border Security Force and two others were killed by Myanmar Border Guard Police in a total of 78 incidents.

"Due to the silence of the Government combined with its submissive foreign policy, border killings have increased," the report observed.

HRSS is deeply concerned about the degradation of the human rights condition in the country. It urges all human rights organisations as well as common citizens to raise their voice to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh.

 <b>Bangladesh Bank, Head Office</b> Website: <a href="http://www.bb.org.bd">www.bb.org.bd</a>		
<b>Invitation for e-Tender</b>		<b>Date: 17/09/2020</b>
<b>Invitation for Tender No. 45/2020</b>		
01	Name of procuring entity	: Bangladesh Bank.
02	Invitation for tender for	: Appointing a Service Provider/Man Power Management Contractor to Supply Manpower for the post of Security Guard & others at Head Office and Branch Offices of Bangladesh Bank for 03 (three) years.
03	Invitation Ref. No.	: 45/2020.
04	Procurement method	: Open Tendering Method (OTM); National.
05	Source of fund	: Bangladesh Bank.
06	Tender publication date	: 17/09/2020.
07	Tender closing date and time	: 19/10/2020 at 12:00pm.
08	Tender opening date and time	: 19/10/2020 at 12:15pm.
09	Address of e-Tender	: <a href="http://etender.bb.org.bd">http://etender.bb.org.bd</a> Tender schedule and other related information will be available at this link.
10	Venue of tender opening	: Office of General Manager, Human Resources Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. (intending tenderer or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend).
11	Eligibility of tenderer	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law.</li> <li>Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organisations registered in Bangladesh.</li> <li>Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh.</li> </ul>
12	Brief description of the services	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supply of total 448 (four hundred forty-eight) Security personnel including 376 (three hundred seventy-six) General Security Guard, 27 (twenty-seven) Special Security Guard (Male), 3 (three) Gunman, 30 (thirty) Special Security Guard (Female) and 12 (twelve) Security Supervisors.</li> <li>Deploy the personnel at the Head Office and branch offices of Bangladesh Bank.</li> <li>Supervise the manpower thereof.</li> </ul>
13	Time for completion of work	: 03 (three) years from date of contract (start/effective date as per contract).
14	Tender security amount	: The amount of the Tender Security shall be Tk 25 (twenty-five) lac in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee in favour of General Manager, Human Resources Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
15	Name of official inviting tender	: Kazi Aktarul Islam.
16	Designation of official inviting tender	: General Manager, Human Resources Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
17	Address of official inviting tender	: Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
18	Contact details of official inviting tender	: Phone: 02-9530492 E-mail: <a href="mailto:gm.hrd@bb.org.bd">gm.hrd@bb.org.bd</a>
The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings. DCP: 48/2020-2407 Date: 20/09/2020		
ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভ্যয়োগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।		<b>Kazi Aktarul Islam</b> General Manager Phone: 02-9530492 E-mail: <a href="mailto:gm.hrd@bb.org.bd">gm.hrd@bb.org.bd</a>
GD-1491		