



IRAN ARMS SALES
US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accuses Europe of inaction
PAGE 6

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"It is possible to resolve any problem if there is mutual understanding between the neighbours... border issues and exchange of enclaves are examples..."
ROAD, TRANSPORT AND BRIDGES MINISTER OBAIDUL QUADER AFTER MEETING OUTGOING INDIAN ENVOY RIVA GANGULY



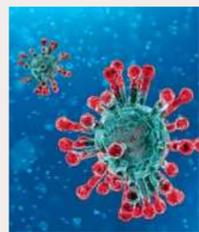
"No one has the right to push our party chief and a three-time former prime minister towards death by depriving her of proper treatment."
BNP LEADER NAZRUL ISLAM KHAN



"I believe voters will make it clear -- they will not stand for this abuse of power, this constitutional abuse."
JOE BIDEN BLASTS TRUMP PLAN TO PUSH FOR SC NOMINEE AHEAD OF ELECTION PAGE 6

Brace yourself for SECOND WAVE

Warns experts' committee; advises govt to take all-out measures to tackle resurgence of virus



REASONS TO FEAR A WAVE OF INFECTION AGAIN

- A second wave of infection is seen in European countries
- Infection rate is very high in neighbouring India
- Communications with different countries are being resumed
- A growing public apathy towards maintaining health guidelines

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With infections and deaths from Covid-19 still far from over, a high-powered technical committee has warned that a "second wave" of coronavirus infections may be coming, advising the government to prepare a roadmap and take all-out preparations to prevent the possible resurgence.

The National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC), formed to advise the government on its coronavirus response, sounded a note of caution about taking measures to detect infections quickly, in case the second wave hits the country.

Apart from preventive measures, the government should take utmost preparations to ensure proper healthcare, suggested the committee during its 20th online meeting on Sunday night with its Chairperson Prof Mohammad Shahidullah

presiding over it.

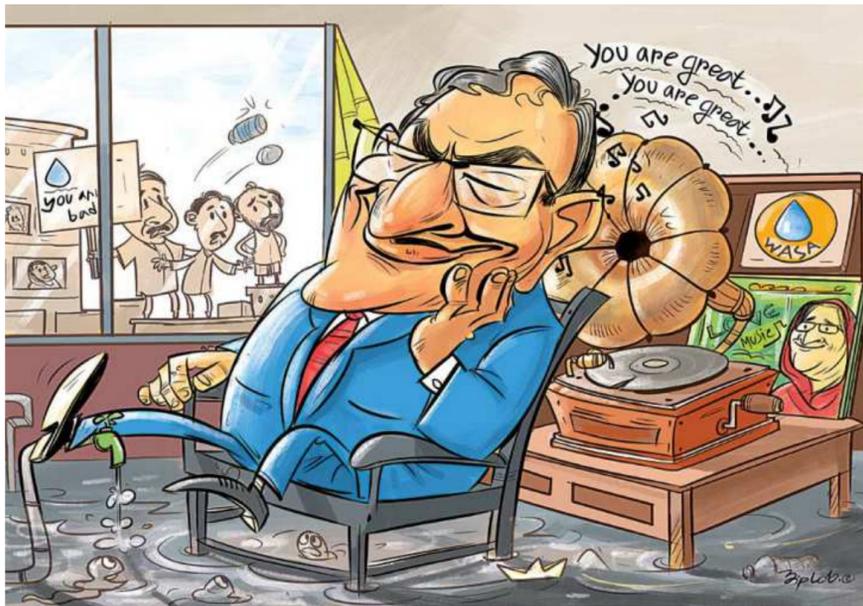
"A second phase of Covid-19 infection is seen in different countries, and the infection rate is very high in neighbouring India. Communications with different countries are being resumed and it will continue. A growing public apathy towards maintaining health safety guidelines is also being witnessed," said the technical body in a statement.

"These are reasons to fear a wave of infection in our country again," it said.

The warning comes as the Covid-19 death toll in the country closes in on 5,000 over the last six months. The total number of people infected has now risen to 350,621.

Hours after the warning came, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to take necessary preparation to tackle the possible second wave.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



WASA MANAGING DIRECTOR

A failure yet trust is in him

HELEMUL ALAM

Since the prime minister "praises" Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan, the majority of its board members support extending his tenure.

Seven of the 10 members present at a hastily-arranged board meeting on Saturday agreed that 66-year-old Taqsem should be at the helm of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage

Authority for three more years.

This would be Taqsem's sixth term despite widespread allegations of failure to provide safe water and improve waterlogging.

He attended the meeting on Saturday, although he was not supposed to attend since the only agenda of the meeting was to recommend his reappointment.

Hasibur Rahman Manik, who is a board member as a representative

from Dhaka South City Corporation, raised the question about Taqsem's presence at the start of the online meeting.

The board meeting was conducted by Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, who represented doctors. He did not take Manik's reservation into cognizance, said a board member preferring not to be named.

Mohiuddin conducted the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

PM's UNGA SPEECH To focus on vaccine, Rohingya issues

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will virtually deliver her key speech at the 75th UN General Assembly on Saturday highlighting global issues, including Rohingya crisis and vaccine, with a call for ensuring vaccine for all at an affordable cost.

The pre-recorded speech would be aired at 8:00pm (Bangladesh time). Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.

The centrepiece of any new General Assembly session is the general debate which starts today, a week after the official opening.

The foreign minister briefed the media virtually on various aspects of the UNGA and Bangladesh's virtual presence. State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen were also present.

Like previous years, the Bangladesh PM will deliver her speech in Bangla.

Momen said the premier will highlight vaccine issue so that everyone gets access to vaccine at an affordable price.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ANTIGEN-BASED TESTING

Public hospitals get the green light

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

After months of bureaucratic tangle, the government has permitted antigen-based rapid testing for Covid-19 at the public healthcare centres.

The announcement was made yesterday in accordance with a circular issued on September 17.

"We have issued the circular allowing antigen-based testing at the healthcare installations," Deputy Secretary Bilkis Begum of the Health Services Division told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Antigen-based testing has been permitted for all government hospitals, district hospitals, government PCR labs and all health institutes as per the proposal of the health directorate and the interim guideline of the World Health Organization," reads the circular.

The guideline for Covid-19 testing protocol has to be followed once it is finalised, it added.

Prof Nazrul Islam, member of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19, said the government

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

UNDERHAND DEALS

DGHS driver makes millions

Rab arrests the man who accumulated Tk 100 crore

STAR REPORT

It is the tale of Abdul Malek alias Badal, a driver of Directorate General of Health Services, who has raked in millions allegedly by being involved in illegal recruitments, manipulating transfers and promotions, and trading in "fake currencies".

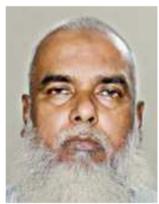
A man whose education was till eighth grade, Malek joined DGHS as a driver of a project in 1982. He had been working as a driver of director-general of DGHS before being arrested on Sunday.

A team of Rab arrested him from his Dakkhin Kamarpara residence in the capital. They seized a firearm, five bullets, Tk 1.5 lakh in fake currency, a laptop and a mobile phone from his possession.

According to Rab, Malek has amassed wealth worth more than Tk 100 crore. Malek was the president of the Health Directorate Drivers Association, sources at DGHS said, adding that he used the name of this association to exert his influence.

Malek is the owner of two seven-storied buildings in Dakkhin Kamarpara of Turag. There are 24 flats in the buildings named after his first wife Nargis Aktar. He used to live on the second floor of one of these buildings.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



RAPE CHARGES

Ducusu VP Nur detained, then released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Ducusu vice-president Nurul Haque Nur and six members of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad were detained last night for protesting the filing of a rape case against six people, including Nur, and later released.

Mahbub Alam, joint commissioner (DB) of DMP, said Nur and the rest were released at 9:45pm.

Walid Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the seven were detained around 8:30pm for staging protests unlawfully and because of assault on police in the capital's Matsya Bhaban area.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Not charged, yet in jail

81 Vietnam returnees in prison under section 54; their families struggle to make ends meet



PORIMOL PALMA

With Vietnam returnee Rubel languishing in jail, his wife and three children are struggling to make ends meet as he is the sole wage-earner of his family.

But what worries Shirina Akhter the most is the continuous pressure from the lenders to repay the loans that her husband had taken for a dream job abroad.

"Only Allah knows how hard my days are. I am now going from door to door to feed my kids. I buy groceries on credit even," said Shirina, of Ghagra village in Mymensingh's Gafargaon.

Her youngest child, four-year-old Tamanna, continues to ask about her father. "How can I say that her father is in jail. I keep saying he will soon bring you chocolates," said the 35-year-old in a cracked voice.

Rubel is one of the 81 migrant workers sent to jail on September 1 upon their return from Vietnam where they had migrated late last year and early this year with the clearances of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

VIETNAM RETURNEES HC asks govt to explain why they're in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to show causes in two weeks why it should not be directed to release 83 migrant workers, who returned home from Vietnam and Qatar, from jail.

Secretaries to the ministries of home, law and foreign affairs, inspector general of police, inspector general of prisons and the officer-in-charge of Turag Police Station have been made respondents.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam came up with the rule after Supreme Court lawyer Salah Uddin Reagan filed a writ petition as a public interest litigation on September 13 seeking its order on the respondents to release the 83 workers from jail.

Citing the petition, Salah Uddin told The Daily Star that the law enforcers arrested the 83 returnees under Section 54

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Abdur Rahim, a security guard at the capital's Mohakhali kitchen market, planted vegetables on the central reservation of the Airport Road. He got the idea after the pandemic hit the country in March and has already earned more than Tk 3,000 by selling the vegetables. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Progress made on water sharing

Says Quader after meeting Indian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said a positive progress was made in discussions on sharing the water of common rivers, including the Teesta.

He made the comment at a press briefing after Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das met him at the secretariat.

The minister also thanked the Indian government on behalf of the prime minister for funding the procurement of equipment for the development of road infrastructure, bus and trucks for Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation.

"Bangladesh and India's friendly relations are multi-dimensional.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

5th Death Anniversary

On 22nd September 2015, Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi), the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved Family Members

BANGLADESH UPDATE



1,705
New cases in 24hrs



3,50,621
Total cases



4,979
Deaths



2,58,717
Recoveries



GLOBAL UPDATE

966,348
Deaths



31,335,438
Total cases

Not charged, yet in jail

FROM PAGE 1
Agents charged them Tk 4-5 lakh each on promises of regular jobs with a monthly salary of \$500-600 plus overtime and other benefits.

However, after their arrival in Vietnam, their passports were confiscated, they were not arranged work permits and were employed in temporary jobs and paid low wages. Many remained jobless, and complaints to the Vietnam authorities were in vain.

Finally, they were repatriated on August 18. After their 14-day quarantine, Turag police produced them before a metropolitan magistrate, showing them arrested under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). The court sent them to jail.

Police said the returnees were sentenced abroad for their involvement in criminal activities that have tarnished the country's image and affected overseas job market. Besides, during the quarantine period, they were planning subversive activities against the government. If released, they can engage in various crimes.

Officials and returnees rejected the claim that the 81 were jailed in Vietnam.

Apart from them, between July 4 and September 1, 293 other migrants returning from the Middle East were also sent to prison. They had been in jail in the Middle East countries and their sentences were forgiven.

Police cited the similar reasons for showing them arrested.

Supreme Court lawyer Syed Sayedul Haque Suman said as per the law and the SC directive, a person can be arrested under the Section 54 only if there is any specific allegation, but there is nothing specific about the migrant workers.

The law enforcers have identified several recruiting agencies and manpower brokers, but they are yet to come under law.

The expatriates' welfare ministry's investigation into how the BMET issued clearance for those going to Vietnam without verification is still going on. It seems lenient with the perpetrators. Minister Imran Ahmad said he does not want to be so harsh on the agents as it is a pandemic time.

Migrant rights activists and families of the returnees wonder why the government is so harsh on the migrants and their families.

Shirina said her husband Rubel, who was a sharecropper, had a few maunds of paddy before he left for Vietnam in December. That was the food stock they relied on for several months. Her husband sold land and borrowed Tk 3 lakh to go to Vietnam, but he could send only about Tk 20,000. The lenders

are repeatedly asking her to repay the loans -- in instalments or just give them the interest against loans.

"Where do I get money? The loan amount, including interest, has already gone up," Shirina said. She also requested village broker Asad to give her some money, but was not only rejected but also threatened that Rubel could not walk out of jail if she demanded money.

Selina (not her real name), 25, wife of another returnee Sohel from Bahrain, said Sohel went to Bahrain in mid-June last year, two weeks after their marriage. A business graduate from a private university used to work at a money exchange house in Manama, but was jailed for a Tik Tok video during Eid-ul-Fitr this year.

"He was forgiven after serving one month in jail. He might not have known that making a Tik Tok video could end him up in prison. He has no criminal records... why is he jailed in Bangladesh?" she said.

When the pandemic began, his salary was slashed and he had no savings to send money home, said Selina of Narayanganj. It was said that he had to stay in jail and return empty-handed.

Sohel's parents are above 70 and both are suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure. Their health situation has worsened amid this pandemic and for the continuous tension about Sohel, she said.

"How is it possible that one is punished so harshly for no reason? Don't we have the right to get justice in our own country?" Selina questioned.

Progress made

FROM PAGE 1
The prime ministers of the two countries are very cordial about improving the relations between the governments and the people," he said.

Quader, also the general secretary of Awami League, said it is possible to resolve any problem if there is mutual understanding between the neighbours. He cited border issues and exchange of enclaves as examples of resolving outstanding problems.

On March 2, visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla had said Bangladesh and India were working to finalise an agreement on sharing the water of seven common rivers within this year.

"We agreed to expedite harmonisation of this data so that water-sharing agreement can be finalised as early as possible, possibly within this year," he said.

To focus on vaccine

FROM PAGE 1
She will also highlight steps taken by the government in addressing people's sufferings and protecting them from Covid-19 and the importance of working together to ensure availability of a vaccine for all.

She will also deliver pre-recorded speeches at a number of programmes.

The first one is scheduled to be broadcasted at 4:00am today at the high-level event to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

Hasina, like other global leaders, is joining the 75th UN General Assembly virtually due to Covid-19 pandemic. She will also talk about climate change, migration, women empowerment and child rights, exchange of technology and gender balance.

Momen said Bangladesh will take up the Rohingya issue in the UNGA like previous years, especially ongoing legal procedures at the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice.

Bangladesh will raise the Rohingya issue for the fourth time and reiterate the five-point proposals placed by Hasina earlier seeking solution to the crisis.

The minister said he would attend a number of events virtually apart

from representing the PM at some programmes.

PM'S HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS

Momen said issues related to international community's support, especially development partners, for keeping the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) unhurt and giving equal attention to overcoming Covid-19 challenges and SDGs will be discussed at the UNGA, which began on September 15, this year.

Hasina will attend high-level dialogue on "Digital Cooperation: Action Today for Future Generations" tomorrow. The following day, she will deliver speech at the high-level roundtable on Climate Action and will highlight climate issues as the chair of Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

On September 29, the PM will virtually attend the high level event on Financing for Development in the era of Covid-19 and beyond.

She will address a summit on biodiversity on September 30. The premier will also deliver speech at the high-level meeting on October 1 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for action (Beijing +25).

Public hospitals

FROM PAGE 1
was looking for a suitable device with better efficacy.

"Antigen-based testing will help detect Covid-19 patients everywhere easily. Because there is no PCR lab in many districts," he told this correspondent.

According to the DGHS, there are 94 Covid-19 RT-PCR labs across the country.

With the approval for use of antigen-based testing kits, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) will now decide which companies' kits will be imported, sources said.

Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) are easy-to-use paper tests to facilitate testing outside of laboratory settings within a timeframe of a few minutes to half an hour. There are two types RDTs -- antigen-based and antibody-based testing.

The antigen-based rapid testing is a molecular test -- alternative to the sophisticated RT-PCR test -- which detects the presence of the virus itself, while the antibody tests look for past presence of the virus and a possible immune response to the infection.

The antigen test involves taking a saliva sample and can usually determine whether a patient is acutely infected and contagious within 15 minutes.

Although an antigen test is less accurate than a complete PCR analysis, the major advantages are quick results and the possibility to use it directly on

site. Although the World Health Organization has not also given nod to use of rapid testing for Covid-19, many countries are using it to cope with the pressure on the RT-PCR based lab testing.

Experts since June have been suggesting the government introduce it in Bangladesh.

In June, the NTAC had recommended use of rapid testing kits to ease the pressure on pathology services. The exercise of introducing the antigen test started in early July.

On July 5, the DGHS sent a letter to the secretary of Health Services Division, mentioning the urgency for forming a Covid-19 sample testing expansion policy.

The letter said the DGHS had already prepared a draft policy and it could be approved with necessary guidelines on an emergency basis.

On July 7, the draft of the policy was submitted to the director general of DGHS. The directorate sent the draft policy to the health ministry on July 9.

Later, the ministry formed a committee of experts to prepare a sample testing expansion policy. The committee on August 4 finalised its report incorporating opinions and sent it to the Health Services Division.

At the end of last month, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said the government was going to take an initiative to start rapid antigen testing in public Covid-19 labs.



Workers of an RMG factory in Dhaka EPZ in Savar stage sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital, demanding pay and arrears of eight months. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Brace yourself for second wave

FROM PAGE 1
During an unscheduled discussion over the Covid-19 at the weekly cabinet meeting, the PM instructed the authorities to take precautions for dealing with different cold-related diseases as the winter is set to arrive at the end of October or mid-November.

"She especially gave instructions to take precaution in case the country witnesses a second wave of Covid-19 transmission," said Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam while briefing reporters at the secretariat after the meeting.

The prime minister gave utmost importance on ensuring use of face masks, he said, adding that they have already passed on some instructions in this regard.

The cabinet secretary said punitive actions would be taken against the authorities of shopping malls and restaurants if people were found without masks there.

On the other hand, the religious affairs ministry was asked to take steps through Islamic Foundation so that every mosque comes up with announcements twice a day about the necessity of wearing face coverings.

WHAT IS A SECOND WAVE?

A "second wave," in the context of a viral pandemic, does not have a formal scientific definition or a distinctly defined stage. It is generally taken as a stage when an outbreak appears to be receded almost entirely before returning or when it ebbs and flows on a seasonal basis.

And in order to say one wave has ended, the virus would have to be brought under control and cases have to fall substantially.

A number of countries like France, Spain, the UK, and Austria are witnessing a resurgence in Covid-19

cases after having brought the number of cases falling and the curve of infections flattening.

Prof Nazrul Islam, a member of the NTAC, however, said the first wave of the Covid-19 infections was yet to be passed.

"We did not cross the first stage yet. If we can bring the transmission rate below 5 percent, then we will be able to say that we have crossed the first phase. If the transmission rate rises again, then we will be able to say that we have entered the second phase," he told The Daily Star.

The noted virologist said the positivity rate was around 13 percent as of Sunday and if the rate was brought under 5 percent then it could be said that the first phase of infections was under control.

"It is possible to enter the second phase even if we cannot bring the first phase under control. If the positivity rate starts to rise again, we can tell we are entering the second phase."

Prof Nazrul, also a former vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said it did not matter whether the country was in the first stage or was entering the second one. Taking precautionary measures is the most important thing right now, he said.

He also said if proper precaution was not taken for the second wave, then more people would die, the progress in different sectors gained would be halted again and reopening of educational institutions would be delayed further.

"The prime minister has given directives on taking precaution for a possible second wave and she has rightly done it. It's because we had many shortcomings while dealing with the first stage. The directives have been given so that the mistakes are not

repeated," he said.

The NTAC at Sunday night's meeting said the country still needed isolation centres for suspected coronavirus patients and those who have tested positive for the virus.

More tests were needed to be carried out to detect the second wave as well, it said, recommending strengthening screening and isolation measures of travellers at airports and borders and issuing travel advice as many Bangladeshis are returning home amid the pandemic.

CAPACITY TO TACKLE SECOND WAVE

After the warning of a possible second wave came, Health Services Division Secretary Abdul Mannan yesterday held a discussion with officials of his ministry and different agencies concerned to get an idea about their capability to tackle the possible second phase.

Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of Directorate General of Health Services, said the expert group, namely Public Health Expert Divisional Advisors' Group, at a meeting on Thursday gave several suggestions on how to tackle the possible second wave.

"We are working following their suggestions," he told The Daily Star last night.

Experts' suggestions included raising awareness, keeping the hospitals, including those which have been decommissioned recently as Covid-19 dedicated hospitals, ready; increase the number of tests and tackle the situation with vaccines, which are yet to come, said the DG.

The Cabinet Division has meanwhile convened a meeting over the Covid-19 situation and possible second wave today. Secretaries of different ministries concerned are expected to attend it.

A failure yet trust is in him

FROM PAGE 1
meeting in the absence of a Wasa chairman. The government is yet to appoint a new chairman after the former chairman Prof Abdur Rouf died earlier this month.

According to the rules, one representative each from the two Dhaka city corporations, one representative each from the LGRD and finance ministries, one representative each from lawyers' association, diploma engineers' association, journalist community, engineers' association of Bangladesh, Chartered Accountant association, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Bangladesh medical association form the board.

Although the Wasa board consists of representatives of different professional groups, nominations for those posts are mostly based on loyalty to the government, according to a source close to the ruling party.

Besides, Taqsem maintains a very good relationship with key policy makers of the government, the source said.

And it was reflected among the board members who voted for Taqsem and found many successes of Dhaka Wasa during his tenure.

One of their arguments was that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on different occasions expressed her satisfaction over the work of Wasa with Taqsem at its helm, said one of the board members, Shaban Mahmood, leader of a journalists' union.

"There is no scarcity of water in Dhaka city and there are many other successes of Wasa, for which most of the board members proposed extending his term for three more years," he told The Daily Star on Sunday.

"We have given approval to the person who was praised by the prime minister for his work. I believe the prime minister cannot make wrong decisions," said the secretary general of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists.

The argument of the board members who voted for Taqsem was almost identical.

The prime minister recently praised Wasa services and there is no scarcity of water in the city, said another board member AKMA Hamid, president of central executive committee of Institute of Diploma Engineers.

"There are some big projects which are being implemented. The government high-ups also desire to complete those projects and that's why we were in

favour of his reappointment," he told The Daily Star.

Taqsem has been appointed as the MD for five consecutive terms of varying lengths. His current term will expire on October 14.

The proposal to reappoint him will now be sent to the LGRD ministry and then to the prime minister for final approval, said an official of the Local Government Division.

According to Wasa Act-1996, the managing director is appointed by Wasa board which will have to be approved by the government. An MD is appointed for three years on a permanent basis and is eligible for reappointment.

WHO OPPOSED TAQSEM
Md Waliullah Sikder, former chairman of Engineer Institution of Bangladesh Dhaka; Selina Akhter, additional secretary of finance ministry and Hasibur Rahman Manik were the three members who voted against Taqsem.

Talking to the newspaper, Sikder said he told in the previous meeting that a probe committee should be formed by the board to investigate the allegations of corruption against Taqsem before discussing the proposal of his reappointment.

"I said that the probe body should include a specialist from Buet and a member of the judiciary. If Taqsem gets a clean sheet, his reappointment can be discussed," he said.

"Otherwise, I am against it, I told the board meeting."

Sikder, also a freedom fighter, raised questions about convening the meeting online suddenly although the previous board meeting decided that the next meeting would be held in presence of all members in person.

In Saturday's meeting, Taqsem's reappointment was the only agenda, he said, adding that there were no minutes of any previous meetings.

"Our prime minister has time and again spoken about zero tolerance against corruption. Why will we stand beside a controversial person?" he asked.

Another board member also raised questions of Taqsem's presence in the meeting, Sikder said.

Councillor Manik said he refused the proposal as he found that the rules for appointment were not being followed.

The appointment will have to be made following due procedures like giving advertisements in the media, he said. "The appointment could be given if the person became eligible in due process. That's the reason I did not

DGHS driver

FROM PAGE 1
Apart from these, Malek also owns several plots in different parts of the capital. One of his buildings is under construction on a four-and-a-half katha land in Dhanmondi. He has a dairy farm on a 15-katha land in Dakkhin Kamarpura.

Sources said Malek not only manipulated the recruitments and promotions of DGHS officials, but he also managed jobs for his daughter, son-in-law, brother and nephew at the health directorate.

His youngest daughter Nourin Sultana Beli, brother Abdul Khalek and nephew Abdul Hakim are the office assistants at DGHS.

His son-in-law Ratan is a manager of DGHS canteen and another nephew is the driver of a DGHS official.

Sources said Malek even influenced the promotions and transfers of doctors at DGHS.

After arresting Malek, Rab held a press conference, where Lt Col Ashique Billah, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said Malek was a "reliable person" for DGHS high officials.

MALEK AND OTHERS ALSO UNDER ACC SCANNER
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) began an enquiry against Malek in 2019.

It has found that Malek owned four houses.

Upon the findings, on September 15, the ACC asked Malek and his wife to submit their wealth statements to unearth their sources of income.

Yesterday, ACC's Secretary Dilwar Bakht said the commission has been carrying out enquiries against 45 officials and staffers of DGHS, including Malek, since 2019.

Of them, 12 have already been facing graft cases filed by the ACC, he said.

"During the primary investigation, the ACC has found Malek owns four houses," he said.

The ACC Secretary said they would file a case against Malek if he is found to have amassed wealth beyond his known sources of income.

WEALTH STATEMENT SUBMISSION NOTICE

In separate letters signed by ACC's Director Sayed Iqbal Hossain, notices were issued against 20 people, including 12 officers and staffers at DGHS, on September 15.

Recipients of the notices are accountant of Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) Mujibul Haque Munshi and his wife Rifat Akter, data entry operator of EPI Tofael Ahmed Bhuiyan and his wife Khadiza Akter, DGHS driver Malek and his wife Nargis Begum, administrative officer of 250-Bed General Hospital of Gopalganj Obaidur Rahman and his wife Bilqish Rahman, staff nurse of Faridpur Medical College Rehana Akter, accountant of Rangpur Medical College Hospital Imdadul Haque and his wife Umme Ruman Fency, administrative officer of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Mahmuduzzaman and his wife Sabina Yeasmin, store officer of Shahid Tajuddin Medical College Hospital Nazim Uddin and his wife Feroza Begum, office assistant of DGHS Kamrul Hasan and his wife Dr Umme Habiba and stenographer of Sheikh Sayera Khatun Medical College Saiful Islam, assistant chief statistics officer of Barisal Divisional Health Office Mir Raihan Ali and accountant of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital Anwar Hossain.

They were asked to submit the wealth statements of themselves and their dependents within 21 working days after receiving the notice.

Ducusu VP Nur

FROM PAGE 1
Asked, he said there is a case filed against Nur and that they were verifying details about the other detainees.

Before his arrest, Nur was in a procession at Dhaka University to protest the case. When the procession came in front of Matsya Bhaban, a scuffle broke out between police and the protesters around 8:30pm.

Earlier, a DU student filed a rape case against Nur and five others, around eight months after the alleged incident.

The student filed the case on Sunday night with Lalbagh Police Station, KM Ashraf Uddin, officer-in-charge of the police station, confirmed.

The other five accused are Hasan Al Mamun, convener of Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, Nazmul Hasan Sohag and Saiful Islam, joint conveners of the platform; Nazmul Huda, vice-president of the platform and Abdullah Hil Baki, a DU student.

According to the case statement, the incident took place on January 3. Mamun is the main accused in the case, and Nur and the others were accomplices, OC Ashraf said.

In the statement, the victim said that on January 3, Mamun called her to his home in Nababganj and raped her.

She fell sick the next day.

A week later, she got admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, she mentioned in the case statement.

On June 20, she sought Nur's help in this regard. After four days, they met in Nilkhet area where Nur allegedly threatened her not to move further regarding the matter, she alleged, adding that he threatened to shame her on social media.

The woman claimed she was sick both physically and mentally, and that was why it took time to file the case.

In a Facebook live video, Nur, however, said the allegations were baseless and a conspiracy against him.

This correspondent called Mamun over the phone, which was found switched off.

'Stalker' stabs schoolgirl to death in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A schoolgirl was stabbed to death allegedly by a stalker inside an abandoned house in Savar's Dakkhin Para area on Sunday night.

The victim was identified as Nila Roy (14), a 10th-grader of Aced School. She used to live with her parents in Kajimokma Para area.

The victim's family said that around 7pm on Sunday, Nila was on her way to hospital with her elder brother Alok to have her breathing problem examined. On their way, they were intercepted by one Mizanur Rahman (20), who threatened Alok and asked him to leave because he wanted to talk to Nila alone.

The family said Mizan then forcefully took Nila to an abandoned house owned by his father, where he stabbed her indiscriminately and left her there. Locals nearby heard Nila's cries and rescued her. She was rushed to Savar Enam Medical College Hospital with critical injuries, minutes before doctors declared her dead, they added.

Alok said Mizan forcibly took her sister away after threatening to kill him if he did not leave.

SEE PAGE 4



Numerous trucks parked illegally on roads adjoining some of Sylhet city's most iconic landmarks on the banks of river Surma. And it's not only unruly truck drivers. Sylhet City Corporation, the authority responsible for enforcing parking rules, also parks its vehicles. This has been going on for years, and people who want to see their glorious past be protected are very much concerned about the riverbank's future.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Surma riverbank now a glorified parking spot

Illegal parking blocks way to Sylhet's most iconic spot; SCC itself a violator

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Chandni Ghat, Clocktower of Ali Amjad, Kean Bridge, Sarada Hall and Circuit House -- all stand side by side on Surma riverbank, and together symbolise present-day Sylhet city.

This glorious location was renovated several times, but it was never free from illegal parking of trucks and other vehicles, which blocks pathways for tourists and locals all the time.

Despite taking steps against illegal parking, Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) itself joins in by parking their own vehicles -- occupying roads, footpaths and ultimately, the beautified riverbank.

Because of the iconic landmarks, the location always draws attention of tourists visiting Sylhet and is also a leisure destination for locals. In the last two decades, several projects were taken to beautify the whole area, and SCC is responsible for keeping such locations free from illegal occupancy.

Faruk Mahmud Chowdhury -- president of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), Sylhet chapter -- said, "The city corporation's services are expanding, and so are their vehicles. But ironically, they don't have any defined parking place. If they themselves park illegally, how can they force others not to do so?"

Contacted, Bidhayak Roy Chowdhury, chief executive officer of SCC, said, "The corporation constructed a terminal for trucks to park, but they always choose to do so by the roadside or on footpaths illegally."

"We have urged the owners and truck labour organisation leaders to stop this practice, but it will take time to change their mindset," he said.

When asked about SCC's own vehicles being parked there, he replied, "The city is small and there is no dedicated spot for SCC to park the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Barishal City Corporation ranks last in LGRD review

Higher-ups blame officials' lack of expertise; residents want their voices heard

SUSHANTA GHOSH

In a blow to citizen morale, Barishal City Corporation has placed lowest in the evaluation of annual performance contracts under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD).

The information was published in an office order signed by AKM Mizanur Rahman, deputy secretary of Local Government Department (LGD) of the LGRD ministry on September 14.

Marked out of 100, BCC scored 29.40 in the annual performance agreement report and evaluation.

In the evaluation, held among 20 departments under LGD across the country, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) stood first with a score of 98.40. Meanwhile, Sylhet City Corporation became second among all

organisations with 96.46 -- it is the first among the city corporations.

The report was based on a performance agreement signed by the 20 departments and city corporations under LGD for the fiscal year 2019-20. The evaluation took into consideration project completion rates of the agencies.

BCC higher-ups have attributed the results to the under-performance of its engineering department and those engaged in preparing project profiles. They said lack of expertise and weakness of these officials lead to the bad evaluations.

The city corporation has already given executive engineer Md Anisuzzaman a show-cause notice last month, alleging his negligence in preparing a project proposal submitted to the LGRD ministry recently, confirmed BCC Chief Executive Officer Md Israil Hossain.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BLOGGER OYASIQUR MURDER

Death penalty sought for all five accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday concluded arguments and sought capital punishment for all five accused in blogger Oyasiqur Rahman Babu murder case.

During hearing, advocate Md Salahuddin Howlader, assistant public prosecutor, told the court that they have been able to prove the charges brought against all the accused in the case.

On completion of the prosecution's arguments, the defence for two accused -- Zikrullah alias Hasan and Ariful Islam alias Mushfiq -- started placing arguments.

As they could not complete arguments, Judge Md Rabul Alam of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka set September 24 for next hearing in the case.

Twenty-four prosecution witnesses out of 40 gave their depositions before the court so far in the case.

Oyasiqur (27) was attacked by three cleaver-wielding youths in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area on March 30, 2015.

On September 1 of 2015, Mashiur Rahman, an inspector of Detective Branch of police, submitted the charge sheet against five people to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Although attendance is yet to reach pre-Covid levels, those who can come to practice are putting in the hours. The photo was taken from a session of Ankur Cricketers in Dhanmondi's Abahani field.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

Youngsters return to nets

Cricket academies reopening after months

FAISAL BIN IQBAL, SHOUT

After months of inactivity, cricket academies in Dhaka have started to reopen. Players and coaches are returning to the practice nets, and getting back into their previous schedules.

Though there has been a drop in players' attendance, academies are trying their best to continue practise sessions regularly, all the while ensuring proper safety measures for all involved.

"Within a month of the lockdown, we tried to bring our players under a specific routine through an online programme. We provided them with tips and lessons on how to stay fit and keep working on their skills from home," said Md Zihad Hossain, a coach at Ankur Cricket Academy.

"The routine was kept simple enough for players to carry it out on their rooftops or garages. It was important for them to stay in touch with these lessons, so that they wouldn't face any difficulty when they came back to the nets."

"Safety is always our first priority, especially now," added Hossain. "We've taken all the necessary steps to ensure safety of the players during their three-hour long practice sessions here at the academy. We're also making sure they have their parents' consent before rejoining the academy."

Before reopening, the academies took cue from institutions around the world, to observe their policies.

"When international cricket made a comeback in July, we closely observed

the going-ons and the new rules and guidelines that have been set," stated Md Abdul Mazid, coach and general secretary at Clemon Indira Road Cricket Academy.

"Taking necessary measures and safety precautions accordingly, we resumed operations on September 10, after being closed for over five months."

"Not everyone has returned to practice," adds Mazid. "So far, we've only seen the older kids join the practice, while the younger ones are still at home. Those who are showing up for practice are doing so for longer hours than before, probably because there isn't much educational pressure now."

Rezwan Khan Abir, a student of Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School & College, has been practicing at Ankur Cricket Academy for eight years now. When the restrictions were imposed in March, he was saddened over the sudden halt in sporting activities.

"We were all heartbroken," recalled Abir. "We didn't know when we could return to practice again. At home, we were instructed to stay fit by following lesson plans set by our instructors."

After months of staying away from the game, Abir and many other academy players have begun playing again, and it seems they have a lot of catching up to do. "We have an upcoming tournament we're really looking forward to," added Abir.

"And although nothing is certain at this point, we can only pray and hope that cricket in this country gets back to normal," he said.

Court orders to freeze 2 accounts of Shahed's wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to freeze two bank accounts of Sadia Arabi, wife of Regent Group Chairman Mohammad Shahed, in connection with a money laundering case.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after Sheikh Md Fanafilya, a director of Anti-Corruption Commission who is leading the investigation, submitted an application.

Fanafilya said Shahed's wife had earlier opened two double benefit schemes at Premier Bank's Banani branch in the capital in which the amount stands at Tk 60,13,665.

If the accounts are not frozen, the accused can transfer the money from those accounts, Fanafilya added.

On September 2, the same Dhaka court ordered the authorities concerned to freeze 58 bank accounts of Regent Group chairman Shahed and its Managing Director Masud Parvez in connection with a money laundering case.

Ease travel curbs on Khaleda Zia: BNP

UNB, Dhaka

BNP's senior leader Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday demanded relaxation of Khaleda Zia's travel restrictions for treatment on humanitarian and moral grounds.

"Khaleda's advanced treatment is not only a humanitarian issue, but a moral one too; it is also the people's demand. As she [Khaleda] received treatment aboard in the past, she may need to go there again. An application had been put forward in this regard, but it has not been accepted," he said.

The BNP leader said, "On behalf of our party, I would like to say this ban should be relaxed, so she can go abroad for better treatment, if she is in dire need of it."

Nazrul, a BNP standing committee member, made the demand while talking to reporters, after placing wreaths at the grave of party founder Ziaur Rahman, with leaders of Swachhasebak Dal's newly-announced partial committee.

On September 15, Khaleda Zia's conditional release from jail in two corruption cases was extended by six months, on condition that she cannot go abroad.

Reacting to Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud's remark which stated sending Khaleda back to jail can be demanded due to BNP's exaggeration, Nazrul said no one has the right to push their party chief and a three-time former PM towards death by depriving her of proper treatment.

Nazrul said Hasan Mahmud has become a "criticism affairs minister", since he talks more against Khaleda and her family than about his ministry and departments.

TRAFFICKING WOMEN TO DUBAI Choreographer Evan remanded for 7 days

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed choreographer Evan Shahril Sohag on a seven-day remand in a case filed on charge of trafficking women to Dubai.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Begum Yasmin Ara passed the order after Md Kamruzzaman, a sub-inspector of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and also the case's investigation officer, produced him before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

In the remand prayer, the IO said Evan was directly involved with trafficking women to a "dance bar" in Dubai.

Moreover, three other accused made confessional statements before magistrates where they said that Evan was involved in trafficking women to Dubai. So, he needs to be remanded to find out vital clues about the incident and to know whereabouts of other responsible persons, the IO added.

The defence submitted a petition seeking bail along with cancellation of the remand prayer, saying that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.

Youth confesses to killing 2 teen cousins in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A youth on Sunday confessed to killing two teen cousins in Rangpur, said police.

Mahfuzur Rahman Rifat (22) gave his statement before the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Delwar Hossain in the afternoon.

He was sent to Rangpur jail afterwards, said police, adding that they arrested Rifat on Saturday.

Abu Maruf Hossain, deputy police commissioner (crime) of Rangpur Metropolitan Police, informed this at a briefing in his office around 8pm on Sunday.

The two teenagers -- Somaiya Akter Meem (16) and Zannatun Mawa (14) -- daughters of Moksedul Islam and Mominul Islam respectively -- were found dead at their home in Rangpur city's Goneshpur area on Friday.

According to police, Mawa was staying over at Meem's house as her father went to Kurigram.

Meantime, Rifat who had a relation with Meem wanted to see her. Meem told him to come over as no one was home at the time.

After Rifat arrived, he and Meem spent some time together and soon afterwards locked into an altercation.

At one point of the argument, Rifat strangled Meem to death using a pillow. He then hanged her body from a ceiling fan to make it look like a suicide, said police.

As Mawa witnessed the incident, Rifat stabbed and killed her with a piece of broken glass.

Later, he fled the house.

Locals found the bodies at home in the afternoon and informed police, which police sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy the same day.

Mawa's father filed a murder case with Kotwali Police Station on Saturday.



Even with an overpass visible in the frame, a pedestrian chooses to cross the Mirpur Road near Mohammadpur's Khilji Road by maneuvering through a host of vehicles, many of which are buses. This photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Lighter vessel capsizes at Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A cement clinker laden lighter vessel capsized at the Bay of Bengal near Bhasanchar area yesterday morning.

All the 13 crewmen were rescued by staff of an oil tanker and a lighter vessel crossing the area during the incident.

A vessel of Abul Khair Group -- Titu-19 -- was on its way to Moktarpur in Munshiganj after loading around 1,250 tonnes of cement clinker imported from a mother vessel at the outer anchorage of Chattogram port.

The vessel capsized partially at the Bay around 3 nautical miles off from Bhasanchar around 11:30am after a crack developed at its bottom due to strong current in the sea, said Mohammad Salim, deputy director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Currently there is cautionary signal-3 and the sea is too rough, Salim said, adding that they earlier asked all the lighter vessels not to ply when signal-3 is hoisted. But some operators did not pay heed, he said.

Nabi Alam, general secretary of Lighter Vessel Workers Association, said eight crewmen of the sinking vessel were rescued by the staff of an oil tanker named Arju while five others were rescued by another lighter vessel named Begum Rokeya.

Barishal city

FROM PAGE 3
"We acknowledge the weakness and incompetence of the BCC project profile team. We have already showed cause them. Hopefully this situation will not exist in the future," Mostafa Zaman, personal secretary of the BCC mayor, said on his behalf.

Contacted, Md Anisuzzaman acknowledged that some projects could not be finished in time, there were other projects that might have been completed if they were approved.

He cited a development project as an example. "We submitted the project with a budget of Tk 1,182 crore to the LGRD ministry. After receiving their advise five times, we revised the plans are submitted a final project amounting to Tk1,100 crore. But then the development project was canceled in the Ecnc meeting held in January this year due to various reasons."

"We resubmitted the project, cutting down the budget to Tk 683 crores in February, but as of this day, we are not aware of its status," he added. If such complications did not arise, the performance of the city corporation wouldn't look as bad on paper, Anisuzzaman said.

Upon hearing the news, residents of the city demanded that the city corporation identify weaknesses of its operations and start considering citizens' opinions.

"BCC development plans do not reflect the citizens' demands," claimed Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal Barishal district convener Miran Habib Rumon.

Shah Sajeda, convener of "Socheton Nagorik Committee", said there was a time when Barishal was a pioneer in education and culture. But the glory days have started to fade as the city is being deprived of development due to lack of proper planning.

"No major development projects of BCC has been implemented for the last two years, while implementation of old projects is very slow," she said.

Development organiser Rafiqul Alam said, "That BCC is at the bottom of the list proves the development of the city has come to a standstill. It proves the incompetence of the city corporation."

Although Barishal is a city corporation, 90 percent of its roads are dilapidated and in broken condition, he said.

Turtles tangled in fishing nets dying on Cox's Bazar beach

Says fact-finding committee

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Around 40 turtles were found dead on Cox's Bazar sea beach in mid-July, due to injuries after being entangled in fishing nets, said a fact-finding committee.

It said when the turtles get entangled, fishermen usually hit them with sharp objects which was one of the main causes behind such death.

However, about 132 turtles were rescued and released back into the ocean, said the committee formed in July, when the longest sea beach was suddenly covered with tonnes of wastes.

It has submitted a report with 10 recommendations to Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner recently, saying floating glass bottles, plastic materials, torn nets and other wastes created a bewildering nature that poses a serious threat to the beauty and biodiversity of the beach.

The committee said sometimes fishermen cut the nets leaving the entangled turtles inside and threw them into sea, after that the turtles might have been wandering in the waste area.

"The turtles died due to intestinal

infection, loss of appetite and starvation for a long time," according to the autopsy report, said the committee.

Of the waste, 91 to 92 percent was inorganic including plastic, electronic waste and nylon nets, said the committee, emphasising awareness among tourists, fishermen, locals and public representatives to control the pollution.

The fact-finding committee was convened by Mohammad Ashrafur Afsar, additional deputy commissioner (revenue) of Cox's Bazar.

"We submitted the report last month, we tried to recommend only how we can prevent the pollution, nothing else," ADC (revenue) told The Daily Star this month.

"A detailed study is needed under the Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute to identify the location, size and depth of waste reservoirs in the coastal areas and figure-out the total impact of wastage in Bay of Bengal. We need a waste management plan under Cox's Bazar DC to identify and source of waste like canals or rivers falling into the sea," said the committee.

The committee recommended forming a joint committee on "Marine Waste Management" with the neighbouring countries so that the respective countries can properly manage their coastal waste and control the sea pollution.

They also recommended establishing a Marine Life Hospital and a modern laboratory to give treatment to the turtles and dolphins which come up on shore.

When asked, DC of Cox's Bazar, Kamal Hossain said, "We got the report. Initiatives will be taken to implement the recommendations mentioned in the report."

Meanwhile, Environment People -- an environmental voluntary organisation -- demanded a speedy implementation of the inquiry committee's recommendations.

Chief executive of the organisation, Rashedul Majid, said in a statement recently that organic and non-organic wastes were falling directly into the sea through several canals and rivers due to inadequate waste management. Besides, various marine animals including dolphins, sharks and turtles are dying due to the lack of awareness of fishermen.

British Council resumes IELTS test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a brief pause, taken to cooperate with government directives and to aid in minimising the spread of Covid-19, British Council has resumed conducting computer-delivered IELTS and paper-based IELTS exams.

Since venue capacity might be reduce due to physical distancing measures, British Council will offer IELTS tests with more test dates per month to meet the demand of examinees, said a statement issued on Sunday night.

Stating how British Council is ensuring safety measures at their test centres, Zunayed Aahmed, director operations examinations, said with the resumption, they are ensuring the safety and hygiene measures that are recommended by their global standards and Bangladesh government guidelines.

"Our test-takers are communicated beforehand regarding the precaution they need to maintain, such as signing a document confirming health issues, wearing a mask that covers mouth and nose and the temperature checking mechanisms that are available in the centres," he said.

He also emphasised that the entire centre including furniture, equipment, stationery etc are all meticulously sanitised before every test and all their staff and examiners wear protective gears during the test as well.

During the interim period when tests were cancelled, test-takers could still access free online materials, preparation video and resources on tips on IELTS essential skills, practice tests, dos and don'ts and expert advices on the four segments of IELTS.

Test-takers can still access exclusive preparation materials and the above-mentioned benefits when they book IELTS with the British Council.

They are now resuming tests in Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet and soon will be resuming in Khulna, Cumilla, and Rajshahi, in phases, the statement said.

ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারি লিমিটেড

উত্তর পতেঙ্গা
চট্টগ্রাম

Corrigendum Notice

Project Name: Custody Transfer Flow Meter with Supervisory Control at ERL Tank Farm
Invitation Ref No. ER/CTFM-01/2020
Tender Package Name: Single Lot Turnkey Basis
Brief Description of Plant & Equipment: Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Custody Transfer Flow Meter with Supervisory Control at ERL Tank Farm.

Reference	Description	Previous Text	Revised Text
17	Tender last selling date	<30-09-2020>	<15-10-2020>
18	Tender closing date and time	<09-10-2020>	<21-10-2020>
19	Tender opening date and time	<09-10-2020>	<21-10-2020>
21	Pre-tender meeting place/date/time	<26-09-2020>/ 10.00am	<30-09-2020>/ 10.00am
31	Designation of official inviting tender	<DGM SCP> In-charge CTFM Project	Project Director <DGM SCP>

All other terms and conditions of the Tender Documents and Invitation for Tender <IFT> shall remain unchanged.

Project Director
GD-1496 Phone: +88 031 2501261 Ex. 160

Surma riverbank

FROM PAGE 3

increasing number of vehicles. But we are preparing a proposal to acquire designated land for parking and hope that the problem will be resolved."

Faruq, however, said that SCC owns small plots of land scattered across the city. It is not necessary to park all vehicles together at a large location, and so, they should utilise the areas.

To fully appreciate how important it is to protect this location, knowing about its history should provide the proper perspective.

The present-day Sylhet city flourished on this riverbank, where Chandni Ghat was the gateway of the city. In 1874, Zamindar Ali Ahmed Khan of Moulvibazar built a

majestic clocktower near the ghat, called "Clocktower of Ali Amjad", named after his son.

In 1933, the then Assam Province Governor Michael Kean started construction of an iron bridge over Surma, right beside the ghat and clocktower. It was opened for all in 1936.

Sylhet's first cultural and community hall, Sarada Hall, named after Saradacharan Shyam was constructed beside the clocktower in 1936, and Circuit House was established near the bridge in 1954.

Last year, a memorial was erected below the bridge, marking 100 years since Rabindranath Tagore's Sylhet visit.

'Stalker' stabs

FROM PAGE 3

The victim's family alleged that Mizanur, a 12th-grader student, had professed his interest to be romantically involved with Nila several times, adding that they informed Mizanur's parents about the matter but they did not take any action.

Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of Savar Model Police Station, told The Daily Star that around 6pm on the day, Nila and her brother left home to meet Mizanur at a restaurant in Savar.

The inspector added, "Somehow Mizanur took the girl to his father's abandoned house and around 8pm, stabbed her with a sharp weapon and left. Nila was taken to hospital around 8:20pm, and she died minutes later."

Speaking to The Daily Star, many residents of area alleged that the abandoned house is a crime hub and Mizanur and other criminals gather regularly there.

রসায়ন বিভাগ
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
পুনঃ টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

রসায়ন বিভাগ, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর গবেষণাগারে ব্যবহারের লক্ষ্যে ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের মূল বাজেটের কোড নং-৪১১২৩০৬ এর বরাদ্দকৃত ৫,৮০,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ লক্ষ আশি হাজার) এবং আবর্তক বাজেটের আওতাধীন বৈজ্ঞানিক যন্ত্রপাতি ও রাসায়নিক দ্রব্যাদি ক্রয় বাতের বরাদ্দকৃত ৪,৭২,৫০০.০০ (চার লক্ষ বাতের হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকার বিপরীতে গুপেন টেন্ডারিং পদ্ধতিতে স্থানীয় মুদ্রায় রাসায়নিক দ্রব্যাদি ও বৈজ্ঞানিক যন্ত্রপাতি ক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত উক্ত কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারীগণের নিকট হতে সিডিউল মোতাবেক আলাদাভাবে সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। দরপত্র আগামী ২০/১০/২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০টার মধ্যে কোষাধ্যক্ষ দপ্তর, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে রাখা টেন্ডার বাগে ফেলাতে হবে। ডাকযোগে দরপত্র পাঠানো যেতে পারে তবে সেক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে কোষাধ্যক্ষ দপ্তর, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বরাবর পৌছাতে হবে। রাসায়নিক দ্রব্যাদি ও বৈজ্ঞানিক যন্ত্রপাতির বিস্তারিত বিবরণের সিডিউল ক্রয় বাবদ ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) সভাপতি, রসায়ন বিভাগ, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর অনুলে অর্থী ব্যাংক, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখার ০২০০০২২৯০৫৪৭ নম্বর একাউন্টে জমা দিয়ে সংবাদপত্রে টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত হওয়ার পর নিম্নবাক্যকারী দপ্তর হতে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রত্যেক দরপত্রের সাথে সভাপতি, রসায়ন বিভাগ, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর অনুলে ২০,০০০.০০ (বিশ হাজার) টাকার (ফেরতযোগ্য) আনুষ্ঠানিক পে-অর্ডার/ডিডি (যা বা ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে কালেকশন করা যায়) জমা দিতে হবে। দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের সময় Item by Item এ মূল্যায়ন করা হবে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল বা আংশিক গ্রহণ বা সমুদয় দরপত্র কোন কারণ না দর্শিয়ে বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখে। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউলের সংশ্লিষ্ট দেখা যাবে।

সভাপতি
রসায়ন বিভাগ
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-1493

SC upholds Khalidi's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that granted anticipatory bail to Toufique Imrose Khalidi, editor-in-chief of online news portal bdnews24, in a graft case.

It dismissed a petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) seeking a stay on the HC bail order.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Muhammad Imman Ali came up with the dismissal order after hearing arguments on the petition.

Lawyers Shafique Ahmed, Abdul Matin Khasru and AM Amin Uddin appeared for Khalidi while Khurshid Alam Khan argued for ACC. Khurshid told The Daily Star that Khalidi will remain on bail following the apex court order, but investigation will go on into the corruption allegation against him.

The ACC filed the petition with the Appellate Division on August 27, challenging the HC order that granted anticipatory bail to Khalidi in the corruption case.

Vacancy Announcement

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following post under Service Contract modality with the **Cox's Bazar Sub-Office**.

1. Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (Service Contract, SB-4 Level)

The duration of the service contract is one year initially, subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit the following link: <https://jobs.partneragencies.net/erecruitjobs.html?JobOpeningId=32747>. Applications should be received no later than **1 October 2020**.

Note: UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and people living with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks.

Scam warning
The United Nations does not charge any application, processing, training, interviewing, testing or other fee in connection with the application or recruitment process. Should you receive a solicitation for the payment of a fee, please disregard it. Furthermore, please note that emblems, logos, names and addresses are easily copied and reproduced. Therefore, you are advised to apply particular care when submitting personal information on the web.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NSU/20-21-01

North South University is inviting sealed offer from bona fide/ reputed organization/ distributors/ business partners/ agents for supplying **Office 365 A3 package license** for North South University as described in the tender schedule.

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days till **October 6, 2020** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **October 7, 2020** by 2.15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Administration (IC)
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Bashundhara, Dhaka - 1229
Phone : +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax : +88-02-55668202
E-mail to: procurement@northsouth.edu, www.northsouth.edu

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Controller of Stores
Bangladesh Railway
Pahartali, Chattogram-4202

No. P6/Bearing/Source Enlistment/2020 20/09/2020

Corrigendum-2

The following amendment is being carried out in respect of the "Last Date of Selling, Closing Date & Date of Opening" of this office OTM (ICT) Tender No. P6/Bearing/Source Enlistment/2020 date: 01/07/2020:

	Read	For
Last date of selling:	12/10/2020	21/09/2020
Tender closing date:	13/10/2020	22/09/2020
Date of opening:	13/10/2020	22/09/2020

All the other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unaltered.

Md. Anwar Hossain
Assistant Controller of Stores/P-2
For Chief Controller of Stores
Bangladesh Railway
Pahartali, Chattogram

S(20)(181)
GD-1499

Bangladesh Services Limited
(Owner of InterContinental Dhaka)
1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, 21st September 2020

Auction Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by **Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL)** for Auction sale of 2 (two) cars "As it is where it is" basis and removal of the same from InterContinental Dhaka Premises at 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000.

Terms & Conditions

- Earnest money 10% of the total quoted amount.
- Price of the Tender Document Tk.1,000.00 (Taka one thousand only) in cash (nonrefundable)
- Selling of Tender Document from 22/09/2020 to 04/10/2020
- Tenders will be received on 07/10/2020 up to 3:00 PM and opened at 3:30 PM
- Inspection date of auctionable cars on 05/10/2020 at 11:00 AM
- BSL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The details Auction Notice may be seen at the BSL website www.bsl.gov.bd.

sd/
(Md. Nazmus Sadat Salim)
Company Secretary (Joint Secretary)

অর্থনী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।

সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত হয়েছে যে, গত ২০-০৯-২০২০ তারিখে বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন, দৈনিক বনিক বাণী ও The Daily Star পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত অর্থনী এসএমই ফাইন্যান্সিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এ একজন চুক্তিবদ্ধিত ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক এবং সিইও নিয়োগের সংশোধনী নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতার বিষয়টি নিম্নোক্তরূপে সংশোধন করা হলো।

"ব্যাংক বা আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে সক্রিয় কর্মকর্তা হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ১৫ (পনেরো) বছরের এবং ব্যাংক বা আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের উপব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক পদে কমপক্ষে ০২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে"-এর স্থলে "প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা পদে নিযুক্তির ক্ষেত্রে সক্রিয় ব্যক্তির ব্যাংক বা আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে সক্রিয় কর্মকর্তা হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ১৫ (পনেরো) বছরের এবং ব্যাংক বা আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধান নির্বাহীর অববাহিত পূর্ববর্তী পদে কমপক্ষে ০২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে" পদ্ধতি হবে।

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক
এইচআর প্রানি, ডিপ্লয়মেন্ট এন্ড অপারেশনস ডিভিশন
অর্থনী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয়,
৯/ডি, দিল্লীবাগ বা/এ, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা।
ফোন নং-৯৫৫৭২১২

(৩' x ২)



A mosque in Panchthakuri village of Sirajganj Sadar upazila tumbling down as the mighty Jamuna river continues its onslaught on its banks in the area. Along with the mosque, which was the only concrete structure in the village, 10 to 15 houses were also washed away by the river on Saturday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Villagers' clash leaves 25 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Fariapur

At least 25 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers in Bhanga upazila yesterday.

Quoting the villagers, police said there had been a longstanding rivalry between one Asad Matbor and Delwar Matbor of Singariya village over establishing supremacy of the locality.

On Sunday evening, supporters of both the groups locked in an altercation over the issue.

As a sequel to the Sunday's altercation, men of both the groups, equipped with sticks and sharp weapons, swooped on each other around 8:00am yesterday.

The two hour long clash left at least 25 people from both sides injured.

On information, police went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Sub-Inspector of Bhanga Police Station Tuhin Hawladar said they raided the village and detained five people from both sides in connection with the clash.

Hamirdi Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Shamsul Alam said the clash took place due to personal enmity, not political.

NATORE AL LEADER MURDER

Death penalty for 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A Natore court yesterday sentenced two people to death in connection with a case for killing Awami League (AL) leader Dr Aynal Haque Talukder in 2002.

Natore Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Saiful Islam Siddique also acquitted 11 other accused in the case as charges brought against them could not be proved.

The convicts, Mohammad Torab, son of Bahar Uddin Mollah of Mahishbhanga area under Bonpara municipality, and Shamim, son of Palan Mollah, were also fined Tk 10,000 each.

Quoting the case statement, Public Prosecutor (PP) Sirajul Islam said, on March 28 in 2002, a group of BNP leaders and activists, led by the then Baraigram upazila unit BNP President Ekramul Alam, attacked Dr Aynal Haque, then president of Baraigram upazila unit AL, inside his chamber at Bonpara Bazar and beat him mercilessly.

At one stage, the attackers dragged the veteran leader out of his chamber and stabbed him with sharp weapon, leaving him severely injured.

Later, Dr Aynal's family members and relatives rescued him in critical condition and admitted him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital the same night.

The following day, Dr Aynal succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment there.

On March 31 the same year, Dr Aynal's daughter-in-law Nazma Begum, wife of incumbent municipality Mayor KM Zakir Hossain, filed a murder case with Baraigram Police Station and, after investigation, police submitted the charge-sheet to the court.

Mentionable, the prime accused in the case Ekramul and three others -- Saher Uddin, Ziaul Haque Sentu and Alamuddin -- died, during the trial proceedings of the case.

Flood strikes Sirajganj again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

When people started to return to their homes after floodwaters from the Jamuna river started to recede for the first time in the last three months in Sirajganj, they were hit by another wave of floods in the past few days.

People who started to rebuild their damaged houses while cultivating their land to recuperate losses caused by the flood are now baffled by the second wave of the flood.

Rafiqul Islam, sub-divisional engineer of Water Development Board in Sirajganj, said water level in the Jamuna has increased significantly over the past few days.

On Saturday morning at Kazipur point, the water in the river was flowing at 15.31 metre mark -- six centimetres above the danger level, and at Hard Point, it was flowing at 13.30 metre mark, which is five centimetres below the danger level.

An increase in rainfall in the upstream of the Jamuna has caused the water level in the river to rise for

the moment, he also said.

Flood is nothing new to the people of Sirajganj district. But back-to-back flooding of the area in such a short period of time in the same year is causing hindrances to relief and rehabilitation work, said affected people in Sirajganj.

Kohinoor Begum, from Betilchar village in Chouhali upazila, said she and her family took shelter on a nearby flood protection embankment after their house was flooded in early June.

After the water receded, they came back home only two weeks ago and started repairing their damaged house. But after finishing reconstructing the earthen floor, it got washed away again by the second flood wave.

"I'm totally flabbergasted at the situation. I took a loan with high interest and spent it all on the repair work of the house. Now I'm trying to figure out how I would repay the loan and find money again to repair the

house," said the frustrated woman.

Anticipating a second flood, inhabitants of Shubhogachha union in Kazipur upazila did not return home from their flood shelters yet. But the new Aman rice seedbeds, which they made in their villages to recover their losses, are now flooded.

Nayan Sardar, a member of Shubhogachha Union Parishad, said with the seedbeds damaged by the flood, rice cultivation in the area, dependent on agricultural, will be affected severely. "People never witnessed devastation by flood to this extent before."

Contacted, Rezaul Karim, agriculture officer in Kazipur upazila, said as part of their rehabilitation effort, they had distributed Aman seeds to 900 farmers affected by the flood.

But as their seedbeds for Aman rice sustained damage in the new wave of the flood, renewed efforts will be made to help the affected people get back on their feet, he assured.



Seeing floodwaters receding, farmers planted Aman rice in Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj. But to the bemusement of the locals, their crops are getting inundated yet again.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives
Local Government Division

Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-2nd Phase (UPHCSDP-II)

Project Management Unit (PMU)

Nagar Bhaban (5th Floor), 5, Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000

www.uphcsdp.gov.bd



Memo No. UPHCSDP-II/PMU/RH/2019/Medicine/02-719

Date: 21 September 2020

Invitation for Bids

Date	21 September 2020
Loan/Grant No. and Title	ADB Loan 3705/Grant 0607-BAN: Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Additional Financing (UPHCSDP-AF)
Contract No. and Title	Framework Agreement(s): Procurement of Medicines
Deadline for Submission of Bids	22 October 2020 at 14:00 hours (Bangladesh Standard Time)

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of **Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Additional Financing (UPHCSDP-AF)**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under Call-off Contracts that may be awarded under the Framework Agreements (FAs) for the Supply of Medicines concluded through this IFB Primary Procurement process.
- The Procuring Agency on behalf of the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives ("the Purchaser") is undertaking the Primary Procurement with a view to concluding *Framework Agreements*. The Procuring Agency invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for **Supply of Medicines** for 45 partnership areas (PAs) during a period of two and half years.
- The Framework Agreements to be concluded will be "Multi-User". A list of the users (participating Purchasers/NGOs) entitled to purchase under the Framework Agreements is provided in the Bidding document.
- The Framework Agreements to be concluded will be "Multi-Supplier."
- The selection of a FA Supplier to be awarded a Call-off Contract will be done through a Secondary Procurement process as defined in Framework Agreement. However, the conclusion of a Framework Agreement shall not impose any obligation on the Procuring Agency, including participating Purchasers, to purchase Goods under a Call-off Contract. The conclusion Framework Agreement does not guarantee that a FA Supplier will be awarded a Call-off Contract.
- National Competitive Bidding** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB as described in the Bidding Documents.
- Bidders may submit Bids for at least 60 numbers of items or more items.
- Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualification should participate in this Bidding.
 - Contractual Experience:** Successful completion as main supplier within the last five (5) years, of at least two (2) contracts total valued at BDT 25 crore with nature and complexity.
 - Technical Experience:** The Bidder shall demonstrate that the goods offered have (i) been in production for at least three (3) years ii) been sold a minimum of 60 items of required medicines and pharmaceuticals over the last three (3) years iii) been in operation for a minimum of five (5) years.

- Average Annual Turnover:** Minimum average annual turnover of BDT 100 crore calculated as total payments received for contracts completed or under execution over the last three (3) years.

The complete eligibility and qualification criteria are described in the Bidding Document.

Eligible Bidders may include a natural person/distributor, private entity or government owned enterprise subject to ITB 4.5 or any combination of them.

- The Primary Procurement shall establish a Closed Framework Agreement(s). The Framework Agreements shall be concluded for a Term of two (2) years and six (6) months from the commencement date stated in the Framework Agreement.
- To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Document, Bidders should contact the address given below.
- To purchase the Bidding Document in English, eligible Bidders should:
 - Visit the Office of the Project Director at the address indicated above between 9:00 and 17:00 hours on working days until 19 October 2020 and pay a non-refundable fee of Bangladesh Taka 5,000.00 (five thousand) by Pay Order or Bank Draft in favour of the "Project Director, UPHCSDP-II" on behalf of the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, for each set of Bidding Documents.
- OR
 - Request for delivery by sending a written application to the address above requesting for the above Bidding Document. The application must include a non-refundable fee of Bangladesh Taka 5,000.00 (five thousand) (domestic delivery) by Pay Order or Bank Draft in favour of the "Project Director, UPHCSDP-II" on behalf of the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, for each set of Bidding Documents.
- The documents may be sent by air mail or courier or may be collected through authorized representatives. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
- The Bidders are advised to deliver their bids:
 - to the address below
 - On or before the deadline 14:00 hours on 22 October 2020.
- Electronic Bidding will not be permitted.
- Bids will be opened at 14:30 hours on 22 October 2020 in the presence of Bidders' representatives or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids shall be rejected.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 hours on 30 September 2020 as mentioned in the bidding document. All prospective bidders are requested to attend. The pre-bid meeting will be held at the address given below.
- The Project will not be responsible for any cost or expense incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation, attending pre-bid meeting, site visits and delivery of bids.
- The Purchaser reserves the right to accept any bid and reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- The address referred to above is as follows:

Attention: **Md. Abdul Hakim Majumder** Ndc, Project Director
Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Additional Financing
Address: Room # 622, Nagar Bhaban, 5, Phoenix Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Telephone: +88-02-9550917
Fax: +88-02-9569124
E-mail: pduphcsdp@gmail.com
Website: www.uphcsdp.gov.bd

GD-1501

BID TO OUST PAK PM Opposition parties launch alliance

PTI, Islamabad

Demanding Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's immediate resignation, the country's major opposition parties have launched an alliance to hold a countrywide protest movement to oust his government.

A 26-point joint resolution was adopted on Sunday night by the All Parties Conference (APC), which was hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and attended by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) and several other parties.

At a joint press conference after the end of the multi-party meeting, JUI-F chief Mualana Fazl ur Rehman read out the resolution and said that the opposition parties have agreed to launch an alliance named Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to organise countrywide protests against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government from October.

The resolution alleged that the Khan government has been granted "fake stability by the same establishment" that interfered with the elections to bring the incumbent rulers to power.

In an obvious reference to the powerful Pakistan Army, the resolution expressed "extreme concern" over the increasing interference of the establishment in the internal affairs of the country and regarded it as a "danger to the nation's stability and institutions".

According to the resolution, the protests would start in phases. In the first phase, the opposition parties will hold joint rallies in all four provinces in October. The second phase will begin in December during which the Opposition will hold huge rallies across the country.

Finally, a "decisive" long march towards Islamabad would start in January next year to oust the government.

The forum also demanded that electoral reforms should be passed in order to ensure free and fair polls.



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) officials rescue a man from the debris after a three-storey residential building collapsed in Bhiwandi on the outskirts of Mumbai, India, yesterday. Inset, a damaged room of the building. At least 13 people were killed and up to 25 are feared trapped after the building collapsed before dawn, officials said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

TOP COURT NOMINATION AMID PARTISAN BATTLE

Trump prepares to push ahead

Says he will announce nominee Friday or Saturday; Biden accuses Republicans of 'abuse of power'

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday prepared to push ahead with plans for his third US Supreme Court nomination, which would cement a 6-3 conservative majority, as some Republicans wavered on whether to support the move weeks ahead of an election.

The death of liberal icon Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg upended the campaign season, giving Trump and his party an opportunity to strengthen its grip on the court whose decisions influence most spheres of American life, from healthcare to gun rights to voting access.

Trump and top Republicans including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also gained a



chance to steer the national discussion away from the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed almost 200,000 Americans and thrown millions out of work.

Democrats accused McConnell of hypocrisy for being eager to usher a Trump nominee to a confirmation vote. In February 2016, he refused to hold a vote for a nominee of

Democratic President Barack Obama following the death of conservative Antonin Scalia, saying it would be inappropriate in an election year.

Trump said in an interview with Fox News yesterday that he wanted to wait until Friday or Saturday to announce his nominee out of respect for Ginsburg.

He said a vote on his Supreme Court nominee should come before the November 3 election.

"The final vote should be taken frankly before the election. We have plenty of time for that."

Trump's rival Biden said in his remarks on Sunday that Trump's effort to push a nomination through the Senate just weeks ahead of the election amounted to "an abuse of political power."



A handout photo taken and released by the Tasmania Police yesterday shows whales stranded on a sandbar in Macquarie Harbour on the rugged west coast of Tasmania. An estimated 250 whales have become stranded in the bay on the Australian island of Tasmania, officials said, with marine experts now mobilising to see if a rescue bid is possible.

PHOTO: AFP

IRAN ARMS SALES Mike Pompeo accuses Europe of inaction

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday said European leaders "haven't lifted a finger" to halt arms sales to Iran after they rejected a unilateral US declaration that UN sanctions on Tehran were back in force.

The administration of President Donald Trump said the sanctions had been re-activated under the "snapback" mechanism in a landmark 2015 nuclear treaty -- despite Washington having withdrawn from the deal.

On Sunday, France, Germany and Britain



issued a joint statement saying Washington's "purported notification" was "incapable of having any legal effect."

Pompeo told Fox News that "arms sales, tanks, air defense systems, all of those, in a couple of weeks, would have been permitted to have been sold."

And the Europeans have not joined us in this.

"They tell us privately we don't want the arms sales to come back... but they haven't lifted a finger."

Pompeo added that "weapons that Iran will sell will end up in the hands of Hezbollah and make life tragically worse for the people of Lebanon", which was rocked last month by a massive port explosion in Beirut.

Richest one percent main climate culprits

Says Oxfam as world remains on pace to warm several degrees this century

AFP, Paris

The richest one percent of people are responsible for more than twice as much carbon pollution as the poorest half of the world's population -- 3.1 billion people -- new research showed yesterday.

Despite a sharp decrease in carbon emissions due to the pandemic, the world remains on pace to warm several degrees this century, threatening poor and developing nations with the full gamut of natural disasters and displacements.

An analysis led by Oxfam showed that between 1990 and 2015, when annual emissions ballooned 60 percent, that rich nations were responsible for depleting nearly a third of Earth's carbon budget.

The carbon budget is the limit of cumulative greenhouse gas emissions mankind may produce before rendering catastrophic temperature rises unavoidable.

Just 63 million people -- the "one percent" -- took up nine percent of the carbon budget since 1990, research conducted for Oxfam by the Stockholm Environment Institute found.

Highlighting an ever-widening "carbon inequality", the analysis said the growth rate of the one percent's emissions was three times that of the poorest half of humanity.

"It's not just that extreme economic inequality is divisive in our societies, it's not just that it slows the rate of poverty reduction," Tim Gore, head of policy, advocacy and research, told AFP.

"But there is also a third cost which is that it depletes the carbon budget solely for the purpose of the already affluent growing their consumption." "And that of course has the worst impacts on the poorest and least responsible," Gore added. The 2015 Paris climate deal commits nations to limit global temperature rise to "well below" two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. But emissions have continued to rise since then, and several analyses have warned that without a thoroughly re-tooled global economy prioritising green growth, the pollutions savings due to Covid-19 will have an insignificant mitigating impact on climate change.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN chief deplores lack of multilateral solutions

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday deplored the lack of multilateral solutions to global challenges as he opened a summit for the world body's 75th anniversary. "No one wants a world government -- but we must work together to improve world governance," Guterres said at the UN General Assembly rostrum ahead of virtual speeches by world leaders. "In an interconnected world, we need a networked multilateralism, in which the United Nations family, international financial institutions, regional organizations, trading blocs and others work together more closely and effectively," Guterres said. "We also need an inclusive multilateralism, drawing on civil society, cities, businesses, local authorities and young people." The summit comes in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic. Some 180 leaders have been invited to offer speeches by video of just up to three minutes.

India, China begin military talks to end Ladakh standoff

India cannot meet China half way in the disengagement process as the country has to maintain troops for the protection of territory, an official source said, as the sixth round of Corps Commander-level talks began yesterday, aimed at ending the five-month-long standoff along the disputed boundary in Ladakh. The talks began around 9:30 am on the Chinese side at Molde, a defence source said. The Indian side was led by Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh, 14 Corps Commander. According to official sources, India's agenda at the talks is that China must withdraw from all friction points,



with timeline for de-induction of mechanised and motorised divisions, and withdrawal of Chinese forces from Depsang to Pangong Tso and free and unhindered access to Indian forces to all patrol points.

Plaque challenging Thai monarchy removed

A 'People's Plaque' installed by protesters near Bangkok's Royal Palace was also "planted in the hearts of the Thai people," activists said yesterday, vowing its removal marked only the beginning of their battle to reform the monarchy. Some 30,000 demonstrators turned out over the weekend, the largest show of force since the near-daily student-led rallies began two months ago. They are demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-cha, a former army chief who masterminded the 2014 coup. Many are also calling for the monarchy to stay out of politics and installed a "People's Plaque" in historic Sanam Luang park near Bangkok's Grand Palace on Sunday morning. By yesterday the plaque had vanished, but demonstrators remained unbowed. The plaque was also "planted in the hearts of the Thai people", prominent activist Parit Chiwarak, told reporters, vowing that protesters would make replicas and install them across the city.

SOURCE: AFP, THE HINDU

'Muting of India continues'

Rahul Gandhi on Rajya Sabha row over suspension of eight opposition members

NDTV ONLINE

The Narendra Modi government's resolution to suspend opposition MPs from the Rajya Sabha over protests over the farm bills was proof that the centre was trying to mute "democratic India", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted yesterday shortly after eight opposition members were suspended from the Upper House.

Eight opposition members including Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s Sanjay Singh, Congress's Rajeev Satav and CPM's KK Ragesh -- were suspended yesterday morning for "unruly behavior" during the passing of controversial agriculture-related bills on Sunday.

Rahul said that the passing of the "black agriculture laws" without addressing the concerns of the farmers raised by the opposition MPs was proof of the endless arrogance of the government.

"Muting Of Democratic India"

continues: by initially silencing and later, suspending MPs in the Parliament and turning a blind eye to farmers' concerns on the black agriculture laws. This 'omniscient' Govt's endless arrogance has brought economic disaster for the entire country," Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Rahul's reference on "silencing" opposition came a day after his party accused Rajya Sabha deputy chairman of seemingly colluding with the ruling BJP for the passage of the two controversial farm bills by parliament.

"Without taking the sense of the house, within a second the deputy chairman went for passing this bill. We didn't see such a practice from any house so far. We didn't understand such a movement from deputy chairman... The fundamental right of a member has been curtailed," Congress Rajya Sabha member KC Venugopal said.

Yesterday morning, the opposition MPs were suspended following a resolution by the government in the Upper House.





The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Police Staff College Bangladesh
Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1206

Call for Admission

Police Staff College Bangladesh invites candidates for admission in **Master of Applied Criminology and Police Management (MACPM)** course for the session of 2019-20 has been extended till October 04, 2020 due to the Covid-19 program.

Eligibility for admission:
Police officers, non-police officers (cadre/non-cadre civil officers, armed forces officers, legal practitioners and other professionals) who can meet the following criteria are eligible for admission:

- Police officers from the rank of Inspector to above who have minimum 2 years work experience and non-police officers who have minimum 3 years work experience are encouraged to apply. Beside this, the candidates must have:
 - Master's degree
 - 4 years Bachelor degree
- Applicants having third class/division in any examination are not eligible to apply.

Application procedure:
Candidates have to apply by the prescribed "Application Form" provided by the Police Staff College Bangladesh. Candidates have to submit the following documents along with the application:

- All the attested academic certificates and Mark sheets from SSC to Bachelor or Master's degree.
- Candidates should submit the main copy of migration certificate those who obtained degrees other than National University.
- The candidates who have foreign university degree must have to submit the equivalent certificates from the appropriate controlling authority.
- The serving (Govt./Non-govt.) candidates have to submit No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the proper controlling authority.
- Police professionals must have to submit the photocopy of Police ID.
- Recent 4 copy of passport size photographs (color).

Admission related information are as follows:

Collection of Application Form	September 6, 2020 to October 04, 2020
Last Date for Application Submission	October 04, 2020
Admission Test	October 10, 2020
Result Publication for Admission	October 12, 2020
Completion of Admission Procedure	October 16, 2020

Application fee: Tk 1000/-
Contact Address:
Director (Academic), Room No. 113 and MACPM Office, Room No. 408, Police Staff College Bangladesh, Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206, Mobile: 01769691897, 01769691898, 01710523873, 01718716085 Email: macpm.psc@gmail.com, Website: www.psc.gov.bd

Director (Academic)
Police Staff College Bangladesh

GD-1497

LAW WATCH

Rethinking the use of paper in the judiciary

Md KHADEMUL ISLAM CHOYON

SIZE does matter when it comes to paper, particularly in legal works and court proceedings. For instance, Rule 7, Chapter IV of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh (High Court Division) Rules, 1973 (the "Rules of 1973"), clearly states that every application shall be neatly and legibly typed/printed on stout paper of foolscap size with a margin of 2 inches and shall contain about 20 lines in each full page and the application shall be divided into paragraphs and numbered consecutively; and unless otherwise directed by the Rules of 1973, all such applications may be typed/printed only on one side of the paper.

To comply with this Rule, in almost all cases, advocates file applications, petitions, affidavits etc. in what is popularly known as a legal size paper, measuring approximately 8.5-inch x 14 inches and the same is typed and printed only on one side of legal size papers (though the Rules of 1973 mandates foolscap size papers). Likewise, it is also seen that currently, most judicial and quasi-judicial bodies of Bangladesh use legal size papers for pleadings and other documentation. If comparison is made, it seems that the size of the legal paper is half-inch wider than the foolscap paper and half-inch lengthier. Because of the similarity of the size of these two papers and the availability of legal size papers, people tend to use legal size papers instead of foolscap size papers.

On the other hand, in the governmental offices, an indefinite combination of both legal size papers and A4 size papers (measuring approximately 8.27-inch x 11.69 inches), are used whereas the private sector is mainly dependent on A4 size papers. In

many instances, the arbitral tribunals accept petitions in A4 size papers. This gives rise to a disorganised situation in the country as far as the use of the paper is concerned.

Another aspect of the use of legal size paper is that the Supreme Court of Bangladesh (the "SCB") publishes thousands of paper-based cause list every day. It was reported in 2016 by an online newspaper that the SCB spends about BDT 21 crore every year for publishing the printed cause list and has to allocate manpower and transports to carry around 2,600 copies of printed cause list every day. A copy of the cause list contains roughly 400 to 500 pages. For all the printing, almost 65 middle-sized trees are being cut every day. The above numbers, of course, have increased in 2020. This means that the higher judiciary of Bangladesh remains an intensely paper-based system though an effort was made in 2016 to abolish the long-standing custom of using a paper-based cause list and the SCB wanted to go fully online as far as publishing the cause list was concerned. However, that effort failed due to various reasons.

A well-functioning judiciary is a crucial determinant of a country's overall performance. It is widely understood that the judiciary's effectiveness in enforcing the rule of law would not only be conducive to trade, financing, and investment but would also promote social peace and trust. In this way, the SCB has pronounced numerous judgments in favour of the rights of the environment and for the conservation of the same. In the case of *Dr. Mohiuddin Farooque vs. Bangladesh &ors.*, 17 BLD (AD) 1, the Appellate Division states, *inter alia*, that any act or omission contrary to the protection and conservation of environment

will be violative of the 'right to life'. The right to life has been guaranteed as fundamental right under the Constitution of Bangladesh. Furthermore, it is worthy of mentioning that the essence of Article 18A of the Constitution of Bangladesh is 'conservation of environment' which include protection and improvement of environment for the present and future citizens.

The courts of Bangladesh are engaging new technologies in order to build a more efficient judiciary. The government, as part of its vision to establish a 'Digital Bangladesh', is moving ahead with a plan to apply information and communication technology in the judicial system to improve the legal services. The law ministry has undertaken an e-judiciary project worth thousands of crores for digitalising the judiciary. An example of which is the introduction of virtual courts in recent times.

With all these advancements, it is deemed

A small change in our daily judicial habits could help improve the future. We can save the environment as well as benefit financially by reducing paper consumption. If we start using less papers, we will reduce paper purchase costs as well as printing costs.

that we can get rid of the "colonial legacy" of using legal size papers and start using only A4 size papers in all aspects of our judicial life. The same can be printed on both sides by leaving lesser margin area as well. A small change in our daily judicial habits could help improve the future. We can save the environment as well as benefit financially by reducing paper consumption. If we start using less papers, we will reduce paper purchase costs as well as printing costs. The cost difference and the financial burden between the two paper sizes are arguably almost double. If photocopying legal size papers cost BDT 1 crore of the tax payers' money per year, we may save half of that money by using A4 size papers.

In the very recent time, the Supreme Court of India has allowed documents to be filed by printing on both sides of A4 papers. A circular stating the same was issued on 13 February 2020. Until recently, their practice was to print legal size paper on only one side. The decision to opt for double-sided court documents was taken in environmental interest.

As the world is racing forward by being welcoming and adapting to new methods and technologies, we should not fall behind and it may be quite troublesome for us if we stay reluctant towards embracing changes. Thus, it is quite clear that the judiciary has a role to play in this regard as part of its continuing role of conserving the environment. We hope, one day this will take us to the destination of the paperless judicial system.

THE WRITER IS AN ADVOCATE AND ASSOCIATE OF SATTAR&CO.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Achieving equal pay is an important milestone for human rights



INTERNATIONAL Equal Pay Day, celebrated for the first time this year last September 18, is a manifestation of the longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations commitment to human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of sex.

Across all regions, women are paid less than men, with the gender pay gap estimated at 23 per cent globally. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls continues to be held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women's and girls' capabilities. Progress on narrowing that gap has been slow. While equal pay for men and women has been widely endorsed, applying it in practice has been difficult.

With a view to ensuring that no one is left behind, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Furthermore, the SDGs promote decent work and economic growth by seeking full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. Mainstreaming of a gender perspective is crucial in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Achieving equal pay is an important milestone for human rights and gender equality. It takes the effort of the entire world community and more work remains to be done. The United Nations, including UN Women and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) invites Members states and civil society, women's and community-based organisations and feminist groups, as well as businesses and workers' and employers' organisations, to promote equal pay for work of equal value and the economic empowerment of women and girls.

On the occasion of observing international equal pay day, the UN Secretary-General sent out a message, noting rightly that equal pay is essential not only for women, but to build a world of dignity and justice for all. He mentioned, "around the world, despite decades of activism, and dozens of laws on equal pay, women still earn less than 80 cents for every dollar men do. For women with children, women of colour, women refugees and migrants, and women with disabilities, that figure is even lower" he added.

COMPILED BY LAW DESK (UN.ORG).



YOUR ADVOCATE

The procedure of changing trademarks



This week Your Advocate is Barrister Omar Khan Joy, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He is the head of the chambers of a renowned law firm, namely, 'Legal Counsel', which has expertise mainly in commercial law, family law, employment law, land law, banking law, constitutional law, criminal law, and IPR.

Query

I am the owner of a private limited company and I have applied and being granted trademark registration for the logo of my business in the year 2015. However, recently, due to changes in the product types, lines and the overall strategy of the business, I have decided to change the logo of my business. In this situation, I would like to know how to change the logo of my business which is already registered.

Regards,
Enamul Rahman, Dhaka.

Response

Thank you for your query. I am willing to extend my heartfelt regards to you because of the very fact that you have already registered your trademark in 2015! It is crucially important that every entrepreneur realise the immense value of their trademarks and accordingly protect the same by registration like the way you did. In this competitive era, businesses, at times, may feel that their logo is out of date and in need of modification. Accordingly, they decide to redesign their logos by adding new designs, additional words with the view to giving a modern look to the logo and allowing people to identify the goods/services offered under the mark in a better way. For your query, certain legal provisions laid down in the Trademarks Act 2009 and Trademark Rules 2015 are relevant.

To start with, the ambit of the change to the logo needs to be identified. Changes may be small, such as rearranging the old logo elements, updating the letterings and not adding or eliminating any major element on the design. Changes may also be made in the name,

address of the registered proprietor, strike out class(es) of goods, consequential amendment or alteration, cancel the entry of a trademark on the Register, etc. Such changes are usually regarded as minor and can be altered by making an application for modifying the already registered mark. As per section 53, 54 of Trademarks Act 2009 and Rule 48 of Trademark Rules 2015, you may simply apply using the relevant TM form for changing for leave to add to or alter the trademark in any manner not substantially affecting the identity or changing the class(es). The Registrar may then cause the applied mark to be advertised, allow oppositions, hearings to be made and dispose of the matter accordingly. As a result, the old/existing registered mark will be altered into the new one.

The procedure is not same where the change is not minor but a significant one. Where your new logo substantially affects the identity of the logo and materially alters the character of the existing mark, then a new Trademark Application has to be made. Your old logo shall remain

registered, so long as the renewal fees are duly paid and the mark is not taken off from the Trademarks Register by the Registrar for any reason. For obtaining protection of your new logo, you shall have to make a fresh application and submit it to the Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT). If your business logo is substantially altered in terms of outlook/appearance and color, having little or no similarities with the previous logo, it is suggested that you make a new Trademark Application. Therefore, you are advised to take the appropriate step after determining the ambit of the change in your business logo.



LAW ANALYSIS

Recognition of One Person Company in Bangladesh

TAHSEEN LUBABA

THE COVID-19 pandemic has created both challenges and opportunities for Bangladesh in terms of commerce and investments. The government has accordingly undertaken some praiseworthy initiatives to facilitate businesses in the past months. Recently, an amendment to the Companies Act 1994 has been proposed with a view to including One Person Companies (OPCs) within its ambit.

The amendment defines a 'one person company' as a company that only has one natural person as its shareholder. As per the newly added section 11A(c), such one person companies must include the words One Person Company or OPC at the end of their names.

The proposed amendment inserts a separate chapter regarding the registration and management of OPCs. As per the newly inserted section 32B, any natural person may incorporate an OPC for any lawful object by signing his/her name into the memorandum as the shareholder. The section also states that one natural person may only incorporate one OPC. The memorandum shall also contain the name of a nominee, who, upon the death or incapacity of the shareholder, shall be deemed to be the shareholder of the company. The nominee may withdraw his consent to be listed as such through prescribed method, and may also be replaced by the shareholder upon death or incapacity.

According to section 32C, the

OPC must have a minimum paid-up capital of BDT 50 lakh but not more than BDT 10 crore, and an annual turnover of at least BDT 2 crore but not more than BDT 100 crore in the previous financial year. In case the OPC exceeds these upper limits, they may be registered as private or public limited companies upon fulfillment of the specified requirements.

The chapter also states that the sole shareholder of the OPC shall be its director. The director may appoint the manager, secretary and other employees as necessary. The director of the OPC shall conduct at least one meeting in a financial year.

In case of any changes brought to the memorandum of the OPC, the Registrar must be notified as per the specified procedure. The OPC must submit its balance sheet and financial records within 180 days of the end of a financial year along with the necessary documents to the Registrar.

The audit and winding up of the OPC shall be done in the same procedure as done under the pre-existing provisions. In case of transfer of shares, the amendment states that the share may only be transferred to another natural person.

The inclusion of OPC in the Companies Act 1994 is an appreciable step as it extends the protections enjoyed by corporations to sole proprietorships. For example, while a sole proprietorship entails personal liability, OPC may allow for limited liability through the creation of a separate legal entity. The concept has been popular in other countries. India also incorporated

OPC in its Companies Act a few years ago. However, while the Indian amendment included OPCs under private limited companies, the Bangladeshi amendment purports to create a separate set of rules for OPCs.

Moreover, while the Indian law sets the minimum paid-up capital for OPC at Rs. 1 lakh and maximum at Rs. 50 lakh, the Bangladeshi Act sets the same at BDT 50 lakh and BDT 10 crore respectively. This limit may arguably exclude smaller business undertakings from the advantage of the recent amendment.

Another point of concern is the implication this amendment shall have on foreign investments. The government has lately been making significant effort in improving its rank in the World Bank's ease of doing business index. The inclusion of OPC is therefore expected to make the legal system of Bangladesh friendlier to foreign investors. However, the inclusion of the requirement for a 'natural person' as a shareholder may mean that foreign investors that invest through a parent company by incorporating a subsidiary company in host countries shall not benefit from the proposed additions.

Overall, the recognition of OPCs has been welcomed as a positive development. Earlier this year, the Parliament passed an amendment to the Companies Act which withdrew the provision that made it mandatory for companies to have a seal in order to be registered with the aim of improving ease of doing business.

THE WRITER WORKS WITH LAW DESK, THE DAILY STAR.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2020, ASHWIN 7, 1427 BS

PM warns of second wave in winter

We can't afford to make the same mistakes twice

ON Sunday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina warned that the Covid-19 situation will likely deteriorate in the upcoming winter, and urged all involved to prepare for another outbreak in wintertime. Experts around the world have predicted that winter will exacerbate the spread of Covid-19, and there are widespread fears—and evidence to support such fears—that the second wave will be even worse than the first. Europe is already in the middle of a second wave as it moves into winter, after having brought down the number of infections and deaths in the first wave, and daily case numbers in the EU have reached record highs of more than 45,000 on a 14-day notification rate, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). If these numbers and predictions say anything at all, it's that there's no room for complacency, as we prepare for what promises to be a drawn-out battle.

Unfortunately, the government's response from the beginning of the pandemic has been one of denial, at worst, and complacency, at best. Over the past months, we have relaxed most Covid-19 measures, including allowing transport to operate at full capacity, despite the fact that our positivity rate remains well above the global average and that of our neighbouring countries, including India and Pakistan. Worse still, we have reduced the number of tests in the country and made them inaccessible to the masses by slapping a fee on them. The Covid-19 testing expansion policy is still in its draft stages, after months of negotiations between different departments of the health ministry. Meanwhile, there are talks of reopening schools in the immediate future, amidst fears that implementing safety measures proposed by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education will simply not be possible in a vast majority of educational institutions in the country.

Less than a month ago, the health minister himself said that "Bangladesh will be coronavirus-free very soon" and added that he didn't think "we'll even need vaccines." Comments such as this, coupled with contradicting measures from the government, have confused the public as well, who are no longer taking the precautions that they ought to as they engage in social and economic activities and risk increasing the rate of community transmission.

Under the circumstances, the prime minister's warning should be taken with the utmost seriousness by policymakers and the public. We need to revisit the shortcomings of our healthcare system and prepare it for a second outbreak, checking corruption at every stage and learning from past mistakes. We need to prepare now if we are to mitigate the repercussions of another outbreak as well as another economic decline.

We failed to take advantage of early warnings the first time around; we cannot afford to do the same if a second wave comes.

Hillocks ravaged in Sylhet under the guise of night

Officials must not turn a blind eye

A recent report published in this daily sheds light on the serious environmental disaster brewing across Sylhet. In order to meet the high demand for flat land in the race for urbanisation, hillock cutting runs rampant, despite the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 (amended 2010), which strictly prohibits the cutting or razing of any types of hills and hillocks by any individual or institution. Moreover, the High Court had banned cutting of any types of hillock in Sylhet. Yet, in order to meet the mounting demand for plain land, hillock owners task contractors to raze down the hills, which usually takes place in the dead of the night to avoid attention.

Although there are dedicated government officials to keep vigilance over such matters, one can only imagine why they turn a blind eye to such illegal activities. What's more shocking is that during one incident, the excavator of Sylhet City Corporation was used to cut the hillock by the brother of a councillor, who was later fined. Although DoE conducts drives now and then, they just end up fining the culprits. Such fines only serve as a mild reprimand, as the "profits" made—prices of the land increase by four to five times—far surpass the fine. Fines are simply not enough. Why aren't the actual owners being arrested? They must be punished in an exemplary manner for defying the laws set forth.

Too much damage has been done already. The authorities have been silent for too long. They need to come out of their slumber and hold those responsible to account, unless we are to believe that they, too, are complicit in these crimes.

The above incident highlights the audacity of the owners and their cohorts in carrying out such crimes with impunity. In order to keep the remaining hillocks from being razed, the laws must be implemented thoroughly and authorities concerned should strictly monitor the areas to ensure they are protected at all times from being razed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Take action against syndicates

Capitalising on the demand of the general consumer and increasing the price by reducing the supply of goods in the market in the hope of extra profits has been going on for a long time. Even in the early stages of lockdown, low quality products were being sold at high prices.

Unscrupulous traders are able to destabilise the market like this due to the absence of regular supervision. Although much has been said about getting rid of the syndicates, so far, we have not seen any meaningful results. Unless the government takes stern action against such corrupt traders, their illegal activities will not stop.

Abu Faruk, Bandarban

As the pandemic continues, the rich are getting richer



ABU AFSARUL HAIDER

of earning and have become jobless, billionaires are getting richer than ever before.

According to a report published by the Washington-based think tank, Institute for Policy Studies and Clearwater, in the United States (US), 40 million Americans filed for unemployment during the pandemic, but billionaires have become richer to the tune of USD 565 billion in three months since March. The report further revealed that, from March to June 2020, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos saw his wealth rise by an estimated USD 48 billion. Eric Yuan, the founder of the video-conferencing platform Zoom, has amassed a fortune of over USD 17 billion, and former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer's net worth increased by USD 15.7 billion. The wealth of Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook has also been growing and he became USD 9.1 billion richer this year.

It's not just only in the United States, we see the same trend pretty much everywhere. Take, for example, China. While its economy has shrunk by 6.8 percent in the first quarter of 2020 compared to a year earlier, some Chinese billionaires saw their wealth rising during the pandemic. Wang Xing, who co-chairs

Meituan Dianping, one of the world's largest on-demand delivery services, saw his wealth grow by USD 11.6 billion since the beginning of 2020. Pony Ma, founder and CEO of Tencent, saw his wealth jump from USD 6.8 billion to USD 46.4 billion, Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba, recorded a USD 3 billion rise in wealth and Pang Kang, chairman of Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co., recorded a rise of USD 11.7 billion during the pandemic. Similarly, while about 84 percent of Indian households lost their jobs or incomes, and millions were pushed back into poverty, billionaires like Mukesh Ambani, chairman of the Reliance group, Dilip Shanghvi of Sun Pharma, Reddy family of Dr Reddy's Laboratories, PV Ramprasad Reddy of Aurobindo Pharma, Murali K Divi of Divi's Laboratories, YK Hamied of Cipla etc. have doubled their net worth during the pandemic.

Now, one of the most perplexing question most people ask is at a time of

governments by donating huge amounts of money to political campaigns, to office holders and political candidates. By controlling governments, they shape policies and agendas to better support their own interests and their investors. Unfortunately, they are the ones who control every facet of our lives and are setting the rules of the world that we live in.

Take, for instance, in this global crisis, governments around the world have offered various stimulus packages worth billions of dollars to save the people and businesses, but if you take a closer look, you can actually see that most of the money has disproportionately gone to the wealthiest corporations and individuals. For example, in United States, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, enacted in late March 2020, announced USD 2.3 trillion dollar aid package to assist households and

highly. The stock market is another reason why the richest Americans accumulate wealth very quickly.

There isn't any data available yet to show who became rich during the pandemic in Bangladesh, but I will give you a clue. On March 2020, the main index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange was below 4,000 points. It has since bounced back due to some good measures taken by the authorities and as of September 17, 2020 DSEX index closed at 5,104 points. Meanwhile share prices of some companies almost doubled in the last three months.

It is now widely believed that the burdens of the pandemic have fallen to a greater extent on people at the low end of the income spectrum and is contributing to further widening of the income inequality between the richest and the poorest in many parts of the world. According to the latest Oxfam report, the world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 percent of the planet's population. Oxfam's report added another shocking statistic. The report claims that the world's billionaires are growing USD 2.5 billion richer every day, while the poorest half of the population are seeing their net worth dwindle.

Rebecca Gowland, Oxfam Head of Inequality Campaign and Policy, said: "The fact that the world's richest billionaires are massively increasing their wealth at a time when millions are facing hardship, is evidence of a broken economy. It is unconscionable that a handful of super-rich men are stockpiling wealth while millions of people around the world are losing their jobs, struggling to put food on the table and are living in fear of destitution."

"Extreme inequality was already trapping millions of people around the world in poverty and now half a billion more people could be pushed into poverty due to the pandemic." Gowland added: "If we are to rebuild a fairer world, one which doesn't continue to just reward rich men, governments need to tax wealth fairly and crack down on tax havens and loopholes that cost both rich and poor countries countless billions in tax revenue every year."

Therefore, world leaders must control inequality, not because the rich have much more than the poor, but because if this trend continues, citizens can lose confidence in institutions that can destroy moral conscience and fracture social fabric, which in turn, destabilise political systems and hinder the functioning of democracy.

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World leaders must control inequality, not because the rich have much more than the poor, but because if this trend continues, citizens can lose confidence in institutions that can destroy moral conscience and fracture social fabric.

enormous economic pain and suffering, and despite businesses being shut and the economy slowing down, how are the rich getting richer? Before answering it, let me make one thing very clear, the "rich getting richer" is not an anomaly, but rather a long-term trend of the capitalist economy, where the rich have the most advantageous position. And the pandemic has accelerated that trend and helped further boost the fortunes of some billionaires. It is true, because of dramatic shifts in consumer behaviour due to the global pandemic, some companies specialising in tech, food delivery, online grocery shopping, etc., have seen soaring revenue growth. But there is more to it than.

Today, most countries of the world are ruled by a system called "Corporatocracy". Under this system, only a handful of super-powerful corporations and big companies have become the dominant force that essentially controls

employers of all sizes. But different media reports suggest that over half of this aid package was acquired by big businesses. The report also confirms that there are a series of provisions in the act which provide vastly bigger benefits to the rich, to corporations and to a handful of ultra-rich people.

Today, the global economic system is rigged in favour of the rich and big corporations who have an absolute advantage over common people. While millions have lost their jobs and thousands are suffering daily, they have taken advantage of the pandemic to increase their wealth and power. In the US, the Federal Reserve's data shows that the wealthiest top 10 percent of American households own about 84 percent of all US stocks. After an initial crash in the early stages of the pandemic, rallying on promises of assistance from the Federal Reserve, the markets quickly rebounded and are now hovering at close to record

PROJECT SYNDICATE

India's Silenced Parliament



SHASHI THAROOR

to account.

Parliament is obliged to meet now, because India's constitution limits the gap between sessions to six months, and the Covid-19 pandemic has forced all sessions to be suspended since March. With 4.5 million cases to date, India is now the world's second worst-affected country, surpassing Brazil and Russia and behind only the United States.

Moreover, infection rates are rising, especially in rural areas where testing had not been adequately extended earlier. Fortunately, the Covid-19 mortality rate remains relatively low, at 55 per million people, representing just 1 percent of deaths from all causes.

But if lives have not ended, livelihoods have, owing to draconian but ineffective lockdowns introduced in March. GDP collapsed by 23.9 percent year on year in April-June, making India the world's worst-performing major economy. Unemployment is rife—some 21 million salaried jobs have been lost during the pandemic, and millions more in the informal sector, especially among day laborers, who are now unable to make ends meet. Small and micro enterprises are being shuttered throughout the country. And the millions of migrant workers who trudged home in despair during the lockdown have found themselves no better off in their home villages' stagnant economies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government seems utterly helpless to stop the economic meltdown, as if paralysed by the plummeting indicators in every sector. A much-hyped fiscal stimulus turned out to be less than one-tenth of the size that Modi had claimed, and failed to alleviate nationwide distress. The budget adopted just before the lockdowns is in tatters, its every assumption rendered irrelevant.

As if all this weren't bad enough, a major crisis has erupted on the country's disputed border with China, where 20 Indian soldiers were brutally killed in June in the icy Himalayan heights of Ladakh. Talk of disengagement has failed to translate into withdrawals, and both sides have sent reinforcements to the tenuous Line of Actual Control that divides their forces. This week, the two countries' foreign ministers announced a new agreement to disengage, although it remains to be seen whether this will be

cramped chambers, with MPs distributed throughout the upper and lower houses and the visitors' galleries.

As a result, the two houses will take turns meeting for a half-day each in sessions lasting four hours instead of the usual six, and on all seven days of the week rather than the traditional five. Worse, the government and the presiding officers have decided that, given the shorter sessions, they will dispense with Question Hour, the only opportunity for MPs to demand unscripted answers from

news media, far from interrogating the government's performance, has recently been fixated on the lurid details of a Bollywood actor's suicide and the conspiracy theories swirling around it.

In the meantime, the government stumbles on and tries to mask its ineptitude with a variety of public-relations stunts, including a bizarre recent photoshoot of Modi feeding peacocks in his garden. The official response to failure is denial, as with Modi's recent claim that India had lost no territory to China, despite satellite pictures and evidence on the ground that clearly indicate otherwise.

China has gleefully seized on this statement to deny that it has encroached on over a thousand square kilometres (386 square miles) of land. China's leaders are not the first to realise that they can get away with anything with this Indian government, as long as Modi can claim victory at home.

Parliament therefore has a vital job on its hands, but many MPs fear that it will be unable to do it. The government will use its crushing majority to pass the bills it wants, particularly those converting a dozen ordinances or executive orders issued during the last six months into law, while sidestepping debate on the issues that matter.

The government's tendency to use its parliamentary majority as a rubber stamp was already apparent in previous sessions. And this session could be cut short at any sign of Covid-19—one MP has died from it since March.

The visible measures necessitated by the pandemic—face masks, greater distance between MPs, and plastic partition screens—may not be all that is different about this parliamentary session. I fear that our democracy's highest legislative body will be reduced to a noticeboard for government decisions. There is a genuine risk that while India will honour the outward forms of parliamentary process, the spirit of debate, discussion, disagreement, and deliberation will be missing.

Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under-secretary-general and former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Human Resource Development, is an MP for the Indian National Congress.

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(Exclusive to The Daily Star)



A photo from March 3, 2020, shows Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (centre) and other politicians during a BJP parliamentary committee meeting at the Parliament House in New Delhi.

PHOTO: AFP

realised. Meanwhile, Pakistan has stepped up its cross-border militancy in Kashmir, which is seething with unrest following last year's clampdown by Modi's government. Many increasingly fear that India may be facing a two-front war before the year is out.

All this should normally make for a lively parliamentary session. But the legislature will itself meet in abnormal and straitened circumstances, reflected in the extraordinary measures announced in advance of the session. No MP may enter the premises without a Covid-negative certificate from a test administered within three days of the session. Inside, social distancing will apply in the usually

ministers on a variety of subjects. (In response to the outcry, the government has agreed to accept written questions two weeks in advance, to which ministers will provide written answers.)

Suspending Question Hour is typical of a government that abhors being questioned. Modi has not held a single press conference in India in his six years in office, and is notorious for granting interviews only when the questions are pre-approved. Protesters questioning the government in the streets are charged with sedition, and critics are denounced as anti-national. A prominent lawyer who tweeted his objections to recent Supreme Court decisions was convicted of criminal contempt. And the mainstream

How many Kulsums have to die!

SHARIFUL HASAN

ACCORDING to her primary education certificate, Umme Kulsum was only 14-years-old. But to send her to Saudi Arabia as a domestic worker, her passport falsely portrayed her as 25—since that is the minimum age for women to go as labour workers to Saudi Arabia. But the dream that the middleman had sold to Kulsum's family was broken within a year and a half when she returned to her family as a corpse.

Kulsum died on August 9 this year while undergoing treatment at the King Faisal Hospital in Saudi Arabia. Her lifeless body arrived in the country on September 12. The family claimed that her employer and his son had beaten Kulsum, breaking her legs and arms, as well as injuring her waist. Her eye was also damaged. Merciless as they were, she was left on the street in this miserable condition. Later, Saudi police rescued her and took her to the hospital where she died after a few months.

Kulsum is the daughter of Shahidul Islam and Nasima Begum of Nurpur village in Gokarna union of Nasirnagar Upazila of Brahmanbaria. In 2017, Kulsum sat for her final examination of primary education from Nurpur Lahajura Government Primary School. According to the certificate, her date of birth is December 24, 2006. The family also confirmed that the girl was born in 2006. But the date of birth mentioned in her passport is March 13, 1993.

Her family is saying that the agency and the broker made the passport using the birth certificate issued by the chairman of the local union council which mentions her year of birth as 1993.

The family also mentioned that on April 7, 2018, Kulsum was sent to Saudi Arabia by the agency MH Trade International of Fakirapal, with the help of local middleman Razzak. But after moving there, the employer used to physically abuse the teenaged Kulsum. The family informed the local broker Razzak, but he did not take any action. Even the police weren't helpful when the family visited them again and again for assistance.

On August 18, the family lodged a complaint to the Director-General of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) in Dhaka. In the complaint,

the family claimed that Kulsum was a victim of physical and mental abuse. The agency did not respond to the repeated calls to bring her back to her family. One day, the family received the news that her employer and his son had beaten her in April, breaking her legs, arms and waist, leaving her on the street with one eye damaged. Three months later, on August 9, Kulsum died at King Faisal Hospital in Saudi Arabia. The family requested that her body be sent back home.

Kulsum's family finally got to see her on September 12, but as a lifeless body. The anticipation of her parents of meeting their daughter after so long turned into a pit of sorrow. Their wait was finally over but their tears will continue to be shed, remembering their lively, smiling daughter, Kulsum.

Kulsum's mother Nasima Begum told the media in a teary voice that they were informed one afternoon during Ramadan over the phone that the girl was in the hospital. They then learned that the owner had beaten her for not agreeing to his inappropriate advances. They last talked to Kulsum while she was in the hospital the day after Eid-ul-Adha. Unfortunately, Kulsum could not recognise anyone in the family or respond to anyone's queries.

After the news of Kulsum was published in the media, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two people, including the recruiting agency owner from Dhaka's Fakirapal area in connection with the death of Kulsum. The police said, even though the minimum legal age for a female migrant worker was 25, the agency hid her age and sent her to work abroad. Hence, they will file a charge against the agency for human trafficking, under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, for knowingly sending a minor girl to be exploited. But what will happen to the Saudi employers? Will they remain out of reach?

Of course, Kulsum is not the only one! According to the Expatriate Welfare Desk at the airport, 410 women who went to work in different countries in the last four years from 2016 to 2019 have returned home in a shroud. Among them, 153 women lost their lives in Saudi Arabia alone. In addition, 64 died in Jordan, 52 in Lebanon, 36 in Oman, 23 in Dubai, 20 in Kuwait and 60 in other countries.

Out of these 410 people, 67 have died by suicide. In Saudi Arabia alone, 39 people died by suicide. In addition to the suicides, 69 women have died in accidents in the last four years of whom 29 have died in Saudi Arabia.

Families say every death is a mystery. Begum is only an example. She went to Saudi Arabia in April 2019 through a recruiting agency. But no one knows the mystery of her death in Egypt.

According to the Bangladesh embassy in Egypt, a female domestic worker named Mosammat Begum died after falling from the rooftop of a five-storey building on May 29,

is around three lakh, went to Saudi Arabia. To evade poverty and unemployment, many women migrate to the Middle East, especially to Saudi Arabia. Many of them returned because of reasons like physical torture, sexual abuse, and irregularities in the payment of their wages.

Although there is no actual report of how many women have come back from KSA, according to the embassy and various media reports of the last five years, the number is more than 10,000. Many more are reportedly waiting to return at the safe homes and immigration camps in KSA with already

Ministry of Labour arrived in Dhaka, where Bangladesh signed an agreement to send women. After that agreement, 21,000 women workers went in 2015, 68,000 in 2016, 83,000 in 2017, 83,000 in 2018 and in 2019, it was 72,000. How were they doing in Saudi Arabia? Just listen to these stories...

A woman from Kurigram went to Saudi Arabia in the hope of prosperity for her family and was raped by her employer and became pregnant. She later fled to the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh to save her life. She eventually came back to the country two months later.

On her return, a woman from North Badda in Dhaka said that the men of the house where she worked used to physically abuse and sexually harass her. When she protested, her hair was pulled out. A girl from Manikganj said she used to work in the Bani Yasar area of Saudi Arabia. She jumped from the rooftop of the four-storey house due to torture. Later, she found herself in the ICU of a hospital. A woman from Cumilla was tortured and needed 14 stitches on her head.

Last year, Sumi Akhter's video from Saudi Arabia went viral, urging and pleading everyone to save her life. She was later rescued and brought back to the country.

Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) sent a report to the parliamentary standing committee in August last year. The report said that they had talked to about 110 female domestic workers who returned from Saudi Arabia and 35 percent of them returned home after being physically and sexually abused. Forty-four percent of these women were not paid regularly.

Sometimes officials say that 300,000 women went to Saudi Arabia and less than 10,000 returned which is not a big percentage. The rest must be living in better conditions. But that is unknown to us. And the fact remains that more than 153 women have died. Why has there been no justice even in a single case? Why hasn't a single perpetrator been punished? Isn't there any value of Kulsum's life? How many more Kulsums need to die to get justice and stop this culture of modern-day slavery?

Shariful Hasan is a freelance journalist.



2019. Begum's husband Abdul Aziz said he had learned through the union chairman a few days ago that someone called Begum had died in Egypt. But he did not take the matter seriously as his wife was in Saudi Arabia. It was after he got a call from Egypt that he realised it was his wife who had died.

The mystery behind her death was never revealed. But the families who lose their daughters know the pain and that it has no end.

Of course, those who die somehow get saved in one sense, but those who survive have no end to their misery.

According to the BMET, more than eight lakh women went abroad between 1991 to 2019. Of these, the largest number, which

shattered hopes. According to media reports, women from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka who went to Saudi Arabia to work as domestic workers were also subjected to physical and mental abuse. While these countries stopped sending their women as domestic workers, the country became interested in taking female domestic workers from Bangladesh in 2010.

Saudi Arabia said if Bangladesh doesn't send women, they will not open the labour market for men, which was closed from 2009 to 2015.

In 2015, Bangladesh agreed to send women as workers and on February 2015, a 19-member delegation led by Deputy Minister Ahmed Al Fahad of the Saudi

What if a 7.9 Richter-scale earthquake hit Dhaka?

This is a fictional article based on historical facts and analysis

THE GRUDGING URBANIST



ADNAN ZILLUR MORSHED

THE runway of Dhaka's international airport was torn asunder along the axis. The damage forced all international flights—carrying emergency medical supplies, food, temporary shelters, and heavy-duty rescue machines—to divert to Chittagong and Sylhet. Large cargo helicopters like Chinook airlifted emergency aid to makeshift sites in and around Dhaka. Local and international aid workers laboured round the clock to bring help to as many Dhakaites as possible. But time was running out, as over 2 million people desperately waited for urgent medical care all across the city.

A temporary shelter was created along the entire length of Manik Mia Avenue, where nearly 400,000 people huddled under tarpaulin tents. Yards away from there, a forlorn government official at an emergency kiosk intently listened to a radio. A sombre voice on BBC spoke: "Two days ago the Bangladesh capital Dhaka and its surrounding areas were hit by a seismic Armageddon of magnitude 8.2 on the Madhupur fault. The devastation is incalculable."

CNN reporter Jordan Fitzgerald, along with his local journalist colleague, Raihan Adil, scoured the city by foot, bicycle, and motorbike for a glimpse into what was one of the most devastating earthquakes in modern times.

There were collapsed buildings everywhere, debris-strewn and split city arteries, and decomposing human bodies, making the city unnavigable. Shell-shocked homeless

people squatted on the streets, wailing and crying out for help. The quiet of the city was occasionally perturbed by the shrill siren of ambulances and the thudding noise of drilling machines, trying to reach the dark womb of flattened buildings in search of survivors.

Raihan Adil and Jordan Fitzgerald furiously pedalled their bicycles on their way to old Dhaka, one of the gruesome epicentres of the wreckage. It has been reported that almost 80 percent of old Dhaka's buildings have been levelled. Worse still, the old city's narrow, crooked streets remained mostly inaccessible to any rescue efforts, and injured people perished without any medical help.

Still numb from the jolt 48 hours ago, Raihan dolefully asked his CNN colleague, "Jordan, do you have the latest number of people killed?"

"Well, I only have an unofficial CNN estimate. Approximately 570,000 people have been reported dead or missing so far. Do you know that this is more than the combined human casualty in the two deadliest modern-era earthquakes? The 7.5 quake near Beijing in 1976 killed 240,000. The one in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 2010, had a lower magnitude of 7.0, but it took the lives of about 316,000 people."

"You can never predict things accurately about earthquakes because they are Mother Nature's sheer eccentricities!"

Raihan agreed, "That's true. But I keep thinking about the 1897 Great Assam Earthquake, eight years before the Bengal Partition that put East Bengal and Assam together. That quake had a higher magnitude of 8.7, but it claimed only 1,626 lives."

"Well, you are talking about a region more than a century earlier. But it is a radically different scenario now. The population has increased manifold. Built-up areas spread like an octopus. The rapid urbanisation of mostly

agrarian societies resulted in poorly planned cities, crammed with people and shoddy buildings."

"Yes, you are right. It is now a totally different urban geography. In 1900, Dhaka's population was only a little over 100,000. In 1961, it was around 500,000. Even when the country became independent, Dhaka was a city still with a rural flavour, marked by a sparse population. But within three decades or so the city became a megalopolis, competing with Tokyo, Mexico City, Mumbai, and Karachi! But look at it now. It is like a ghost city. It's worse than a nightmare... But, you know, I saw it all coming..."

Surprised, Jordan asked "How? What do you mean?"

"The city grew too fast too soon and, sadly, there has been very little planning for the seismic menace in Bangladesh. True, earthquakes are one of nature's compositional irrationalities, inexplicably embedded in the DNA of the planet. You can't prevent them, but you can surely prepare well to minimise their effects. There was very little effort to shore up critical facilities like hospitals, schools, and airports. There were no concerted national initiatives for the capacity building of earthquake professionals."

Jordan agreed and said, "Yes, you are totally right about pre-planning for earthquakes. Do you remember two recent quakes and their very different results? The most powerful magnitude ever recorded on Earth was 9.5 in the Great Chilean Earthquake in 1960, with its epicentre being 350 miles south of Santiago. Approximately 6,000 people were killed in that quake. But Chile learned a valuable lesson from the jolt. It developed appropriate seismic design codes for new buildings. These codes allowed buildings to endure strong vibrations later on."

As he pointed to collapsed buildings along Nazimuddin Road in old Dhaka, Raihan asked, "Then what happened?"

"Well, there was another strong 8.8 quake in Chile 50 years later, in February 2010. The death toll was only 550. But then compare this earthquake in Chile with a weaker one that devastated Haiti a month earlier, in January of 2010. The Haiti quake's magnitude was 7.0, but it reportedly killed 316,000 people. Why such a discrepancy? Of course, the difference is partly due to the differing distance between the epicentre of two earthquakes and human settlements. But the experts also think that Chile's planning and capacity building for seismic mitigation since 1960 made a huge difference."

"So, the Chileans were better prepared?"

"Yes, on many fronts. Think about this. A building stands up because it has a concrete cage of vertical columns and horizontal beams, all strengthened by steel reinforcements. When there is a strong geologic vibration, the structural members of the cage tend to buckle and collapse. To gird against this seismic threat, the Chileans systematically followed what is known as the 'strong columns weak beams' system."

"What is this system?"

"When an earthquake strikes, according to this system the concrete on the beams should break near the end, dissipating a lot of energy of the quake. But because there is steel reinforcement in the beams, they ultimately survive and columns remain standing up. There may be a bit of damage here and there in the structure, but the building would not collapse to the ground. As for Haiti, the country has a much poorer economy, and the buildings there are built with little regulation, let alone seismic considerations. The stark difference between the devastations of the Chilean and Haitian earthquake in 2010 offers an invaluable lesson."

Raihan nodded approvingly, "See, there have been frequent minor tremors in Bangladesh during the past 10 years. The government has been strengthening building codes based on a revised seismic map. Its disaster agency was even training nearly 75,000 volunteers in earthquake response. There were indeed some efforts."

As they turned a corner in Armanitola, Jordan asked impatiently, "So what happened? Why this massive destruction in Dhaka?"

"I suspect that seismic building codes remained mostly policies on paper. They were not widely adopted or implemented. The government agencies were very poorly equipped to monitor building constructions and assess post-occupancy building performance. Besides, the government had very little control over the private-sector building industry."

Jordan and Raihan reached Babu Bazar. They had to put on masks because the putrid air of ghostlike old Dhaka became unbearable. They now slowly approached Ahsan Manil. A makeshift hospital has been set up in front of the partially damaged Nawab house. Two Red Cross helicopters just descended there and a foreign medical team hurriedly approached an emergency operation theatre under a large tent.

It was on the bank of River Buriganga that Dhaka began as a modest city centuries ago. Looking at the ruins Raihan wondered whether it would end here too. But he resolved not to give up on his beloved city. In case Dhaka survived this time around, the earthquake should be a solemn reminder for a fresh beginning.

Adnan Morshed is an architect, architectural historian, and urbanist. He teaches in Washington, DC, and serves as Executive Director of the Centre for Inclusive Architecture and Urbanism at BRAC University. His books include *DAC/ Dhaka in 25 Buildings* (2017). Email: morshed@cua.edu

QUOTABLE Quote

STEPHEN COVEY
(1932-2012)
American educator, author and businessman.

The key is not to prioritise what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Headings
- 6 Fire proof
- 11 Be of use
- 12 Crab's place
- 13 Barista's creation
- 14 Soak
- 15 Series-ending abbr.
- 16 Groom's promise
- 18 Country singer David Allan -
- 19 Slangy denial
- 20 "Vamoosel!"
- 21 That lass
- 22 Country singer Yearwood
- 24 Auction actions
- 25 Overall profit
- 27 Hamster holder

DOWN

- 1 Knack
- 2 Film set on
- 3 Surfer's activity
- 4 Young fox
- 29 Hardy
- 32 One-time connection
- 33 Hotel feature
- 34 In the style of
- 35 Join the crew
- 36 Moody music
- 37 Mythical piper
- 38 Nebraska city
- 40 Museum piece
- 42 Biographies
- 43 Be penitent
- 44 Fragrance
- 45 Fills completely
- 5 Artifice
- 6 Monastery figure
- 7 Isle surrounder
- 8 Conspirator's activity
- 9 Reverberated
- 10 Thin window curtains
- 17 Chart
- 23 Take in
- 24 Sizable
- 26 Colorful sky shows
- 27 Winter airs
- 28 Like some clocks
- 30 Galahad's mother
- 31 Hula and hora
- 33 Savage creature
- 39 Brood watcher
- 41 H look-alike

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BEETLE BAILEY

PLATO, WHEN YOU'RE DONE, CAN YOU MAKE A FIRE?
SURE THING, SARGE

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

B	A	L	E	D	G	H	O	S	T	
A	G	A	V	E	R	A	D	I	O	
R	E	T	I	E	A	L	E	R	T	
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BABY BLUES

I REALLY WANT A DOG.
AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN.

YOU KNOW WE HAVE MATCHES.
THIS IS MORE FUN!

PERCONSIDERING THE DOG THING...

Importers count

FROM PAGE 12
around 100 trucks have returned to India, Mustafizur said

Meanwhile, some traders are selling onions at a low price at Ghojadanga port to minimize their losses, said Kanti Dutta, general secretary of C&F agents association in Ghojadanga, over phone.

In Dinajpur, at least 11 trucks carrying 246 tonnes of Indian onion entered Bangladesh through Hili Land Port in Hakimpur Upazila on Saturday.

But most of the onions have been rotten, said Harun Ur Rashid president of Importers and Exporters Group of the port.

Trucks were stranded for a few days. These onions have been rotten due to hot weather and rain during, he told The Daily Star.

In Chapainawabganj, at least eight onion-laden trucks entered into Bangladesh through Sonamosjid Land Port on Saturday.

Around 10 percent of these onions have been rotten, said Babul Hasna Durul, an onion importer.

Our correspondents from Dinajpur, Chapainawabganj and a correspondent from Satkhira contributed to this report.

40 more die

FROM PAGE 12
infected has now risen to 3,50,621, according to the regular DGHS briefing.

The current positivity rate is 13.06 percent and the total positivity rate stands at 19.11 percent.

Bangladesh is currently 15th in the list of worst-affected countries in the world in terms of number of cases. The position is one step ahead of Saudi Arabia and one step behind United Kingdom, according to worldometers.info.

A total of 13,053 samples were tested across the country in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, at least 2,152 Covid-19 patients have recovered in the same period and the total number of recoveries stands at 2,58,717. The recovery rate thus stands at 73.79 percent.

Among the dead, 27 were male and 13 were female while their ages varied from infant to above 60.

Arrest over ricin envelope addressed to White House

AFP, Washington

US authorities confirmed an arrest Sunday over an envelope addressed to President Donald Trump that contained a substance identified as the poison ricin.

The suspect was a woman who was carrying a gun when she was arrested by authorities, according to US media reports.



Tourists visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, India yesterday. The Taj Mahal reopened to visitors yesterday in a symbolic business-as-usual gesture even as India looks set to overtake the US as the global leader in coronavirus infections.

PHOTO: AFP

170 return from war-torn Libya today

FROM PAGE 12
health condition, as a final health check-up will be held before the take-off.

"We will be able to tell exactly how many will return after their boarding tomorrow [today]," he told this newspaper by phone.

Confirming IOM's assistance in the repatriation process, the ambassador said previously a primary health check-up of the returnees was completed after they got registered with the embassy.

He said because of a deteriorating political situation, direct international flights had not been operated from Libya for quite long. The coronavirus pandemic has worsened the situation.

Amid this, the Bangladeshis who wanted to return home and also got stranded for past several months sought the embassy's help for the flight arrangement, said the ambassador.

The embassy then registered them and sought help from IOM in this regard, he said.

IOM will soon arrange another chartered flight for a similar repatriation, he added.

According to the ambassador, Libya is home to about 20,000 to 25,000 Bangladeshis.

On the other hand, different

international organisations, especially IOM, assessed the number could be nearly 20,000.

Ambassador Sekander said at present many Bangladeshis employed under sponsor are having the opportunity to get paid on a regular basis.

Libya was plunged into chaos when a NATO-backed uprising in 2011 toppled longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi, who was later killed, according to Al Jazeera.

The country has since split between rival east and west-based administrations, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

The Tripoli-based Government of National Accord was founded in 2015 under a UN-led agreement, but efforts for a long-term political settlement failed after a series of military offensives by forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar.

When the current conflict in Libya began in February 2011, many of the migrant communities were left to fend for themselves, some abandoned by their employers in remote areas with limited supplies.

In May this year, 26 Bangladeshi migrants were murdered by alleged human traffickers in the city of Mizdah.

Bangladesh seeks quick UNSC action

FROM PAGE 12
Despite the repatriation deal with Bangladesh, not a single Rohingya refugee volunteered to return to Myanmar, saying conditions and safety were not there.

Meanwhile, conflicts between the Myanmar military and insurgent group Arakan Army (AA) have escalated in Kachin and Rakhine states in recent months, which rights groups say amounts to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Experts say Myanmar could use the conflict with AA as a pretext to drive out Rohingyas ahead of the national elections in early November.

In the letter to the UNSC, Bangladesh Permanent Mission to UN said on September 10 that four Myanmar Navy logistics ships anchored off the coast of Inn Din village and disembarked the troops, who were then carried overnight by 20 civilian fishing boats along the Naaf River to locations as far as Ngar Khu Ya village, 20km north of Maungdaw Township and close to the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

In the early morning of September 11, around 1,000 Myanmar troops landed in different locations. Some of the disembarking points, such as Ka Nyin Chaung, Min Ga Lar Gyi and Ngar Khu Ya, are close to the international border. The route used during the troop mobilisation was as close as 200 meters to the international boundary at least at one point.

According to the ground information, the aide memoire said the troops conducted clearance operations during midnight on September 13 and 14 in Gwa Son/Yae Khat Chawng Gua Son of Maungdaw Township and reportedly detained five Rohingya men and three women.

Local sources in Cox's Bazar reported repeated sounds of gunfire on the other side of the border, and search operations being carried out in the villages near Maungdaw.

"These instances indicate possible large-scale clearance operations similar to that of 2017, with eventual cross-border and forced displacement of the civilian population into Bangladesh," the memoire said.

It may be concluded that these operations have no direct links to the conflicts with the AA, the letter said, adding that Myanmar citizens made a series of attempts in recent months to cross into Bangladesh for safe refuge in the backdrop of mounting violence in Rakhine and Chin states, inflicting civilian casualties and mass displacement.

"Failure to ensure protection of civilians and their properties during the security operations may lead to further influx of civilians of varied ethnic backgrounds to Bangladesh."

Bangladesh stressed that any security operations should be undertaken with extreme care and dexterity with full respect to the state responsibility of Myanmar to protect its civilian population.

The letter said massive movements of troops, particularly in civilian boats, along the international boundary without prior notice to Bangladesh may cause misunderstanding, leading to untoward incidents on the border.

Thus, it may undermine the efforts of both governments to maintain peace and stability in the bordering areas and promote friendly relations between the two neighbours, it added.

Dhaka and Naypyidaw agreed at paragraph 5 of annex III of the memorandum of understanding on the Establishment of Border Liaison Offices to share information

on important civilian and military activities near the international border.

During June to September 10 this year, around 35 incidents of significant firing were reported at different locations near the international boundary. On June 4, 2020, between 3:00pm to 5:15pm, Myanmar military and Border Guard Police conducted joint operations supported by military helicopters at around 500 yards inside Myanmar from the international boundary near BP 35. The operation was carried out without prior information shared with Bangladesh.

"Growing incidents of firing and clashes in Myanmar side near the international border poses threats to peace and stability in the border areas," the aide memoire said.

In view of the above, Bangladesh demanded immediate withdrawal of the troops deployed in areas close to the borders.

UK at critical

FROM PAGE 12
on social distancing. "The trend in the UK is heading in the wrong direction and we are at a critical point in the pandemic."

"This is not someone else's problem. It's all of our problem."

The briefing previewed an expected announcement by Prime Minister Boris Johnson this week detailing government action to flatten the exponential coronavirus curve heading in to winter, when regular respiratory diseases typically spike.

Johnson last week said Britain was already seeing a second wave of Covid-19, and the government introduced new restrictions for millions of people across northwest, northern and central England.

Eastern Refinery Limited

North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh

Ref: 28.25.0000.027.07.001.20

Date: 22/09/2020

Invitation for Tender (International) for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Auto Gauging System of 37 Tanks at Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL)

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	Procuring entity name	Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).
4	Invitation for	Goods and related services.
5	Invitation Ref. No.	28.25.0000.027.07.001.20

KEY INFORMATION

6	Procurement method	One stage two envelope (Technical and Financial)-ICT.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

7	Budget and source of funds	Own funds.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

8	Tender package No.	ER/I&C/ATG/01/2020
9	Tender package name	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Auto Gauging System of 37 Tanks at Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).
10	Tender publication date	22/09/2020.
11	Tender last selling date	22/11/2020.

	Date	Time
12	Tender closing date and time	23/11/2020 BST 1500hrs
13	Tender opening date and time	23/11/2020 BST 1515hrs

14	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	-Selling tender document (principal)	Manager (Accounts), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh.
	-Selling tender document (others)	ERL Dhaka Liaison Office, 2nd Floor, YMCA Bhaban, 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
	-Receiving tender document	Board Room, 1st Floor, Registered Office, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh.
	-Opening tender document	Board Room, 1st Floor, Registered Office, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15	Eligibility of tenderer	As per Tender Data Sheet (Section-2).
16	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of Auto Tank Gauging (ATG) System for 37 (thirty-seven) Tanks at Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).
17	Brief description of related services	Installation, Commissioning and Performance Testing of ATG System for 37 Tanks at Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).
18	Price of tender document (Tk)	BDT 3000.00 (Taka three thousand) or US dollar 35 (thirty-five).

	Lot	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security (Tk)	Completion time
	01.	ER/I&C/ATG/01/2020	Eastern Refinery Limited	Tk 20,00,000.00 (twenty lac)	08 months

PURCHASER DETAILS

19	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Tazul Islam.
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (E&I).
21	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh.

22	Contact details of official inviting tender	+88 031 2501261 Ext: 340	+8801554631326	tazul3069@gmail.com
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders at any time or stage without assigning any reason whatever and no claim will be entertained in this regard. GD-1495			

19 MCAs

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladesh and other Asian Commonwealth countries, he reiterates, would be given preferential treatment and no tariff would be levied on them for one year after Britain becomes an EEC member in January 1973.

SAVE THE INTEREST OF DEVELOPING NATIONS

Bangladesh Finance and Planning Minister Tajuddin Ahmed yesterday emphasised the need to protect trade and monetary interests of developing nations of the Commonwealth in enlarged European Economic Community when Great Britain becomes its member in January 1973. Tajuddin Ahmed was speaking at the first session of Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference in London. He highlighted problems of Bangladesh in the context of floating of pound sterling and current monetary crisis. He expressed the hope that interest of those countries whose monetary system is linked with sterling and who use it as a preserve currency would be fully protected and safeguarded.

CONSTITUTION WILL BE IN BANGLA

The government today reiterates that the proposed Constitution of the country will be in Bangla. Eminent scholars of the Bangla language have assisted the Constitution Drafting Committee in the task of preparing the first Constitution in Bangla. This will be a landmark in the history of the Bangla language, adds the government press note.

SOURCES: September 23, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Lost surfboard

FROM PAGE 12
"When I saw the picture of it, I couldn't believe it, I thought it was a joke almost," Falter, 35, told AFP via Zoom.

"I was certain that the board would never be found again."

Branzuela, who bought the badly weathered surfboard from his neighbour a couple of months ago for 2,000 pesos (\$40), said fishermen had found it floating in the sea in August 2018 -- six months after Falter lost sight of it.

They thought it may have fallen off a passing yacht and sold it to Branzuela's neighbour for a few dollars.

Despite months drifting across the Pacific Ocean, the name of the board's shaper, Hawaii-based Lyle Carlson, was still visible on the now-yellowish surface.

Curious, Branzuela looked him up on Facebook and sent him a photo of the board.

Carlson shared the picture on Instagram, tagging Falter. "It turned out it's a surfboard from Hawaii. I couldn't believe it myself," Branzuela, 38, told AFP via telephone.

"It's been my dream to learn to surf and ride the big waves here," he added.

"For now I can use his surfboard. I told him I will take good care of it."

The pair have been chatting on Facebook and Falter plans to visit the small island to retrieve his board after coronavirus travel restrictions are lifted.

"That board meant so much to me because of my accomplishments on it," said Falter, a commercial photographer who took up surfing about 15 years ago in Florida before moving to Hawaii.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom)

Bangladesh Railway, Railbhaban, Dhaka-1000

No. 54.01.0000.501.16.015.17-1492

Date: 21.09.2020

Project Name: Construction of Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line
Package No. WD 3: Construction of Non-interlocked color light Signaling System for all stations (09) including construction of Telecommunication System with optical fiber.
Ref. IFT No. 54.01.0000.501.16.015.17-1394, Dated: 30.7.2020

Corrigendum No. 1, Dated: 21.09.2020

Section-2: Tender Data Sheet

Sl	Clause No.	Existing Provision	Amended Provision
1	9.1	Contact within: During office hour.	Contact within: 30.09.2020 (During office hour)
2	14.1 (b)	The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor in construction works of at least 01 (one) contract of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning with related services of non-interlocked color light signaling system and telecommunication system with optical fiber on turnkey basis for at least 03 station successfully completed within the last 03 (three) years, with a value of at least Tk 10 (ten) crore.	The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor in construction works of at least 01 (one) contract of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning with related services of non-interlocked and/or interlocked color light signaling system and telecommunication system with optical fiber on turnkey basis for at least 03 station successfully completed within the last 03 (three) years, with a value of at least Tk 10 (ten) crore.
3	24.2 (j) (3)	The tender will have to submit satisfactory performance certificate from at least two end users. Out of the two end users, one must be from outside of bidder's country.	The tender shall submit satisfactory performance certificate from at least one end user for railway signaling system and telecommunication system in support of their offer, in accordance with the specification of the tender document.

Newly Added Clause

ITT 18.1	The value of non-judicial stamp for execution of the Joint Venture Agreement shall be Tk 300 only.																																
ITT 18.2	Maximum number of partners in the JV shall be "Not limited" The minimum qualification requirements of leading partner, other partner(s) and requirements by summation of a JV shall be as follows:																																
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">TDS Clauses References</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Requirements by summation</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Requirements for Leading Partner</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Requirements for other Partner(s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ITT-14.1(a)</td> <td>Summation not applicable</td> <td>Same as stated in TDS</td> <td>Same as for Leading Partner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ITT-14.1 (b)</td> <td>100% (summation of different contracts)</td> <td>At least one contract</td> <td>Minimum requirement not applicable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ITT-15.1 (a)</td> <td>100%</td> <td>40%</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ITT-15.1 (b)</td> <td>100%</td> <td>40%</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ITT-15.1 (d)</td> <td>100%</td> <td>40%</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ITT-16.1</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Minimum requirement not applicable</td> <td>Minimum requirement not applicable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ITT-17.1</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Minimum requirement not applicable</td> <td>Minimum requirement not applicable</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	TDS Clauses References	Requirements by summation	Requirements for Leading Partner	Requirements for other Partner(s)	ITT-14.1(a)	Summation not applicable	Same as stated in TDS	Same as for Leading Partner	ITT-14.1 (b)	100% (summation of different contracts)	At least one contract	Minimum requirement not applicable	ITT-15.1 (a)	100%	40%	25%	ITT-15.1 (b)	100%	40%	25%	ITT-15.1 (d)	100%	40%	25%	ITT-16.1	100%	Minimum requirement not applicable	Minimum requirement not applicable	ITT-17.1	100%	Minimum requirement not applicable	Minimum requirement not applicable
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ITT-14.1(a)	Summation not applicable	Same as stated in TDS	Same as for Leading Partner																														
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ITT-15.1 (a)	100%	40%	25%																														
ITT-15.1 (b)	100%	40%	25%																														
ITT-15.1 (d)	100%	40%	25%																														
ITT-16.1	100%	Minimum requirement not applicable	Minimum requirement not applicable																														
ITT-17.1	100%	Minimum requirement not applicable	Minimum requirement not applicable																														
ITT 19.4	The Nominated Subcontractor(s) named shall execute the following specific components of the proposed works: None																																

Sl. No. of IFT	Subject	Existing Provision (in IFT and Tender Document)	Amended Provision (in IFT and Tender Document)
17	Tender last selling date	22.09.2020 (During office hour)	27.10.2020 (During office hour)
18	Tender closing date and time	23.09.2020, 12.00 hrs BST	28.10.2020, 12.00 hrs BST
19	Tender opening date and time	23.09.2020, 12.30 hrs BST	28.10.2020, 12.30 hrs BST

All other terms and conditions of the above tender will remain unchanged.

Ahmed Istiaque Johur
Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom) HQ
Bangladesh Railway, Railbhaban, Dhaka
01711-500893
dstelthq@railway.gov.bd

GD-1500



Head coach Russell Domingo and bowling coach Ottis Gibson observe as Mustafizur Rahman tests the defences of Mominul Haque during a nets session of the Bangladesh national team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Despite no apparent headway yet in the proposed tour of Sri Lanka, the Tigers kept sweating it out in a bio-secured bubble.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

A tale of two keepers

AFP, London



The gulf that still exists between Liverpool and Chelsea was on show on Sunday as the Premier League champions secured a 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge in a match defined by the differing fortunes of the world's two most expensive goalkeepers.

Alisson Becker's record £67 million (\$87 million) move from Roma to Liverpool in 2018 lasted just three weeks before Chelsea paid £72 million to buy Kepa Arrizabalaga from Athletic Bilbao. Just over two years on there is no doubt who got value for money with Chelsea prepared to spend again to solve their 'keeper crisis with the imminent arrival of Edouard Mendy from Rennes.

Kepa's latest calamity saw him gift possession to Sadio Mane for the Senegalese's second goal after heading Liverpool into the lead early in the second-half. Chelsea's decision to spend £200 million in recent months before addressing their goalkeeper situation raised questions before the season started as to their title credentials.

Just two games in, doubts over Kepa's ability to start for a title contender have proven well founded as he also let Leandro Trossard's long-range striker under his arm in Monday's 3-1 win at Brighton. "He's our player and it's clear there are two games where we feel (he made mistakes)," said Lampard. "Brighton was a mistake as well. He's reflected on that. "It's a clear mistake that's cost us because at that point we go onto have a penalty which we might score and those fine margins change games at this level. "Kepa has to keep working, he has to have support around him that's very clear but it was a clear mistake."

The Spaniard was dropped twice by Lampard in favour of 38-year-old Willy Caballero last season and Chelsea's failure to solve their goalkeeping problem before splashing out to reinforce in other areas of the field, where they are better stocked, has been a puzzling one. Kepa had the lowest

save percentage of any goalkeeper to play at least 10 games in the Premier League last season and conceded 10 more goals than he should have, according to Opta's expected goals metric. Liverpool can now boast one of the best goalkeepers in the world as Alisson showed by saving Jorginho's penalty on Sunday having had barely anything to do for the first 75 minutes.

However, it was not so long ago that Klopp found himself in a similar situation to Lampard. After reaching the Champions League final and finishing fourth in the Premier League in 2017/18, Klopp's side were clearly on the rise.

But two catastrophic errors from Loris Karius in the 3-1 final defeat to Real Madrid in Kiev convinced the German and the Liverpool hierarchy they needed a top goalkeeper to win major trophies again.

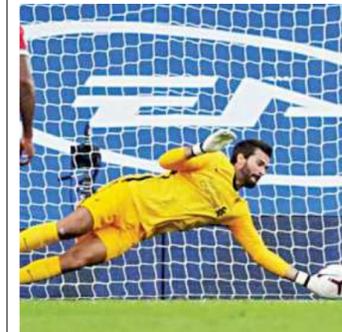
SCORES FROM ACROSS EUROPE

Southampton 2 – 5 Tottenham
Chelsea 0 – 2 Liverpool
Leicester 4 – 2 Burnley 2
Parma 0 – 2 Napoli
Juventus 3 – 0 Sampdoria
Real Betis 2 – 0 Valladolid
Real Sociedad 0 – 0 Real Madrid
Nice 0 – 3 PSG
Marseille 1 – 1 Lille

Six weeks later, Alisson arrived at Anfield and has played in major part in winning the Champions League and Premier League over the past two seasons. "Even at 2-0, we could have scored more but we didn't and the game is open," said Klopp. "We produce the penalty, I'm not sure I would have given it, then Ali had to make the save."

"This is a proper team performance, everybody had to work hard." Chelsea have spent big and looked to the future in the signings of Timo Werner, Hakim Ziyech, Kai Havertz and Ben Chilwell.

But without a world-class keeper behind them, they still do not have the foundations of a title contender.



Uncertainty continues for Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER



While cricketers have stepped into a bio-secure bubble and have finally started group training from Sunday after

a long wait, the main purpose of the residential camp for the 27-member preliminary squad -- the tour of Sri Lanka -- was still under a cloud of uncertainty yesterday.

It has been an anxious wait both for Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the cricketers, who have checked into a city hotel with the aim to fly for the island nation for the three-match Test series.

According to sources, the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) officials were supposed to send the revised health protocol for the upcoming tour by

yesterday and it was expected that the BCB would reveal the revised health protocol sent by the SLC to the media today.

It was also learned that the BCB would sit in discussion with the board members over the revised health protocol before making the final decision of whether to tour Sri Lanka or not.

There has however been no information either from the BCB or the SLC about the revised directives about touring safely during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Earlier, BCB President Nazmul Hassan rejected the health protocol sent by the SLC, under which the visitors had to undergo a mandatory 14-day strict quarantine. Since then the SLC had a series of meeting with its government's health authority and requested that the quarantine

"I want to play in all three formats. I am now trying to do all those works that would help me play in all three formats. Starting from working on my fitness, bowling skill -- I am trying to do all these so that I can be a regular in every format."

MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN

protocols be relaxed.

Meanwhile, much like the BCB officials the cricketers also seemed clueless despite starting group training. There was curiosity among the players about whether the tour will finally get the green signal.

"It's good that we have finally started the group training and

are now under a bio-secure environment. But we are still curious about whether the tour will finally happen or not as it is a psychological thing that works in our mind and it's better if we get to know about that soon," said a national cricketer, who preferred not to be named.

Cricket in Bangladesh has been halted since mid-March due to the coronavirus outbreak worldwide and the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka will be a comeback for the Tigers in international cricket after a gap of over six months.

But with the scheduled departure date approaching, the uncertainty hangs heavy on the players and the board. The training, however, may still prove valuable as the BCB boss said that they would start domestic cricket soon if the tour does not go ahead.



Umpiring in focus

AFP, Dubai



Kings XI Punjab lodged a formal complaint on Monday over an umpiring error which proved critical in their narrow Indian Premier League loss to the Delhi Capitals.

The second match of the world's richest Twenty20 tournament ended in a tie on Sunday before Punjab lost out in a super over.

But in the 19th over of Punjab's chase, square-leg umpire Nitin Menon had signalled Chris Jordan for a short run -- not grounding his bat inside the crease when running between the wickets. TV replays showed Jordan's bat was in the crease. But nothing could be done as the third umpire does not have the authority to overturn an on-field call, unless it is referred for review.

"We have appealed against the decision which could have been corrected had technology been brought into play," a Kings official told on condition of anonymity.

AFP, Shanghai



Joseph Minala does not wish to dwell on the bizarre age claim which propelled him into the

headlines in 2014, but there is just no getting away from it.

"It held back my career and is (still) holding back my career," the Cameroonian tells AFP. Minala was a budding star at Italian giants Lazio when a report out of Senegal claimed that he was not aged 17, as he said, but 41.

The allegation gained traction because Minala's rugged appearance and well-developed physique made him look significantly older. He was subjected to cruel ridicule on social media. But Italy's football association conducted an investigation and concluded that he was telling the truth. Minala turned 24 last month and is now playing in the Chinese Super League, but the midfielder says that he cannot shake off the

stigma.

"I had opportunities at some clubs (to move there), but I think it didn't happen because of this business," he said. "This is an image that some people unfortunately have of me," Minala added. "I had the opportunity to go to France, I had the opportunity to go to Paris Saint-Germain at the time... but it didn't happen."

Speaking by telephone from Suzhou, where his new team Qingdao Huanghai are playing in a 'bubble' to thwart the coronavirus, Minala said: "I would have had a different career (without this controversy)."

"Sometimes people prefer to ignore that I'm a good player and only point out that aspect of me." Minala's agent at the time explained that Minala looked older because of his difficult back story, which includes a spell in an Italian care home. The player was spotted as a talented youngster in Cameroon, and a former player who was also an agent promised him a trial at AC Milan.

His parents spent "a lot of money" to finance the trip to Italy,



but after arriving the 14-year-old Minala found himself stranded at a Rome train station.

"I was told that people were coming to pick me up for the trial but I waited an hour, an hour-and-a-half, and still no one was there," he said. "I only knew two words of Italian. I was abandoned at the station with my two suitcases and a mobile phone without a SIM card in it. "In the end, it was a scam that I never understood." "I didn't know anyone, I didn't know where to go, I wanted to tell my story to the police and return

to my country," he recalled. "But since I was an unaccompanied minor, they took me to a hospital for tests, then to a social welfare centre and I was enrolled in an Italian school. "This is where my adventure began."

Minala lived in the housing centre with other youths and it was there that he trained to do another job in case his football dreams failed to materialise. "I'm good at baking. Maybe after football, I'll open a bakery, you never know," he laughed. Mino Raiola, the high-profile agent who

represents Paul Pogba and a slew of other stars, spotted Minala playing in amateur football in the Rome region and took him south to Napoli.

After one year as a youth player at Napoli there was interest from Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan, he says, but in 2013 he joined Lazio's under-19 squad.

It was a year later that the claims were made about his age and he then made several loan moves, notably to Bari and Salernitana in Italy's second tier. At the start of this year he moved to Qingdao on loan, but the coronavirus pandemic delayed his debut until last month. He will spend this season with Qingdao and is unsure what will happen when his contract expires in June 2021 at Lazio, where he has made a handful of first-team appearances.

"I keep going on with my life, despite everything people have tried to do against me," said Minala, who has ambitions of playing for Cameroon's national team.

"A lot of people expected me to stop playing or go crazy."



Defending champions in Italy and Spain had contrasting starts to their league campaigns on Sunday night. While Cristiano Ronaldo got his name on the scoresheet to drive Juventus to a 3-0 win at home against Sampdoria, his former boss Zinedine Zidane saw his Real Madrid side disappoint in a goalless draw away to Real Sociedad.



PHOTO: JUVENTUS FC/AFP

Glory for Pogacar and Slovenia

AFP, Paris



Slovenian rookie Tadej Pogacar won the Tour de France on Sunday, riding triumphantly into Paris in the race leader's yellow jersey at just 21 years old.

Pogacar became the Tour's youngest champion since 1904 as Ireland's Sam Bennett won the 21st and final stage after the eight-lap dash around the iconic Champs-Elysees to clinch the green sprint points jersey.

The Tour will forever be remembered for a dramatic last-gasp turnaround as Pogacar grabbed the



overall lead when his rival Primoz Roglic suffered a mountainside meltdown on the penultimate day. This storied edition of the

century-old race packed with thrills and spills will be equally recalled for outspurring the dark shadow of Covid-19.

Starting two months late due to the global pandemic, the race set off under strict health guidelines in Nice with doubts it would make it all the way to Paris.

But after 3,400km of intense racing the 146 remaining riders embarked Sunday for a parade of the winners until the hotly-disputed sprint in Paris.

The race was a triumph of organisation after the French president gave them the green light to belatedly stage the event, although just 5,000 fans lined Sunday's finish due to the health protocol.



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

PROTECTING ROHINGYAS IN MYANMAR

Bangladesh seeks quick UNSC action

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has sought the UN Security Council's action to ensure that Myanmar refrains from targeting Rohingyas under the pretext of security operations, because that may lead to further refugee influx into Bangladesh.

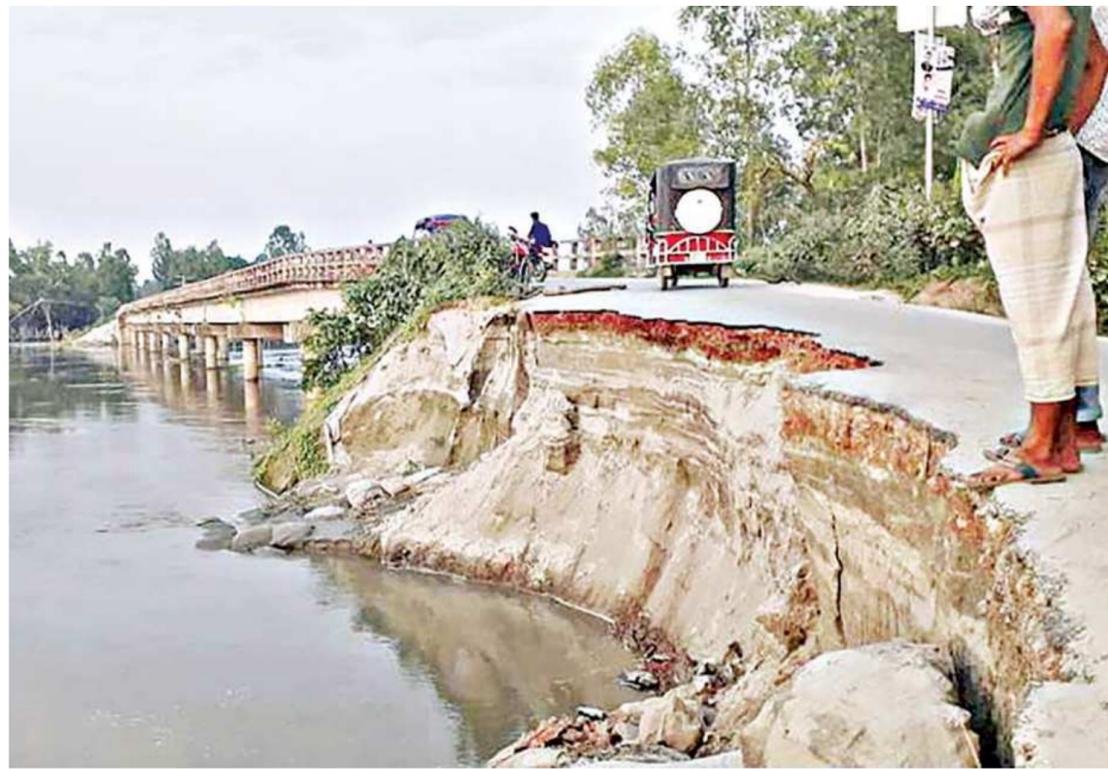
Expressing deep concerns over mobilisation of troops along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN in New York wrote an Aide Memoire to the UN Security Council (UNSC) president on September 15.

In a separate letter to Naypyidaw on September 14, Dhaka also called on Myanmar to immediately withdraw troops from there and respect its commitment regarding the exchange of information about any civilian and military activities near the international border.

On September 13, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh Aung Kyaw Moe to express concern over the suspicious movements of Myanmar soldiers along the border.

Kaladan Press reported that around 3,000 Myanmar troops were deployed in the bordering areas of Maungdaw -- a town in Rakhine State -- raising fears of 2017-like operations that forced some 750,000 Rohingyas to Bangladesh. More than three years after the brutal crackdown, Myanmar now faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice and investigation by the International Criminal Court.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



The Tangail-Torabganj road in Tangail has been hit hard by the erosion of the Dhaleshwari river with its increasing water level. The road connects four unions of Sadar upazila with the district headquarters. The road can be devoured by the river if steps are not taken quickly.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

WAIT FOR FERRIES

Truckers pay extra to cut the queue

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Cashing in on heavy flow of vehicles on Paturia-Daulatdia ferry route, some dishonest BIWTC employees are allegedly overcharging goods-laden vehicles to board ferries for crossing the Padma through the route.

The route has been facing huge pressure of vehicles as ferry services on the country's another major ferry route -- Shimulia-Kathalbari -- resumed on a limited scale on Saturday, around a week after ferry operations were suspended due to poor navigability.

It causes long tailbacks of vehicles at the Paturia end of Manikganj and at the Daulatdia end of Rajbari.

Paturia-Daulatdia and Shimulia-Kathalbari ferry routes are considered the gateways to the country's southwestern districts.

Passenger, emergency and perishable goods-laden vehicles get priority to board ferries. So, trucks

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

INDIAN ONIONS

Importers count losses due to rot

STAR REPORT

A large portion of onions that were imported to Bangladesh from India in the last few days have been rotten, inflicting huge losses on the traders.

Several hundreds of onion-laden trucks, which were ready to enter Bangladesh, were stranded at different land ports of India after the neighbouring country imposed a sudden ban on onion export on September 14.

The ban caused a sharp rise in onion prices.

But only those traders, who could prepare the import documents before imposing the ban, were allowed to import onion to Bangladesh.

The trucks started entering Bangladesh from Saturday.

In Satkhira, around 829 tonnes of onion were imported through Bhomra land port on Saturday and Sunday, said Mohsin Hossain, revenue officer at the port.

Major portion of these onions have been rotten, said traders.

These trucks were stranded for around five to six days at Ghojadanga land port in India, said Mustafizur Rahman, general secretary of clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents Association on Bhomra land port.

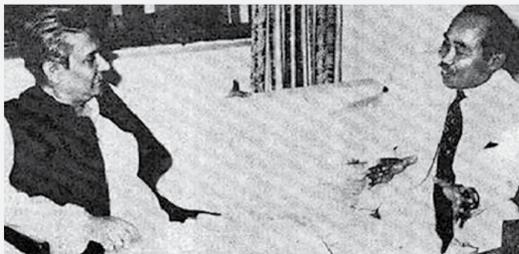
As a result, these onions have been rotten, he said.

At least 235 onion-laden trucks are still stranded at Ghojadanga land port while

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

19 MCAs expelled from AL



The charge d'affaires of Indonesia in Bangladesh calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the GonoBhaban on September 22, 1972.

September 22, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

AL DRIVE AGAINST CORRUPTION

19 members of the constituent assembly belonging to the ruling Awami League have been expelled from the party on charges of corruption, nepotism and misuse of power, General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Zillur Rahman announces in Dhaka today. In a reply to a question Zillur Rahman tells BSS that if similar charges are found against more MCAs or party workers in future they would also be expelled from the party. Awami League being a people's party will always uphold justice and devote itself to people's welfare, he adds.

UK'S EEC ENTRY WILL NOT AFFECT BANGLADESH

Geoffrey Rippon, Britain's chief negotiator for common market, says in Dhaka today that the British entry into the European Economic Community (EEC) would not adversely affect the future trade prospects of Bangladesh in the enlarged community.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



170 return from war-torn Libya today

JAMIL MAHMUD and RASHIDUL HASAN

A group of 170 Bangladeshis is expected to be repatriated from war-torn Libya in a chartered flight today.

They include about 40 individuals, who have been rescued off the Libyan coast during their attempts to reach Europe via illegal sea route over the past two or three months.

The Bangladesh Embassy in Libya has enlisted the 170 Bangladeshis, who agreed to return voluntarily, while the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN migration agency, has been supporting the repatriation process.

The flight is scheduled to take off around 12:00pm (local time) from the Mitiga International Airport in Tripoli, according to a social media post of the Bangladesh mission there.

The flight is expected to reach Dhaka Wednesday early morning.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Libya Sk Sekander Ali yesterday said the number of the total returnees may drop depending on their

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Lost surfboard found 8,000km away



AFP, Manila

When big wave surfer Doug Falter lost his board in a wipeout in Hawaii, his best hope was for a local fisherman to pick it up. He never imagined it would be found more than 8,000 kilometres (5,000 miles) away in the southern Philippines.

More than two years after watching his pale blue custom-shaped board disappear in the huge swell of Waimea Bay, Falter was alerted via social media that it had been found near the remote island of Sarangani.

And the new owner -- local primary school teacher and aspiring surfer Giovanna Branzuela -- was happy to give it back to him.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

COVID-19

40 more die, death toll nears 5k

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty more people have died from Covid-19 yesterday, while 1,705 new patients were recorded in the country in the last 24 hours, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of deaths has now reached 4,979 and the death rate stands at 1.42 percent. The total number of people

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Locals dump waste on both sides of the Asian highway in Jajor area of Gazipur on a regular basis. With time, the dumped waste narrowed down the highway and has not only become a hazard for road users but also for the locals. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

UK at critical point in pandemic

Warns top medical adviser; US deaths near 200,000

AGENCIES

England is on track for about 50,000 coronavirus cases a day by mid-October and a surging death toll unless the public gets serious about preventive action, top UK advisers warned yesterday.

Rates of infection in England are replicating the strong resurgence of Covid-19 seen in France and Spain, roughly doubling every seven days, the government's chief medical officer Chris Whitty told a media briefing.

"We are seeing a rate of increase across the great majority of the country," he said, urging the public to respect stricter guidelines

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



WE MOURN

MRS ROWSHANA MAHFUZ

(1946-2020)

We deeply mourn the sad demise of **MRS. ROWSHANA MAHFUZ**, wife of Late Dr. Mohammad Ahamad Karim, on 20/09/2020 at 11:00 pm. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un. She left us at the age of 74. May Allah grant her eternal salvation and Jannatul Firdaus. We pray for the departed soul and request all our well wishers to always keep her in their prayers.

- Requested by

Dr. Ruksana Karim & Dr. Rezina Karim (Daughters)
Dr. Mohammed Mohsen Chowdhury & Dr. S M Moslehuddin Ahmed (Sons in law)
Fahad M A Karim (Son), Nora Lahali (Daughter in Law)
Madiha Mohsen Chowdhury, Daaniya Ahmed, Muqueet Mohsen Chowdhury, Fares Karim (Grand Children) & other bereaved family members