

BREONNA TAYLOR CASE
Protests erupt in major US cities after no murder charge brought against cops
SEE PAGE 6

THE DAILY **Star** ON FRIDAY



www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781 | Vol. XXX No. 243 | ASHWIN 10, 1427 BS | Your Right to Know | SAFAR 7, 1442 HURI | 16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE PRICE : Tk12.00

"To get tested for Covid-19 every other day is uncomfortable... it doesn't feel good to stay under such strict protocols."
BANGLADESH BATSMAN NAZMUL HOSSAIN SHANTO ON TRAINING IN A BIO-SECURE BUBBLE PAGE 11

"Fundamental to democracy is the peaceful transition of power; without that, there is Belarus."
REPUBLICAN SENATOR MITT ROMNEY ON TRUMP'S REFUSAL TO PROMISE TRANSFER OF POWER IF HE LOSES US VOTE PAGE 6

"The Hungarian position is: 'Stop the migrants.'"
HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER VIKTOR ORBAN REFUSES TO ACCEPT 'NOT TOUGH ENOUGH' NEW EU MIGRANT PLAN PAGE 6

ONION SELF-SUFFICIENCY
Possible, but not so soon
Officials say as govt targets rise in production, cultivation coverage; seed crisis big hurdle

PINAKI ROY

The government intends to make the country self-sufficient in onion by increasing the production of this essential cooking ingredient but it may take years as overcoming the seed crisis remains a major challenge. Scientists in Bangladesh say they have developed some high-yielding varieties that can be cultivated in summer when the market sees a scarcity of local onion produced in winter. But it would take at least six years to have enough seeds of the new varieties to meet the country's demand. With trouble recurring due to India's onion export ban in two consecutive years, the government aims to expand the coverage of onion cultivation in the coming winter season to be started at the end of next month. The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) has already sought suggestions and data from the field offices on how to reach the target and experts also made a presentation on this at the agriculture ministry. "Our prime minister has directed us to take initiatives to increase onion production. We have already conducted several meetings on this," Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, the agriculture minister, told The Daily Star. He said scientists at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) have developed summer varieties which have yet to reach the farmers because of the seed crisis. Bangladesh is now self-sufficient in rice, vegetables, fish and meat because the government took initiatives to increase the production of those food items.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Two migrant workers slouch in disappointment yesterday after failing to get air tickets on Saudia to reach Saudi Arabia and resume work there. Since they returned home on holidays, they have been stranded due to the pandemic. Yesterday was their fifth attempt to get tickets at the Sonargaon Hotel office of the carrier. Inset, migrants show documents in front of a Biman office in Motijheel as they wait to get tickets. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

No promotion without exams for 8th graders

Decide all edn boards
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education boards yesterday decided that school authorities should hold assessments to graduate eighth grade students to the next grade and there should be no scope for promotion without examinations. They also said that assessments can be done through physical exams, online tests, online classes, TV education, or through students' continuous assessment based on how much of the syllabi were covered before the closure of schools. The boards took this decision as the government cancelled this year's Junior School Certificate (JSC) and equivalent exams for class VIII students in late August due to the Covid-19 situation. All educational institutions have been closed since March 17 in a bid to stem the spread of coronavirus, and the closure was extended till October 3.

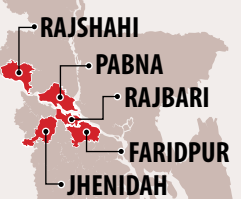
SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



THE ONION STORY

- Current demand **25 lakh** metric tonnes
- Production this season **25.57 lakh** tonnes
- Wastage after production **30%**
- Local production meets **60%** of demand
- Average import **10 lakh** tonnes annually
- Import mostly from India, **15** other countries
- Target to be self-sufficient **33 lakh** tonnes

DISTRICTS THAT PRODUCE MOST ONIONS



SEEDS NEEDED **1,100 tonnes** | SEEDS STOCK **700 tonnes**

SOURCE: BBS, DAE CONTROL ROOM

Govt decides to allow more flights to KSA

The move aimed at helping stranded expatriates join work

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

The authorities have decided to allow more flights to Saudi Arabia for the thousands of people desperately waiting to go to their workplaces in the Gulf country. Most of them came to Bangladesh before the international travel restrictions were imposed amid the pandemic and have been unable to return. Bangladesh will allow Saudi Arabian Airlines to operate as many flights as it wants, said Air-Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority (Caab). Other airlines will also be allowed to resume regular flight operations between the two countries, he added. If the Saudi authorities allow Biman Bangladesh Airlines to operate an increased number of flights, there

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Riyadh's pressure on Dhaka unfair

Analysts, activists say about insistence that 54,000 Rohingyas in KSA be issued Bangladeshi passports; Momen says no passport without proof

PORIMOL PALMA

The Saudi Arabian pressure on Bangladesh to issue passports to 54,000 Rohingyas and bring back 462 others is unacceptable and unfair, analysts and Rohingya activists have said. They said if the kingdom was really to send back the Rohingyas, they should mount pressure on Myanmar. They questioned as to why Bangladesh, which had taken in over a million Rohingyas, should take the 54,000 more. The observation came after the foreign ministry revealed that Saudi Arabia has recently renewed its pressure on Dhaka over the Rohingya issue. Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said the Saudi authorities have declared that there were 54,000 Rohingyas, who had no passports, and that they do not allow stateless people in their country. "They [Saudi Arabia] are not saying that they will send the 54,000 Rohingyas to Bangladesh, but they should be provided with Bangladeshi passports," Momen told reporters at the ministry yesterday. He said Dhaka has informed Riyadh that Bangladesh could consider the Saudi request only if the Rohingyas had any prior passports or other documents.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Gonoforum may split as rift widens

A section of leaders to meet tomorrow

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

An intra-party conflict over leadership may cause a split in Gonoforum as a group of party leaders are going to hold an extended meeting in Dhaka tomorrow. Party leaders cited a conflict between Gonoforum General Secretary Reza Kibria, former executive president Subrata Chowdhury and former general secretary Mostafa Mohsin Montu as the reason for the possible split. Subrata, Montu and Abu Sayeed have called an extended meeting of the party for September 26 to discuss party affairs. Meanwhile, Gonoforum in a press statement, signed by its President Dr Kamal Hossain and General Secretary Reza Kibria, on Tuesday said the party has no involvement with the meeting.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Wasa's move to reappoint MD challenged at High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of the process for further appointing Tazqem A Khan as the managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa). Engineer Khandker Monjur Morshed, former additional chief engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board, submitted the petition where he also pleaded to stay the proposal for extending the tenure of the Wasa MD by three more years. Citing the petition, Khandker Monjur's lawyer Tanvir Ahmed told The Daily Star that the Wasa's board meeting was supposed to be convened either by its chairman or vice-chairman to select its MD as per the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act, 1996. But, the Wasa's board meeting was convened

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Men taking apart used lead-acid batteries to recycle the parts at an unauthorised and temporary factory in Matuail on the outskirts of the capital. Such factories contribute to the reduction of pollutants in the environment but the business is largely market driven and unregulated.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Situation now worse than during peak in March'

EU urges new measures to head off coronavirus second wave; Trump says may block stricter FDA guidelines for vaccine

AGENCIES

The EU yesterday raised the alarm on coronavirus saying the epidemic is worse now than at the March peak in several member countries, as governments in Europe and beyond reimpose drastic restrictions. EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides warned that in "some member states, the situation is now even worse than during the peak in March." "This is a real cause for concern," she said, urging new measures to head off a second wave of the virus, which has killed at least 978,448 people worldwide since the outbreak emerged in China late last year. The death rate has not returned to the levels seen earlier this year, but cases of new infections are soaring once again in many areas of the bloc. In a statement, the EU's Stockholm-based disease control agency pointed to Spain, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Malta as countries of particularly "high concern." The seven have "an increased proportion of hospitalised and severe cases" among older people and "increasing or high death notification rates are already observed... or may be observed soon," said the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC). Other countries such as France and Britain have observed rising infection rates primarily among younger

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BANGLADESH UPDATE



1540
New cases in 24hrs



355384
Total cases



5072
Deaths



265092
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



983,686
Deaths



32,199,082
Total cases

Riyadh's pressure on Dhaka unfair

FROM PAGE 1
Riyadh also asked Bangladesh to take back 462 Rohingyas, now in jail for various crimes.

"We said we can bring back those who have Bangladeshi passports," Momen said.

A foreign ministry official said Riyadh indicated that the labour market for the Bangladeshis in KSA may be affected if Dhaka did not respond the way Riyadh wanted.

There are over 2 million Bangladeshis in the kingdom.

Momen said in the 1970s and 80s, when the Rohingyas were persecuted in Myanmar, the then Saudi Badsha had welcomed and sheltered them. The Rohingyas now have children and grandchildren who speak Arabic and are used to Saudi culture. They don't speak Bangla and do not know Bangladesh.

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University's international relations department said it was understood that the KSA economy was under pressure due to a decline in oil price and the war in Yemen. Bangladesh and Turkey have good relations too. Turkey-Saudi relations are not ideal at the moment.

"However, that should in no way be linked to the Rohingya issue," Prof Imtiaz told The Daily Star.

If Saudi Arabia really wants to send back the Rohingyas, it should pressure Myanmar because Myanmar at the ICJ did not say that they were Bangladeshi citizens but that Rohingyas were the Muslims of Arakan, he said.

Rohingyas are facing genocide and Saudi Arabia, as a leader of the Muslim Ummah, should stand beside them and help them have justice instead of doing injustice to them, he said.

"I also think that our mission in Saudi Arabia should create more awareness about the Rohingya genocide among the Saudi people and the government."

The International Criminal Court is investigating crimes against the Rohingyas and the International Court of Justice is holding a genocide trial against Myanmar.

Nay San Lwin, co-founder of Free Rohingya Coalition, an alliance of

Rohingya worldwide, said as the genocide against Rohingyas began in 1970s, thousands of Rohingyas fled the country. They had no choice but to hold the passports arranged by smugglers.

Saudi kings had sympathy for them and had given them residency permits. Most of them do not have a passport.

"They all belong to Myanmar. They are Myanmar citizens although Myanmar hasn't considered them as citizens. Pressuring Bangladesh to issue Bangladeshi passports is not right."

The Saudi government must pressure the Myanmar embassy in Riyadh to issue them Myanmar passports instead of pressuring the Bangladesh government," he said.

"The genocide against the Rohingyas is ongoing and they cannot be sent back to Myanmar at this moment. They must not be sent back to Bangladesh as Bangladesh is not their country," Lwin said from Germany.

The Saudi government should mount pressure on Myanmar through all the 57 OIC members to issue passports to the Rohingyas, instead of threatening Bangladesh, he said.

Ending genocide should be the priority. All countries, including Saudi Arabia, should work hard to end the ongoing genocide against the Rohingyas, Lwin added.

"Once it ends, the Rohingya in exile will have a chance to go back to their homeland in Myanmar."

They should not be expelled from the country where they take refuge with a huge hope for survival, he said.

A Rohingya activist in Bangladesh said it was very disappointing that Saudi Arabia was showing inhumane attitude towards a small country like Bangladesh, which is sheltering about a million persecuted Rohingya, including some 750,000 who faced brutal military campaign in 2017.

As a leading and rich Muslim country, KSA should be more supportive to Bangladesh and work with other global powers to establish Rohingya rights, she said preferring anonymity.

"Saudi pressure on Bangladesh is illogical and unfair," she said.



Rail workers installing a drain between the lines near Malibagh Level Crossing in the capital yesterday. This section of the lines has been prone to waterlogging.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Possible, but not so soon

FROM PAGE 1
Asked whether it will at all be possible for the country to become self-sufficient in onion, Dr Md Abdul Mueyed, director general of DAE, said, "It is very much possible. But for that we need some time, maybe a few years."

DAE officials said Bangladesh's current demand for onion is around 25 lakh tonnes. Though the country produced 23.30 lakh tonnes of onion last year, more than 10.91 lakh tonnes had to be imported because 30 percent of the produce either rotted or got damaged.

On September 14, as India banned onion exports, the market here became unstable and prices of the item skyrocketed, causing outrage among the people.

The same thing happened in late September last year.

"This year," Abdul Mueyed said, "we are trying to increase the production significantly."

He added, "We have set a target to produce 33 lakh tonnes of onion a year. But it will take a few years to reach that goal."

Asked how they are planning to fulfill this target, the DG said the first step is to increase the average production.

In the last season, the production of onion rose by 2.27 lakh tonnes and reached 25.57 lakh tonnes, which was 23.30 lakh tonnes the previous year.

Currently, farmers are cultivating onions in around 2.5 lakh hectares of land. On average, around 10 lakh tonnes is produced in one hectare.

"If we can increase the production by just one tonne per hectare, there will be additional 2.5 lakh tonnes next year," the DG said.

He noted that the global average of onion production is around 17 tonnes per hectare while it is 10 tonnes in Bangladesh.

"The production rate varies from one region to another, depending on soil quality and weather. But we have

YEAR	PRODUCTION (Lakh tonnes)	CULTIVATION (Lakh hectares)
2019-20	25.57	2.37
2018-19	23.30	2.07
2017-18	23.30	2.12
2016-17	21.53	2.13
2015-16	21.30	2.16
2014-15	19.30	1.92

the potential to increase the average onion production up to 12 to 13 tonnes per hectare."

He added that the land where farmers grow potatoes, tobacco, wheat or winter vegetables could also be suitable for onion cultivation and farmers will find it profitable.

Besides, the government is likely to provide seeds of high-yielding varieties of onion and fertiliser to farmers at subsidised prices so that they can shift to onion cultivation from other winter crops in the coming season.

The DAE control room sources said farmers last year cultivated onion in 2.37 lakh hectares of land, which was 2.07 lakh hectares in 2018.

For the last five years, Pabna, Rajshahi, Faridpur, Rajbari and Jhenaidah remain the top onion-producing districts.

SEED CRISIS
Every year, farmers need more than 1,100 tonnes of seed, of which around 1,000 tonnes are generated by farmers, while the rest is supplied by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) and private companies.

"But this year, there is a crisis as seed production was low in the last season. Currently, we have around 700 tonnes of seed; we need to import the rest," said Shailendra Nath Mazumder, principal scientific officer and director, Strengthening Spices Crop Research in Bangladesh.

Govt decides to allow more flights

FROM PAGE 1
should not be any problem for 35,000 Bangladeshis to reach their workplaces on time, the Caab chief told The Daily Star.

Before resuming its regular flights to Saudi Arabia on October 1, Biman will operate two flights on September 26 and 27, carrying those who had booked return tickets for March 16 and 17, but could not fly due to the coronavirus restrictions.

Saudi Arabian Airlines resumed its regular flights from Dhaka on Wednesday.

Apart from operating two flights a week, the airlines got permission to operate six special flights from Dhaka by September 30.

With the Saudi government agreeing to extend the visa and work permit deadlines by 24 days, about 35,000 Bangladeshi expatriates will now have to reach their workplaces by October 17.

The Bangladesh government on Wednesday said Saudi government had agreed to extend the iqama (work permit) and visas for the Bangladeshis who returned home on vacation but could not go back to the Kingdom because of the pandemic.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Wednesday said the migrants with expired visas could get those renewed at the Saudi embassy in Bangladesh from Sunday and their work permits would remain valid until October 17.

The validity of the permits might be extended further if need be.

The development came after hundreds of people demonstrated at Karwan Bazar in the capital for several days and laid siege to the expatriates' welfare ministry at Eskaton on Wednesday.

Yesterday, the foreign minister hoped that all Bangladeshi expatriate workers would reach Saudi Arabia before their iqama expired.

"The Saudi government has assured us that they would further extend the iqama validity for the rest of the Bangladeshi workers who are stuck here," he said.

The foreign minister also urged the Saudi bound Bangladeshi nationals to maintain discipline during the process of visa renewal and air ticket booking, so as to avoid giving a bad impression to the Saudi government.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam in a Facebook post said the Saudi government has permitted Biman Bangladesh Airlines to operate two flights a week each to Riyadh and

Jeddah.

Meanwhile, the expatriates started gathering in front of the Saudi airlines ticket counter at the city's Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel early in the morning yesterday to buy tickets.

A top official of the airlines said, "We will operate six special flights from Dhaka until September 30 to carry more Bangladeshi expatriate workers to their workplaces in Saudi Arabia."

Apart from the six special flights, the airlines will continue to operate their two regular weekly flights from Dhaka until September 30, he said requesting anonymity.

Asked how many flights they will operate from Dhaka from October 1, the official said they will inform the media after getting CAAB approval.

Home to more than 22 lakh Bangladeshis, Saudi Arabia is also the prime destination of Bangladeshi migrant workers and the biggest remittance-generating country for Bangladesh.

Around 35,000 migrants returned to the country from the Kingdom on vacation after late February but could not go back due to the suspension of flights in March, said sources at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and at the expatriates' welfare ministry.

On September 13, the Saudi Ministry of Interior announced a partial resumption of international flights.

The Kingdom will lift all restrictions on air, land and sea transport after January 1 next year, according to Arab News.

OMAN OPENS BORDER

Bangladeshi expatriate workers stranded in the country since March due to the pandemic will be able to return to Oman from October 1 after the Middle Eastern country opens its border for Bangladeshi workers.

Talking to The Daily Star, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said, "Yet another good news for the country's expatriate workers: Oman has sent us a verbal note today stating that the Bangladeshi stranded workers will be able to enter into the country from October 1."

Earlier in the day, the foreign minister told reporters at his office that the Bangladeshi workers will need to have their valid passport, valid Oman residency ID and Covid-19 negative certificate through PCR tests, and agree to undergo a 14-day quarantine after entering Oman.

Wasa's move to reappoint

FROM PAGE 1
by its board secretary on September 17 to appoint the MD and the meeting was held on September 19 in violation of the relevant provisions of the law.

Besides, a selection committee is supposed to be formed for the appointment of the Wasa MD and a gazette notification must be issued for constituting the selection committee as per the relevant rules.

None of these procedures, however, was followed to appoint Taqsem as the Wasa MD for the next three years.

He also said his client in the writ petition also prayed to the HC to issue a rule asking the board secretary of Dhaka Wasa to explain under what authority he convened the board meeting on September 17.

The HC may hold a hearing on the writ petition next week, Tanvir added.

Dhaka Wasa board on September

19 approved a proposal to re-appoint its Managing Director Taqsem A Khan for three more years.

The Wasa board made the decision in its 97th special meeting held online.

The special meeting's topic of discussion was to send a proposal to the Local Government Division regarding the appointment of Taqsem as Wasa MD for the next three years, according to a notice issued by Wasa on Thursday.

Taqsem has reportedly been the MD for the last 11 years. He was appointed for five consecutive terms of varying lengths. His current term expires on October 14.

When he took charge of Dhaka Wasa in 2009, most parts of the capital got flooded after heavy rains. The situation remains the same to this day, a report published on The Daily Star on September 20 said.

Gonoforum may split as rift widens

FROM PAGE 1
Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Reza said, "They don't have any right to call a meeting. A meeting can be called with consent from the party president."

The decision of calling this meeting is unconstitutional and Gonoforum has nothing to do with it."

He also said anyone can hold a meeting anywhere and Gonoforum has no objection to it, but the party did not call any meeting amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Subrata, however, said Reza had no right to say anything and Dr Kamal would be invited to the meeting.

Talking to this newspaper, he alleged that Reza was not following Gonoforum's charter, which stipulated that the party would hold a secretary-level meeting every 30 days, a standing committee meeting every 60 days and a central committee meeting every 90 days.

"But Mr Reza Kibria did not call a single meeting since the full committee of the party was announced last year. The central committee leaders repeatedly asked him to hold meetings, but in vain," he said.

Subrata further alleged that "show cause" notices were served on a number of party leaders and four of them were expelled later.

"But according to our party charter, the president or the general secretary alone cannot make a decision. All

the decisions should be approved in a council or in a central committee meeting," he said.

Asked about the allegations, Reza said, "Yes, everything is subject to approval by the central committee, but the party president can make any decision and can have it approved in a meeting later."

Referring to the expulsion of former Gonoforum leader Sultan Muhammed Mansur Ahmed, Reza said the then general secretary Mostafa Mohsin Montu had expelled Sultan without issuing any show-cause notice to him.

"But when I took charge, I followed the party constitution. We first issued a show-cause notice and then the decision of expulsion was made."

Regarding the party meeting, Reza said a pandemic situation is prevailing in the country and the party has decided to stop its organisational activities for now.

"Before the pandemic, we visited a number of districts. But all the party activities have come to a halt due to novel coronavirus," he said.

Subrata said Dr Kamal was "held hostage" by a group of people and was being "misled" by them.

"We will try our best to bring the party on right track freeing it from the clutches of those people," he said, adding that Gonoforum as an organisation did not suffer so much since its inception in 1993.

'Situation now worse than during peak in March'

FROM PAGE 1
people, who are less at risk of developing severe symptoms.

But these too are on a worrying path as older people are increasingly infected, the ECDC said.

Israel and France were among the latest nations to tighten infection control measures, shuttering restaurants, workplaces or gyms as businesses already hammered by lockdowns at the start of the year struggle to stay afloat.

France's health minister on Wednesday announced drastic restrictions in some particularly hard-hit areas of the country.

In the southern city of Marseille, bars, restaurants and gyms will close while bars in Paris and 10 other cities will close at 10:00 pm. Gyms will also

be shuttered in the capital.

Israel, which has the world's highest coronavirus infection rate as a proportion of its population, has gone even further.

Last week, it imposed a second nationwide lockdown that included school closures and restrictions on work and leisure.

But realising that wasn't enough, with some hospitals reaching capacity, it decided yesterday to toughen its measures still further. The new rules will close the vast majority of workplaces, shutter markets and further limit prayers and demonstrations.

Authorities are also considering closing Ben Gurion international airport outside Tel Aviv.

As restrictions are being imposed, so protests and anger are rising as

This year, the price of seeds is Tk 8,000 per kg, which was below Tk 2,000 last year.

Shailendra, who made the presentation at the agriculture ministry on Wednesday on how to increase onion production, said sandy char areas in the northern region have good potential to grow onion.

And farmers should grow onions with sugarcane, ginger, turmeric and maize and agricultural officials can train farmers about the method, he added.

Regarding new varieties of onion, he said, they have just developed high-yielding BARI-6. But it will take some time to produce seeds to start its cultivation at the farmers' level.

Regarding the summer variety BARI-5, he said, it was cultivated on only a few hundred acres of land last year.

"Even if we start producing the seeds now, it will take around six years to grow enough of the new varieties to meet our demand," he added.

Shailendra suggested that farmers, who usually plant homegrown and low-yielding seeds, should be provided with the new varieties.

Asked why seeds are not imported, he said, "Our winter is short compared to other onion growing countries. Seeds from those countries usually don't survive here."

Abdul Mueyed, director general of DAE, said the summer varieties BARI-5 and BARI-3 will play a big role in making the country self-sufficient in onion. Besides, the BADC will be directed to produce adequate seeds of summer onion.

When asked about the seed crisis issue, agriculture minister Abdur Razzaque said, "We will ensure supply of quality seeds to farmers before the season starts. I think farmers will show more interest in onion cultivation in the coming season."

N'GANJ MOSQUE BLAST

PM provides Tk 1.75cr to families of victims

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given Tk 1.75 crore as financial assistance to 35 families of the victims of Narayanganj mosque blasts.

An amount of Tk 5 lakh was given as cash support for each of the 35 families of the dead and injured people in the deadly incident, said PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim.

The deputy commissioner of Narayanganj was directed to hand over cheques of the donation to the families of the victims.

The blasts took place at a mosque in Fatullah on September 4. Thirty-four people were killed in the incident.

Taliban kill 28 police in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban have killed 28 paramilitary policemen in fighting in southern Afghanistan, officials said Wednesday, the latest losses in an ongoing siege of a government-controlled district that could tip into insurgent hands.

One local official said the Taliban executed the police after they had surrendered, but the insurgents denied this and AFP was not immediately able to confirm the claim.

If proven, a mass shooting of dozens of captives would mark a grim new low point in Afghanistan's recent violence, which has been worsening in recent weeks.

The incident occurred in the Gizab district of the southern province of Uruzgan, where intense fighting has raged for days as the Taliban besiege outmanned and outgunned Afghan police and army outposts.

ZelgaiEbad, a spokesman for the Uruzgan governor, said Taliban fighters offered 28 local and national police a chance to go home if they surrendered Tuesday night.

"But after taking their guns, the Taliban killed them all," Ebad said.

Provincial council head Amir Mohammad Barezai confirmed the death toll and said heavy fighting was ongoing.

Barezai would not say if the men had been killed before or after surrendering.

A third local official, speaking on condition of anonymity, put the toll at 28-30 police, adding that three policemen managed to escape.

No promotion

FROM PAGE 1
"There is no scope of auto promotions. There should be some kind of assessment for eighth grade students at schools," Dhaka Education Board Chairman Ziaul Haque told reporters after a meeting at his board office yesterday afternoon.

Chairmen of all 11 education boards were present at the meeting.

Ziaul, also chairman of inter-education board coordination sub-committee, said the Bangladesh Examination Development Unit will formulate a guideline on the assessments, adding that school authorities, if possible, will hold physical exams or they can also hold online tests. "If neither of these options are available to them, teachers can have continuous assessment based on the performance of students."

Around two million students were expected to take the JSC and equivalent exams in November.

He said the assessments, if taken on how much of the syllabi were completed till March 15, should be taken through television education via Sangshad TV and online classes taken by school authorities.

"If some chapters or topics of a subject remain uncovered during this year, those will be added to the class nine syllabi," Ziaul said.

Regarding exams of grades six and seven students, he said the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education and National Curriculum and Textbook Board will frame a guideline.

Several board chairmen, who attended the meeting, confirmed that no decision regarding postponement of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations was taken.

The exams slated for April 1 were postponed on March 22 for an indefinite period due to the pandemic. About 13 lakh students are expected to take the exams.

"The decision regarding HSC exams depends on many factors and the government high-ups will take it," said a board chairman.

"We have discussed completing all preparations for HSC exams, so that we can take the exam as soon as the government makes a decision in this regard," said another.

Meanwhile, Ziaul declined making any comments regarding the HSC exams.

292 protests held since pandemic hit the country

Says Dhaka University's Centre for Genocide Studies report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 292 protests were held across Bangladesh for different reasons since Covid-19 hit the country in March, said a report of Dhaka University's Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS).

Among those, 96 protests were held for unpaid salaries and Eid bonuses; 55 for demanding relief, aid and food; 39 against lay-offs or closures and pay cuts; 37 for proper medical equipment or against mismanagement in health sector; and 36 over lockdown rules, for accountability, against proposed budget and hike in bus-fares, and for reopening.

Besides, 17 protests took place for waiver of rent or tuition fees, and 11 against irregularities in relief, aid and food distribution.

CGS shared the report styled "Covid-19 Graphics" with the media yesterday. It is the 20th edition of a report series by Bangladesh Peace Observatory, a CGS

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



The water in the moat surrounding the Bangabandhu Square Monument in Gulistan is filled up to the brims by trash. Whereas an installation such as this one should make people feel glorious, there's this depressing aura all around the monument. This photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK

2 ministers downplay design flaw of viaduct

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY, back from Munshiganj

With the cabinet division having already directed Padma Bridge Rail Link Project (PBRLP) authority to redesign viaducts due to the poor vertical and horizontal clearance, the railways minister, who visited the site along with planning minister yesterday, tried to down play the problem.

Planning Minister MA Mannan and Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon, however, told reporters -- who were invited to the visit -- there that consultants and Buet experts are working to solve the "design-related issue that arose recently."

"It is not the proper time to say that fault [in design] has been detected... It has not been settled yet whether there was fault [in design]," Sujon said. Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project (PMBP) authorities expressed serious concerns because the designed viaducts for rail use have left too little clearance for tall vehicles that might use the roads underneath.

PMBP officials said construction of viaducts with the existing vertical limit will hamper movement of heavy lorries or loaded vehicles and the existing horizontal limit will shrink the width of the connecting roads of the country's longest bridge.

Amid this situation, cabinet division last week directed PBRLP to redesign the viaducts.

A panel of experts led by Prof Shamim Z Bosunia, chairman of the government's panel of experts on PMBP, has been assigned to solve the design-related problem.

Rail link authorities claimed that the problem regarding vertical clearance actually arose over pier 25(1) and 25(2), and their contractor is redesigning it now. The problem is nothing major, they said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Juvenile sibling rivalry gone too far

Four-yr-old in Karail was killed by brother 'out of jealousy': Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four-year old Nusrat Jahan Mim, whose body was found in a bathroom at Karail slum in Dhaka on Wednesday, was killed by her elder brother, said Rab.

He strangled her "out of jealousy" while she was sleeping, as he felt his sister was loved more by their parents, Rab-1 assistant director Md Kamruzzaman quoted the 14-year-old as saying yesterday.

A team of Rab-1 arrested him from the slum, he told The Daily Star.

During primary interrogation, the fifth-grader of a local school, told Rab that he thought his parents' love for him started to wane after his sister was born.

The boy used to think that his parents became indifferent

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Tricked and trafficked into Brunei

Brokers offer 'work visas' from fake companies to send Bangladeshis to the oil-rich country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To change his and his family's fortune, Zia Mollah flew to Brunei on October 30 last year after collecting Tk 3.20 lakh expense by selling land and sister-in-law's gold ornaments.

But soon after he landed in the country, his passport was seized by a group of brokers. Although they were supposed to provide job and residence, they left Zia abandoned.

While Zia and some other Bangladeshis were trying to survive there after renting a house in Darussalam of Brunei, law enforcers arrested them as illegal immigrants.

Zia had to stay in jail for seven days.

He said he was tortured in the country, as police wanted to know how he entered Brunei without documents.

Finally, he got released on a special pass with the help of an interpreter. They told him to collect his passport from the brokers.

Zia contacted them but they sought money for it.

He informed his family in Bangladesh about the situation. They had to take a loan of around Tk 1.20 lakh from different NGOs and send it to him so that he can pay the brokers and come back home.

Zia returned to Bangladesh on January 2.

He shared his experience with The Daily Star at the office of Rab-3 on Wednesday.

His elder brother Nasir Mollah said their father is a rickshaw-puller and he works as a support staff at a private bank.

"We thought once we send Zia abroad, the condition of our family would improve, but we are now struggling to repay the loans we took," said Nasir.

The siblings gathered at the Rab office after learning that the elite force has arrested three persons, including the one who sent Zia to Brunei and took money from them.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

MJF providing cash support to 23,000 poor households

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has begun distributing cash assistance to some 23,000 Covid-19 affected marginalised households in 38 districts through a three-month emergency cash transfer initiative, under the Excluded People's Rights in Bangladesh (EPR) Programme, supported by the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

In the first phase, beginning September 17, MJF is distributing Tk 57.5 million to 23,000 households in 38 priority districts, which have high concentration of marginalised and excluded people in poverty-prone locations, according to a press release.

The households, left out of social safety net coverage, were selected on priority basis for this cash support. The beneficiaries were selected through a multi-tier selection

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Grabbers eye land of Sylhet Catholic diocese

Bishop urges police to beef up security after miscreants vandalise property; 2 accused sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Some local influential are allegedly trying to grab a land belonging to the Catholic diocese in Sylhet.

On Monday morning, some of their hired goons intruded into the property in Porgonabazar area of Sylhet Sadar upazila and threatened the staffers of the church, said witnesses.

They also uprooted around 50 trees planted marking Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary and demanded Tk 25 lakh.

The Catholic community in Sylhet is perturbed by such intimidation and the staff members and workers of the diocese are now living amid fear. They have also asked police for protection.

According to the bishop's office, a total of 2.45 acres of land were bought during 2013-2015 to build a school, clinic and other structures, adjacent to the bishop's residence and office.

But over the years, a group of land grabbers supported by local miscreants are eyeing the land, said office staffers.

Following Monday's incident, Father

Saraj Costa, office in-charge of the Sylhet Catholic Diocese at the bishop's office, filed a case with Shahporan Police Station, accusing 19 named and several unnamed persons.

That very night, police arrested two accused -- Azizur Rahman of Khunirchak and Israili Ali of Kallagram -- in Sylhet Sadar upazila.

Sub-inspector Ripton Purkayastha, the case's investigation officer, said, "The accused have been sent to jail after they appeared before a court on September 22."

Meanwhile, local businessman Israk Ali, the prime accused in the case, has still not been arrested.

Contacted yesterday, he said the land belonged to him and his family for years and hung up. His number was found switched off afterwards.

Asked, police said they were trying to arrest all the accused.

Meanwhile, Bishop Bejoy N D'Cruze, chief of Sylhet Catholic Diocese, wrote a letter to the police commissioner (Sylhet) on Monday requesting security and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

MURDER OF SAVAR SCHOOLGIRL

Not a one-off crime

Plenty of allegations against Mizan; 'got shelter from local AL'

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Four days after the murder of Savar schoolgirl Nila Roy, information about the dubious past of prime accused Mizanur Rahman (20) has started to surface. Mizan, who allegedly stabbed Nila in an abandoned house owned by his father on Sunday night, has turned out to be a member of "Shakil and Sakib" gang.

Members of the gang are infamous for extorting people and businesses, and often involve in stalking girls and drug trade, alleged locals of Savar's Dakkhin Para.

Speaking to The Daily Star, they said Shakil and Sakib are sons of Awami League joint secretary of Savar Municipality Shirajul Islam Shiru.

They said if any victim took the issues to Shiru, they would face stern warnings and even threats, which prevented people from protesting the gang's crimes.

Seeking anonymity, a victim who was beaten by the gang told this correspondent they came after him after he refused them extortion money.

"When I took it up with Shiru and demanded justice, he asked me to come over to his residence. I went there with my landlord. He confined us to a room and threatened us and forbade to talk about this with anyone," the victim said.

Meanwhile, a Savar local alleged that 10 hours before Nila's murder, Mizan and Shakib stalked another girl in front of the abandoned house. At one stage, Shakib even assaulted the girl.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

MINI BYTES

Have smartphones reached peak design?

E RAZA RONNY

Smartphones seem to be stuck after achieving an evolutionary height. Every device is a large rectangular slab usually black. Some argue that the form has achieved the ultimate mix of perfection and functionality. It is very likely true but that does not stop designers trying to wow the consumer one more time.



SAMSUNG FLIPPING OUT ON THE COMPETITION

Take the Samsung Z Flip. It is a nearly a square device that flips open to reveal a display folded in half. Released in February 2020, this has all the flagship specs with a Snapdragon 855 processor, Adreno 650 GPU and 8GB of RAM. Unfolded, it's a 6.7-inch display. Quite right by today's standards. When you fold it though, it's 17.3mm thick which is basically the same thickness as a classic Nokia 1200.

It launched for USD 1380. We've seen units selling here in Bangladesh for BDT 1,42,000. It tries to bring back the novelty of flip phones from the early 2000's where 'cool' people would have got additional points for flipping open a phone with style. The Z Flip doesn't quite cut the cake as it is too close to being a square and looks more like a vanity mirror.

Samsung also has a similar device called the Fold which, er, folds vertically and has the range topping Snapdragon 855 chipset. Huawei did the folding act too but not as well while the Microsoft Surface Duo utilizes two screens separated by a hinge and can rotate 360 degrees.

MOTOROLA TRYING TO REGAIN THE CROWN

The cool flip benchmark though has been set back in 2004 by the Motorola RAZRV3. All aluminum, this was the coolest thing in the world of phones. It sold over 130 million units making it the best-selling flip phone ever. In 2019 the rebirth came in the form of the Moto RAZR 2019, leaving you with no confusion. It looked superb, possibly still the best looking flip



phone in the market. The device closes satisfyingly and has a nearly zero gap between screens when closed. Folded up, it had nearly the same thickness as the original (13.9mm versus 14mm now). But the reception was lackluster after the specs rolled out. The Snapdragon 710, small 2510 mAh battery and average cameras didn't help. At about BDT 1,25,000 it came with a few squeaks when closing or opening. Even though Motorola stated it went through rigorous stress tests, it's scary how fragile that fancy OLED screen feels. An updated RAZR is due soon.



LG WANTS TO GIVE YOU WINGS

LG went an untried route with their new Wing, unveiled just last week. Remember reality beding Neo from The Matrix movie? He had a cool Nokia 8110 that would slide open to reveal, er, more phone. LG Wing slides up an entire screen out from the back to form a T shape. You get two screens so that you never ever look up from your device, forever shackled. Very cool concept though and durability testing lasted over 200,000 swivels, close to 100 motions daily for five years. While the processor is not the top tier (Snapdragon 765) LG hopes to make a mark with its supposedly stellar camera setup. The start being a 64 MP, f/1.8 main camera for a whole lot of light promising very, very sharp photos. Hold it like an old-school handycam and shoot videos. Current retail prices are suggested at around \$940 when it ships out to South Korea in October.



Rupnagar slum in the capital's Mirpur, where a devastating blaze devoured around 400 shanties six months ago, is back to its old self. The same tin structures have been erected again, with faulty pipes and wires providing illegal gas and power lines, snaking its way into all homes. Authorities had formed a body to investigate the disaster, but looking at the present scenario, it's evident that not enough has been done to prevent another tragedy like March 11. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Dog relocation must stop 2 ministers

15 media personalities say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen media personalities have expressed grave concern over the ongoing relocation of stray dogs from Dhaka South City Corporation. In a statement yesterday, they said the animals are being driven out cruelly and unfairly.

They demanded that city corporation authorities improve canine management, and implement benign control mechanisms.

It was signed by Ramendu Majumder, Ferdousi Majumder, Sara Zaker, Dr Sarwar Ali, Prof Abdus Selim, Prof Shafi Ahmed, Mofidul Hoque, Mannan Heera, Hasan Arif, Masum Reza, Aly Zaker, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Golam Quddus, and Mamunur Rashid.

DU student sues Facebook users for 'sexual harassment'

She earlier filed cases against VP Nur

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University student, who had earlier sued former Ducusu VP Nur, yesterday filed a case against eight other persons, a Facebook group, and over a hundred unidentified people on the charge of sexually harassing her on the social media platform.

The case was filed with Shahbagh Police Station under the Digital Security Act and the Pornography Control Act on Wednesday night by the girl, who had filed two rape cases accusing former Ducusu VP Nurul Haque Nur and five others, Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Mamun-or Rashid said.

The complainant stated in the latest case statement, "My social status has been degraded by the alleged persons and Facebook group (Swapner Dhaka Biswabiddyalay). They harassed me sexually spreading false remark using social media platforms."

FROM PAGE 3

Sujan yesterday told reporters Bangladesh Railway has been implementing the project while Bangladesh Bridge Authority, which is implementing Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project, has given some conditions.

"Both the projects have consultants and contractors to resolve 'the differences of opinions', and I think there is no big difference of opinion between them," Sujan said.

"As we are concerned over the issue, we decided to visit the site physically," he added.

Meanwhile, Planning Minister said both the projects are very important projects. "We are not agreeing with the word 'error', as error can be found after completion of the works. However, some doubt has surfaced and we know how resolve those," he said.

"If the problem [related to design] appears big, then we, if necessary, will hire consultants from abroad," he said adding, "As the problem arose, we will settle it. We will not move forward with the matter unsettled."

Replying to a question whether there was any lack of coordination between the two projects, he said, "You have the right to raise questions. But there may be human error."

He, however, said the problem would be much graver had it been detected after the completion of the project.

"We have time to correct it. May be the

cost and duration [of the project] will rise. I don't know... We will discuss the matter at higher level and there is nothing to hide," he added.

The railways minister said they are hopeful about opening the Mawa-Bhangha section of the rail line when Padma Bridge would be opened for public in December 2021.

Meanwhile, Sujan, at a programme, also distributed cheques among people who were affected by the project. Total Tk 107.41 crore have already been distributed among 3,989 people, out of total 7,705 affected people and process is on to rehabilitate others through non-government organisations.

Railways Ministry Secretary Salim Reza, Bangladesh Railway's Director General Md Shamsuzzaman, project directors and top officials of both projects also accompanied them.

Both PMBP and PBRLP are fast-track projects.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) is implementing the much-hyped PMBP at a cost of Tk 30,193 crore to connect the country's southwestern region with the capital via road and rail lines.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Railway is implementing "Padma Bridge Rail Link Project" to connect the capital with Jashore with a 169km rail line over the under-construction Padma Bridge at a cost of Tk 39,246-crore.

Not a

FROM PAGE 3

Witnesses of the incident told this correspondent they could not protest fearing repercussions.

Some locals urged police to interrogate Shiru, which will bring everything to light.

Talking to The Daily Star at his residence in the same area yesterday, Shiru refuted the allegations against his sons, claiming that they are innocent. He said he does not even know who Mizan is.

He informed this correspondent that he is a cancer patient since 2015.

Asked about whereabouts of his sons, Shiru said, "I asked my sons to go into hiding as the neighbourhood became unsafe following the murder incident."

He also alleged that municipality Mayor Goni, his family and people from Jamaat and BNP have been harassing him for a long time. He claimed they were trying to frame his sons in the case as a conspiracy against him.

Contacted, Hazi Abdul Goni, mayor of Savar Municipality and president of municipality AL, said he is yet to hear any such complaints against Shiru. The mayor, however, said local AL did not invite Shiru to any programme because he had a bad reputation. He did not elaborate any further.

About the murder case, Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of Savar Police Station, said police are investigating it with highest priority.

Asked about locals' claims about Mizan's involvement with the Shakil and Shakib gang, the official said they are also looking for the duo.

The incident occurred on Sunday around 7pm, when Nila Roy (14), a 10th-grader of local Aced School, was on her way to a hospital with her elder brother Alok to have her respiratory problems examined. On their way, they were intercepted by Mizan, who threatened Alok and asked him to leave because he wanted to talk to Nila alone.

Mizan then forced Nila into the abandoned house, where he stabbed and left her. Upon hearing her cries, locals rescued and rushed her to Savar Enam Medical College Hospital. However, minutes after their arrival, doctors declared Nila dead.

The following day, Nila's father filed a case against Mizan and his parents. Police on Wednesday arrested one Selim Palowan (28), an associate of Mizan, for his alleged involvement in the case.

Grabbers eye Tricked and

FROM PAGE 3

protection for them and the property.

Jyotirmoy Sarkar, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, "We've taken the matter very seriously. We will beef up security now."

Mentionable in 2017, some people filed a partition suit/title suit claiming their right over the land.

They also filed for injunction over the land in 2019, which was later dismissed by the Additional District Judge of Sylhet following investigation reports of Shahporan Police Station and later of the assistant commissioner (land) of Sylhet.

FROM PAGE 3

Rab-3 in a joint drive with National Security Intelligence (NSI) arrested Sheikh Aminur Rahman Himu from the capital's Kafrul on Tuesday night.

He allegedly took Tk 3 crore from 400 people in last one year after promising them jobs in Brunei, said Lt Col Rakibul Hasan, commanding officer of Rab-3, at a briefing at the battalion office on Wednesday evening.

Interrogating the arrestee, Rab arrested his two associates -- Nur Alam and Bablur Rahman -- from Mohakhali.

Lt Col Rakibul said Himu is a close associate of the mastermind of Brunei human trafficking racket -- Mehedi Hasan Bijon.

An accused of around 20 cases, Bijon's passport was suspended by the home ministry last year following a request of Bangladesh high commission in Brunei after learning about his involvement in human trafficking.

Rab said Bijon is in Bangladesh now.

About the procedure of sending people, Lt Col Rakibul said there are some 3,000 companies in Brunei owned by Bangladeshis. But only one

percent of these companies are legitimate, he said.

Bangladeshis nationals in collaboration with Brunei citizens opened these fake companies and created fake visas to recruit workers from Bangladesh, he said.

"The Bangladesh high commission in Brunei already identified these companies and action would be taken against them soon," he said.

Palash Kumar Bosu, executive magistrate of Rab, who was also present at the briefing, said the Bangladesh high commission has started a visa attestation system in August 2017 after noticing that a huge number of Bangladeshis were becoming victims of trafficking.

Still many Bangladeshis have flown to Brunei, he said.

He said they are suspecting some officials working with the visa attestation system might be involved as it should be difficult to fly with a fake visa after 2017.

"We will be able to say for sure after investigation," he added.

Lt Col Rakibul said they have already got names of the racket members. "We're conducting drives to arrest them," he added.

MJF providing

FROM PAGE 3

process involving local administration, community leaders and youth volunteers of MJF's 58 partner NGOs.

Mostly rural marginalised and excluded people (i.e. tea garden workers, plain land indigenous people, CHT indigenous people, fishers, violence victims, women survivors, widows and destitute women and people with disabilities, etc) have been enlisted as eligible beneficiaries for this cash transfer programme.

In Dhaka and other big cities, transfer is mostly limited to Dalits, sex workers and LGBT people who have not received any social protection support.

Women in households are being given preference to receive cash assistance while exception was allowed for people with disabilities and/or in the absence of adult female household members.

Selected special categories beneficiaries under 18 years of age such as disabled boys/girls, victims of child marriage, school children of ethnic minorities are also receiving cash in favour of their guardians.

Special attention is being given to pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities during physical cash transfer. Distribution and grievance redressal committees have been formed in each community.

Appreciating the UK response, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, "The support of the British government is laudable which will help some 23,000 marginalised households covering vulnerable people, who are the hardest hit by Covid-19 pandemic and in urgent need of substantive cash support for the next three months."

ARMS CASE

Prosecution seeks highest punishment for Papia

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday sought highest punishment -- life term imprisonment -- for expelled Jubo Mohila League leader Shamima Nur Papia and her husband Mofizur Rahman Sumon in an arms case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu told the court that they have been able to prove the charges against the couple.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka fixed September 27 for the next date of hearing.

FLAT FOR IMMEDIATE SALE

Duplex Flat-A3 (4th & 5th Floor) approx. 3,320 sqft for immediate sale in House -19, Road-68 A, Gulshan-2, Dhaka. Direct Buyers only interested to purchase to approach. NO BROKERS PLEASE. Contact no- **01755-587 400 (Atick)**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement

Closing date: **06 October 2020**

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified national candidates to the following vacant positions under FAO Bangladesh Programme:

1. National Programme Coordinator (2002153)
2. National Programme Specialist (2002154)
3. Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist (2002152)
4. National GIS Specialist (2002151)
5. Assistant National Operations Specialist (2002155)

Interested and qualified candidates will find the post descriptions from our website. Please go to this link <http://www.fao.org/employment/recruitment-access/en/> then click access, this gets you to Jobs at FAO. Ensure your profile has all the details as outlined in TALEO profile steps.

No hand delivered applications will be accepted, the Vacancy closes on **06 October 2020**.

All recruitment to FAO posts are made on a competitive and transparent basis. Candidates are encouraged to apply directly to FAO and follow the instructions on the above-mentioned website. Please note that no intermediary is allowed to expedite or facilitate such process. All those who represent themselves as such are fraudulent and should be reported to FAO immediately.

Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

জীবন ও স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষায় নিরাপদ খাদ্য

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ

৭১-৭২, ইন্টারন্যাশনাল গার্ডেন, ঢাকা

www.bfsa.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-১৩.০২.০০০০.৫০১.০৫.০০৫.২০-৩২ তারিখঃ ০৯ আশ্বিন, ১৪২৭

২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০

আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ধীন বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ ড্রাইভার, অফিস সহায়ক, নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী ও পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মীসহ চারটি পদে মোট ১২৩ জন লোক আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে নিয়োগ করা হবে। সে লক্ষ্যে গত ০১-০৯-২০২০ তারিখে আগ্রহী ও অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে মর্মে বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন ও দি ডেইলি স্টার পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশ করা হয়। পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ২৮-০৯-২০২০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নগদ ৫০০/- টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) মূল্যে বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ (নিউ ইন্টারন্যাশনাল, ৭১-৭২, প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ভবন) ১৩ তলায় অবস্থিত উপসচিব, বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ এর দপ্তর থেকে দরপত্র সিডিউল তৈরি করা যাবে মর্মে পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞাপন প্রচারিত হয়। কিন্তু কোভিড-১৯ পরিস্থিতির কারণে টেন্ডার প্রক্রিয়ায় অধিক দরপত্রদাতার অংশগ্রহণের সুবিধার্থে দরপত্র সিডিউল তৈরির সময় আগামী ১২-১০-২০২০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হল। আগামী ১৩-১০-২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ ও খাদ্য ভবনে রক্ষিত দরপত্র ব্যঞ্জে দরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে। তাছাড়া এ দিনই বেলা ৩ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষের সম্মেলন কক্ষে (কক্ষ নং-১৩২০) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ রয়েছে।

নূর-ই-খাজা আলামীন

উপসচিব

বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ

জিডি-১৫২১

ফোনঃ ৫৫১৩৮০০১

Juvenile

FROM PAGE 3

towards him. He claimed that his father often beat him up without any reason, and his parents used to entertain his sister's wishes, Rab said.

He blamed Mim for everything and the resentment grew over the years. On Wednesday, when he found his father Liton, a fruit vendor, and mother Rukana Akter, a part-time house help, not at home and Mim was sleeping, he choked her to death, said the Rab official.

The boy first put the body under their bed but later removed to the bathroom as everyone was looking for Mim, he said.

Sohel Mahmud, head of forensic medicine department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the autopsy was conducted, said primarily they found that the child was choked to death.

Garment Factory For Sale

Newly build a Garment Factory For Sale, With land 140,000 Sft, Building 100,000 Sft, 800 Machinery and all of factory document. Company situated at Mouchak, Kaliakair, Gazipur. Cont: j.mamun@gmail.com, arrowcap@gmail.com, Mobile: +8801841885885

TO LET

Office Space

2nd (1300sft) & 3rd (1300sft) Floor. 3 Attach bath, 1 Common, 3 Balcony. Pisciculture Housing, Shyamoli. Mobile: 01816934437

বিক্রয় অথবা ভাড়া দেওয়া হইবে

শতভাগ রঙিনীমুখী কমপ্লাইন্স ১৪ সূইং লাইন এবং অত্যাধুনিক ওয়াশিং প্লান্ট সহ গভেন গার্মেন্টস ফ্যাক্টরী বিক্রয় অথবা ভাড়া দেওয়া হইবে। মোট বিল্ডিং- ১.৭৫.০০০ বর্গফুট। অবস্থান আটিপাড়া, উত্তরখান, উত্তরা, ঢাকা। যোগাযোগ- ০১৮৪২৬২৫০২৮, ০১৯৩৫৬০১০৯৮

Sale of Ready Flat & Office Space

A 10 storied building at Outer Circular Road (Opposite to Rajarbag Police Line). All the facilities including lift and generator are available. Please Contact: **01838181818**

Study Abroad

Global University Admission & Visa Processing Centre

BASHATI CONDOMINIUM House # 15, Road # 17, Banani, C/A, Dhaka M: 01406 252 275 / 70

RING TOWER 06/A, Ring Road, Mohammapur, Dhaka M: 01406 252 221 / 33 / 20

292 protests

FROM PAGE 3

initiative. The report was prepared based on news reports published or aired by 25 media outlets, including national and local dailies, online news sites, and television channels.

The latest report said some 87 people were arrested across the country in connection with 86 incidents of spreading rumour over Covid-19.

It said 635 people were arrested and another 13,399 fined between March 1 and September 19.

It observed that giving out fines and penalties for not maintaining health guidelines and violating social distancing rules in public places has been gradually declining in recent weeks.

Among the offenders, 62 percent were civilians and 24 percent traders.

Amid the pandemic, 244 incidents related to verbal abuse and social stigma took place.

In addition, 150 incidents of violence related to the coronavirus occurred in the country, which caused 24 deaths and 606 injuries.

TUTOR REQUIRED

URGENTLY NEED AN ECONOMICS TEACHER FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT FROM CANADA. MUST KNOW ENGLISH TO TEACH ECONOMICS THEORY AND ECONOMETRICS USING THE SOFTWARE PYTHON OR 'R' R STUDIO. LOCATION: MOHAKHALLI, DOHS. CONTACT # 01711-529861

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 Phone: 8181658-61, 8181169, 8181664-9; Website: <http://www.pksf-bd.org>

Vacancy Announcement

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is an apex development organization established by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and accredited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2017. GCF is the dedicated fund for the climate change under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). PKSF is now implementing the "Extended Community Climate Change Project-Flood (ECCCP-Flood)" under the financial support of GCF. PKSF hereby invites applications for the following position:

SN	Name of the Post with Number	Consolidated Monthly Salary
1	Programme Officer (Monitoring and Evaluation)-01	BDT 90,000/-

The employee will be recruited initially for one year with an opportunity for performance based annual renewal during the project period. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should apply online by **10 October 2020**. For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and instructions to apply, please visit PKSF website: www.pksf-bd.org.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. PKSF is an equal opportunity employer. Any kind of persuasion will be treated as disqualification of the candidate. PKSF reserves the right to cancel this recruitment process without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Golam Touhid
Deputy Managing Director

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 Phone: 8181658-61, 8181169, 8181664-9; Website: <http://www.pksf-bd.org>

Vacancy Announcement

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), an apex development organization, was established by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in 1990 for sustainable poverty reduction through employment generation. Since its inception, PKSF has been implementing various poverty alleviation programmes and projects through its Partner Organizations (POs) all over the country.

PKSF has been implementing a new project for the extreme poor people titled 'Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People (PPEPP)' since 2019, jointly financed by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO; formerly DFID) and the European Union (EU). The objectives of the project are to enable two million people to exit from extreme poverty for good, and to support the development of stronger national institutions and systems to deliver the public and private services required by extremely poor people to become resilient and prosper. This project is being implemented in the north-western char areas, south-western coastal belt, haor areas in the north-east region and some selected areas with high concentration of ethnic minority people. The duration of the first phase of the project is six years.

PKSF hereby invites applications from the suitable candidates for the following positions for the PPEPP project.

Sl	Name of the positions	No. of post	Monthly salary (consolidated)
1	Senior Programme Manager (Community Mobilisation)	1	1,65,000/-
2	Assistant Programme Coordinator (Audit)	1	1,05,000/-
3	Junior Officer (Logistics and Administrative Support)	1	62,000/-

The employees will be recruited initially for one year with an opportunity for performance-based annual renewal during the project period. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements are requested to apply online through the website www.pksf-bd.org by **10 October 2020**. For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and instructions please visit the website of PKSF.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. PKSF is an equal opportunity employer. Any kind of persuasion will be treated as disqualification of the candidate. PKSF reserves the right to cancel this recruitment process without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Golam Touhid
Deputy Managing Director



They do not know whether the few sand-filled bags they are placing on the edge of the river will make the aggressive Teesta stop devouring their land. But the inhabitants of Purbo Ichli village in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila have no other choice. PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

TEESTA EROSION IN GANGACHARA UPAZILA

Hundreds lose all in one week, thousand others await same fate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hundreds became homeless in the last seven days as houses belonging to at least 200 families were lost to the Teesta river in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila -- an area prone to the river's erosion.

Near about 17 thousand inhabitants of three villages -- Purbo, Pashchim and Madhya Ichli in Lakkhitari union of the upazila -- might lose all their property to the erosion, said locals.

An educational institution, an Eidgah ground and a temple have already gone into the river during this week in Purbo Ichli village where a madrasa is also on the verge of collapse into the river.

The banks of the Teesta started eroding in early August, but the extent of the erosion intensified since September 12, following massive rainfall in the region.

Due to a couple of back-to-back floods since July, the inhabitants of the area already suffered great losses. And now the erosion is eventually going to turn them penniless by taking away their homes and agricultural land, they also said.

"How will the people bear such loss -- losing their homes that they built with their lifetimes savings?" asked Rozina Begum, a resident of Ichli village.

Another villager, Rafiqul Islam, said although there is an embankment along the river, built for their protection against flooding or erosion, the villagers become homeless every year.

Many of the villagers this correspondent spoke with said that the number of erosion victims, who are taking shelter on higher ground, is getting higher this year as the river is apparently changing its course towards its old path.

Due to the reason, the road to the Sheikh Hasina Bridge in the upazila is also under erosion threat, they also said.

Aside from houses and other structures, the river has devoured a large amount of agricultural land as well as several hundred fishing ponds, said Abdul Kader Mollah from Ichli village. "The Ichli Eidgah ground is nowhere to be found -- it has also disappeared into the river."

Primal Roy, from the same village, said the village temple has also gone into the river.

Lakkhitari Union Parishad Chairman Abdullah Al Hadi said a seven-kilometre-long embankment along the river can save Purbo, Pashchim and Madhya Ichli villages. "Otherwise, hundreds will be displaced as the villages that they call home will no longer exist."

Entrepreneur shines in Arabian date cultivation

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Even before the trees are fully matured to bear fruits, a young entrepreneur has fully recovered his investment of Tk 9 lakh by just selling tree saplings of Saudi Arabian dates.

His vast orchard, full of three thousand date plants of different varieties on 90 decimals of land in Barind region of Nachole upazila, is now an inspiration for many others.

Barind is an area in Chapainawabganj, where the reddish soil is rough, dry and arid.

Obaidul Islam Rubel, aged 31, started setting up the orchard on his land in Bherendi village of Nachole upazila after his relative Raisuddin Mirza, who works in Saudi Arabia, sent one thousand seeds of different Saudi Arabian date varieties in 2017.

Following Raisuddin's advice, Rubel succeeded in growing 600 saplings from the seeds. Rubel later received more seeds, from which he grew all the rest of the saplings for the orchard.

The plants mature in five years and he hopes to harvest 100 kilograms of dates from each mature tree every year, said Rubel.

But before selling the fruits

FARMING IN BARIND REGION

commercially, he has already sold 7,000 date saplings for a total of Tk 9 lakh, which is how much he had invested in the orchard so far.

Depending on the variety, the sapling prices range between Tk 250 and Tk 5,000. He also made Tk 3 lakh from the sale of three fruit bearing date trees.

Encouraged by Rubel's success, many locals over the last couple of years have come forward and invested in large-scale exotic date orchards in the Barind area.

Tohirul Islam, from Bandra village in the same upazila, is among them. He made an orchard of exotic dates on 33 decimals of land.

He said in his orchard, he already planted 250 saplings that he bought from Rubel and he will buy 200 more saplings from him this year.

On what grounds he decided to risk such a large sum of money in an arid land, Rubel, who passed HSC in 2007, said climates in Saudi Arabia and Barind region in Bangladesh are almost similar. "If so much sweet dates grow there, why won't they grow here?"

Besides, after watching different videos on date farming techniques on the internet, he grew confident that there is a great potential in producing dates and its

saplings in the country.

It took hard work and help from his father to prepare the land for planting the saplings in the orchard. Finally, many of the date trees in the orchard started producing fruits in small quantities since last year and this year, they plucked 10 kgs of dates.

Saplings sprout from date trees from the second year and when fruits start to develop, they need to be covered with polythene bags, for protection from hail or rain, Rubel said.

Ajwa, Khelus, Helalee, Mariam, Ambar, Nakhla, Halwa, Darida, Shukkari and Barhee are some of the date varieties currently being grown in his orchard. Among those, Ajwa is the most expensive, while Helalee has the highest yield.

The dates grown in his orchard are sweeter than the imported varieties available in the market, Rubel said, adding that he would expand his orchard next year as he anticipates greater yields in coming years.

Jahirul Islam, germ plasm officer at Horticulture Centre in Chapainawabganj, said the climate in Barind region is suitable for date trees and if the produce grown there is of high quality, more exotic date orchards will be set up there.



Entrepreneur Obaidul Islam Rubel shows a bunch of Saudi Arabian date variety in his orchard at Bherendi village under Nachole upazila of Chapainawabganj. PHOTO: STAR

RICE EMBEZZLEMENT UP chairman lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Kushtia court yesterday sent four people, including a local union parishad (UP) chairman to jail in connection with a case for embezzling government rice.

The accused are Goshwami Durgapur UP Chairman Dabir Uddin Biswas, also general secretary of the union unit Awami League (AL), Maruful Islam, a member of Ward No under the same union, Sarwar Hossain, president of Ward No 1 unit AL, and rice dealer Montu Hossain.



Ethnic community people in Tangail's Madhupur upazila form a human chain in front of Dokhala Forest Range Office yesterday to press home their different demands, including resolving land issues. PHOTO: STAR

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ
 বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী
 সোনাকান্দা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
www.dewbn.gov.bd
 মোবাইলঃ ০১৭৬৯-৭১৯৮০৬ ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৭৬৬১০২৭

০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.১১.১৬৫.২০.১০০২ ২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এ নিম্নলিখিত পদে চুক্তিভিত্তিক জনকল নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাবেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বেতন	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন
০১।	আইন কর্মকর্তা	০১ (এক)	ক। ন্যূনতম ০৪ (চার) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ এলএলএম ডিগ্রী অথবা ০৬ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ এলএলবি ডিগ্রী। খ। স্বীকৃত ও স্বনামধন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত ছিলেন এমন অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন আইনজীবী অগ্রগণ্য।	সরকারি বেতনস্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অর প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী	সকল জেলা
২।	মূল বেতনের সাথে অন্যান্য ভাতাদি প্রতিষ্ঠানের বেতন কাঠামো, নিয়োগ নীতিমালা ও প্রচলিত নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদান করা হবে।				
৩।	নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স অনধিক ৩০ বছর, তবে ব্যয়োজ্যেষ্ঠ আইনজীবীদের প্রাধান্য দেয়া হবে।				
৪।	অর প্রতিষ্ঠানের চিকিৎসা কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মেডিক্যাল ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট সন্তোষজনক প্রতিপাদিত হলে চাকরিতে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে।				
৫।	অগ্রাধী প্রার্থীদেরকে পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত, ০৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙিন ছবি, নাপরিকল্পিত সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মনিবন্ধন, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সংক্রান্ত সকল সনদপত্রসমূহের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক বরাবর আবেদনপত্র "ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ" এর ঠিকানায় আগামী ০৮ অক্টোবর ২০২০ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।				
৬।	প্রার্থীকে বাছাই কমিটি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। এ জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ দেওয়া হবে না।				
৭।	অসম্পূর্ণ এবং ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।				

জিডি-১৫২০ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
 Road Division, Natore.
 ☎ 0771-66870 Fax: 0771-66810
 e-mail: eenat@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No: 1887 Date: 23/09/2020

e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Natore.

e-GP Tender ID	Name of work	Tender Document Last Selling/ downloading date and time	Last date and time for Tender Security submission	Tender Closing date and time
497245	Bamboo & Bullah Palisading work at 45th (p) km of Bogura (Jahangirabad) Natore Road (N-502) (Natore Part) under Road Division Natore during the year 2020-2021.	08-Oct-2020 17:00	11-Oct-2020 12:00	11-Oct-2020 12:30
497246	Rehabilitation of existing damaged pavement by providing Aggregate base type- II & carpeting with seal coat, fill placing of synthetic bags and Palisading work at 48th (p) km & 53th (p) km of Naogaon- Atrai- Natore Road (R-548) under Road Division Natore during the year 2020-2021.	08-Oct-2020 17:00	11-Oct-2020 12:30	11-Oct-2020 12:40
497247	Bamboo palisading work at different km of different Road under Sub-Division 2, Road Division Natore during the year 2020-2021.	08-Oct-2020 17:00	11-Oct-2020 12:30	11-Oct-2020 12:45

Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after closing time.

(Md.Ahasan Habib) ID No. 602365 Assistant Engineer, RHD Road Division, Natore

(Abdur Rahim) ID No. 602227 Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD Road Division, Natore

GD-1522

Pabna University of Science & Technology
 Office of the Project Director, PUST, PABNA.

Memo No: PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/36 Dated : 21 September, 2020

e-Tender Notice (FY-2020-21)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works under "Pabna University of Science & Technology Development Project", PUST, Pabna.

Sl No	e-Tender ID	APP ID	Package No & Invitation Ref. No	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Method
01.	497192	158695	PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/36	Construction of Elevated Platform under Pabna University of Science and Technology Development Project, PUST, FY 2020-21.	21 September, 2020 11.00	20 October, 2020 11.00	OTM

This is an online Tender where only e-tender will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Lt Colonel G.M Azizur Rahman
 afwc, psc (Retd)
 Project Director
 Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project.

GD-1516

380 detention centres in Xinjiang!

AFP, Sydney

China is running hundreds of detention centres in northwest Xinjiang across a network that is much bigger than previously thought, according to research presented Thursday by an Australian think tank.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) said it had identified more than 380 "suspected detention facilities" in the region, where China is believed to have held more than one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic-speaking residents.

The number of facilities is around 40 percent greater than previous estimates, the research said, and has been growing despite China's claims that many Uighurs have been released.

Beijing on Thursday again denied the existence of detention sites.



(From left, clockwise) Protesters march through the streets against a verdict that brought no murder or manslaughter charges against the three police officers involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor in New York City; protesters hold a sign while marching in downtown Louisville, Kentucky; and police arrest a protester in Louisville. Photos were taken on Wednesday.



PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nobel prize cash raised to \$1.1 million

The cash envelope that accompanies each Nobel prize will be increased this year from nine to 10 million kronor (\$1.1 million), the Nobel Foundation said yesterday. This year's prizes in the fields of medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics will be announced during the week of October 5. The prize sum was increased as the foundation's initiatives to improve its finances paid off.

UN, Britain to co-host climate summit on December 12

The United Nations and Britain said Wednesday they would co-host a global climate summit on December 12, the fifth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement. The announcement came days after Chinese President Xi Jinping told the UN that the world's largest greenhouse gas polluter would peak emissions in 2030 and attempt to go carbon neutral by 2060, a move hailed by environmentalists. According to the UN, the December 12 summit is intended to increase momentum ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) to be held in Glasgow in November 2021.

Saudi dissidents launch opposition party

A group of Saudi dissidents exiled in Britain, the US and elsewhere announced the launch of an opposition party on Wednesday, the first organised political resistance under King Salman's rule. Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy that does not tolerate any political opposition, but the formation of the National Assembly Party on the anniversary of the kingdom's founding comes amid a growing state crackdown on dissent and freedom of expression. The development is unlikely to seriously undermine the authority of the Arab world's most powerful ruling family. There was no immediate reaction from Saudi authorities.

California to ban sale of gasoline-powered cars by 2035

All passenger vehicles sold in California will be zero-emission by 2035 under a new rule aimed at fighting climate change and smog-fouled air. California wields considerable clout in the American auto industry as the country's wealthiest and most populated state. Transport emissions cause more than half of California's carbon pollution output, and parts of the state are vexed by some of the most toxic air in the country, according to the office of Governor Gavin Newsom.

EU condemns HK activist Joshua Wong's arrest

Prominent Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong was arrested yesterday for taking part in a protest at the height of the city's pro-democracy unrest last year, but he vowed to continue resisting China's crackdown on dissent. Wong was arrested for "unlawful assembly" over a 2019 demonstration against a government ban on face masks that was imposed before the coronavirus pandemic, his lawyer said. Later yesterday, the European Union criticised the move, saying it was "the latest in a troubling series of arrests of pro-democracy activists since the summer".

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Do not make UNSC obsolete

Brazil, Germany, India, Japan renew call to reform it

AFP, United Nations

Brazil, Germany, India and Japan have renewed their bid for permanent seats in an expanded UN Security Council, a long-sought goal without clear prospects.

The foreign ministers of the four nations made the joint call as they consulted virtually at the UN General Assembly amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We commit to instill new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council," the four ministers said in a joint statement after their videoconference on Wednesday.

"The world of today is very different from what it was when the United Nations was created 75 years ago. There are more countries, more people, more challenges but also more solutions," they wrote.

"Only if we manage to reform the Security Council will we stop it from becoming obsolete."

The four nations launched a bid in 2005 to expand the permanent membership of the Security Council, whose setup reflects the victors of World War II.

Five nations -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- exercise vetoes on the world body's most powerful institution.

The chances of Security Council reform "are next to none," said Andrew Bacevich, professor emeritus of international relations and history at Boston University.

"And the reason is that the reform proposal, which in many respects makes great sense, calls upon the Permanent Five countries to lose their power, he said.

"I can't imagine why any of them would find that prospect agreeable."

NO MURDER CHARGES AGAINST COPS IN BREONNA TAYLOR CASE

Protests erupt in major US cities

State of emergency, overnight curfew imposed in Louisville after two cops shot; riot declared in Portland

AGENCIES

Outrage and heartbreak boiled over into protests in cities across the US on Wednesday after news broke that none of the three officers involved in Breonna Taylor's death were charged with her killing.

More than six months after Taylor was shot to death after Louisville police officers broke down the door to her apartment while executing a warrant, a grand jury decided to indict only one of the three officers involved on first-degree wanton endangerment charges. The charge applies to the risk put on Taylor's neighbors but does not aim to hold the officer responsible for her death.

From Louisville to Los Angeles, Atlanta and New York, masses of people congregated to protest the decision. Police in Portland declared protests outside the justice center there a riot. And in Seattle, 13 people were arrested after a night of fires and protesters throwing glass bottles and fireworks at police, authorities said.

The biggest demonstration was in Taylor's hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, where two police officers were hospitalized after being shot late Wednesday.

"Both officers are currently undergoing treatment," interim police chief Robert Schroeder told reporters.

"One is alert and stable. The other officer

is currently undergoing surgery and stable," he said, adding that one person had been arrested.

President Donald Trump, who is campaigning for reelection on a "law-and-order" platform, tweeted that he was "praying for the two police officers that were shot tonight in Louisville, Kentucky. The Federal



Government stands behind you and is ready to help."

Thousands of demonstrators had flooded the streets of Louisville in the afternoon.

"Say her name -- Breonna Taylor," they chanted. "No lives matter till black lives matter."

Police in riot gear made several arrests, and used flashbang grenades to clear hundreds of protesters from a park, where a memorial to Taylor was placed.

A state of emergency and an overnight curfew were declared for the city of 600,000, with much of downtown closed to traffic, and several shops boarded up in anticipation of violence.

Seething protests have rocked America's cities for months, with the movement's anger fed by a stream of deaths of black people at the hands of overwhelmingly white police, and exacerbated by badly fractured national politics and inflammatory rhetoric by Trump.

Taylor, an emergency room technician, died when three plainclothes policemen turned up at her door in the middle of the night to execute a search warrant.

Taylor's boyfriend, who was in bed with her, grabbed a gun and exchanged fire with the officers. He later said he thought they were criminals.

The officers, who had not activated their body cameras as required, shot Taylor multiple times. A police sergeant was wounded.

In the wake of the grand jury's decision, Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron said the two officers who had fired the shots that killed Taylor had done so in self-defense, and would therefore not be charged.

"This is a tragedy," Cameron said. "I know that not everyone will be satisfied. Every person has an idea of what they think justice is."



A child in a Supergirl costume pays respects as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg lies in repose under the Portico at the top of the front steps of the US Supreme Court building, in Washington, US, on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

EU MIGRANT PLAN

Eastern Europe says no to plan

AFP, Brussels

A group of eastern European countries yesterday rejected the EU's new plan for handling migrants because it was not tough enough, dealing a blow to efforts to solve one of Europe's thorniest problems.

The leaders of Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic -- who all have a tough anti-immigration stance -- held talks with top EU officials as the bloc tries to reform asylum rules five years after the continent was engulfed by a migrant crisis.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive, published new plans on Wednesday for tougher border controls and streamlined procedures for expelling rejected asylum seekers.

But Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said the measures did not go far enough, insisting refugees must be screened in camps outside Europe.

"There is no breakthrough," Orban told reporters after talks in Brussels with his Czech and Polish counterparts and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

"They would like to manage migration and not to stop the migrants," Orban said. "The Hungarian position is: 'Stop the migrants.' That's two different things."

Under the plan, EU countries that do not want to take in more migrants could instead take charge of sending those, whose asylum requests are rejected, back to their homelands.

The EU's plans also disappointed those on the other side of the debate, migrant rights activists condemning them as caving to xenophobia and populism.

happens, but I have to do something with that because in any case you understand that our future is under threat," he said. "I know we can have an impact on the situation so of course I'm not going to give up."

"The climate crisis is under way in Russia ... There are constantly ecological disasters in various regions. The government is doing nothing."

Temperatures hit record highs in the Arctic this summer and contributed to huge wildfires in Siberia. A Russian mining company blamed a major fuel spill in May on melting permafrost it said had eroded its fuel tank's foundations.

President Vladimir Putin has said Russia is warming at 2.5 times the world average and that it would be a disaster if the permafrost melts in its northern cities. But he has also said it is unclear what is driving climate change.

Just over a third of Russians see climate change as the world's most serious looming problem, but only 7% see it as a major problem for Russia itself, according to polling data published by the Moscow-based Levada Centre last December.

A violinist's lonely mission

REUTERS, Moscow

The young violinist holding a sign reading "Strike for Climate" on a Moscow square didn't have long to wait for the police to arrive. His one-man protest lasted just 30 minutes before he was detained this summer for the second Friday in a row.

The city's Covid-19 lockdown is now over but protests remain illegal, presenting a new challenge for Arshak Makichyan's mission to build a movement from scratch to pressure the government of the world's fourth-largest greenhouse gas emitter.

Inspired by Greta Thunberg in late 2018, he stages political protests every week.

But unlike the Swedish teenager, who has galvanised a global movement of young environmentalists, Russia's tough protest laws and people's general apathy towards activism has made the 26-year-old's campaign a lonely one.

Makichyan has often been the only activist to turn out. Last year, he was jailed for six days for leading a three-person protest which city officials did not authorise. Once a passer-by threatened to stab him for holding up his sign.

"Fear rises up every time something

Julphar

Bangladesh

Medical Information Officer

Julphar Bangladesh Limited, an affiliate of Radiant Pharmaceuticals Limited, has been operating in Bangladesh with strict adherence to the WHO GMP guidelines. In order to expand our sales operations, we are looking for eligible young candidates willing to work as Medical Information Officers for the promotion of Julphar products to the medical profession of Bangladesh.

Job Requirements:

- Good communication skills in both Bangla & English
- Masters degree in any discipline with biological science at least up to H.S.C. level
- Below 30 years of age
- Willing to work anywhere in Bangladesh

Interested young men who meet the above criteria are encouraged to attend a Walk-in Interview as per the given schedule:

Dhaka	Rangpur	Cumilla
House No. 12, Lane No. 4, Priyanka City Road No. 3, Sector 12 Uttara, Dhaka-1230. Contact No.: 01833102648	House No. 14 (Ground Floor) Road No.10, Medical Purba Gate No. 1 Dhap, Burirhat Road, Rangpur. Contact No.: 01811448389	Holding No. 221/A, Plot No. 10 & 11 West Bagchigaw, Tulip Plaza, Station Road, Cumilla. Contact No.: 01811448463
Bogura	Rajshahi	Khulna
House No. 1001/1131, 1 st Floor Sutrapur Eidgha Math Lane, Bogura. Contact No.: 01770894178	Holding No. 2, Kazihata, Ward No. 8 Rajpara, Rajshahi-6300. Contact No.: 01811409840	House No. 112, Road No. 8 Nirala, Khulna. Contact No.: 01833102646

Candidates are requested to submit at the venue an own hand-written application along with complete resume, a recent passport size photograph and photocopy of national ID card.

Julphar Bangladesh Limited

Bijoy Rakeen City, Level 11, Plot:1/2, Block: D, Section: 15, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216

Govt procurement process riddled with corruption

Procurement officials having a field day at the public's expense

A World Bank study has, unsurprisingly, found various corruption and discrepancies in the Bangladesh government's public procurement process. Although it is well known that the process is riddled with problems, the extent of these, as revealed by the study, is simply astounding. Bidders apparently need to give bribes in the form of financial benefits, arrange trips and host dinners for government officials to win public procurement contracts. And large bidders are increasingly monopolising the procurement markets, while small bidders are largely ignored.

About 31 percent of the surveyed bidders said they had offered gifts of more than USD 300 to procuring entity officials or others to tilt procurement decisions in their favour. Some 62 percent of bidders admitted to having given gifts worth above Tk 25,000 and 17 percent gave gifts below that amount to sway public officials. Moreover, 17 percent paid for dinners for government officials and 4 percent invited officials to trips, the study said. According to these statistics, it seems that public officials are getting bribed for nearly every single procurement decision!

What is even more worrisome is that bidders are often unlawfully granted information on the official cost estimates of bidding process, which are strictly confidential. Amidst this cesspool of corruption, no official has been prosecuted for any illegal behaviour—no wonder corruption in this sector has become so entrenched.

Favouritism is another major problem in the bidding process, as politically connected bidders often get picked over others. This is leading to greater and greater monopolisation of the sector already dominated by large contractors and will surely discourage honest and small bidders, even though the number of average bidders per contract is terribly low as it is.

The main loser as a result of this widespread corruption is the public. Cost escalation, project delays, etc. have become a common theme in Bangladesh. But when bidders are selected based on political connection or bribes, how can they be expected to fulfil their contract obligations on a timely and cost-effective manner?

The government has turned a blind eye to this for long enough. It is high time the government brought transparency and accountability to the procurement process. The World Bank has given a number of recommendations that can help reduce anomalies. Besides implementing them, the government must enforce strict monitoring of the bidding process and exemplarily punish those who try to illegally influence decisions.

Extension of visas and work permits a welcome move by KSA

All our returnees should be able to reach KSA on time

We are relieved to learn that the Saudi government has finally agreed to extend visas for the Bangladeshis who returned home on holiday but could not go back to the kingdom due to the pandemic and the subsequent suspension of flights in March. According to the foreign minister, our migrant workers could get their expired visas renewed at the Saudi embassy in Bangladesh from Sunday and their work permits (aqama) would remain valid until October 17. The minister also said that the Saudi returnees can now return to the kingdom by all Saudi airlines and Bangladesh Biman flights.

Around 35,000 Bangladeshi migrants were worried that they would lose their jobs if they could not return to Saudi Arabia by September 30, when their visas and work permits were supposed to expire. Now that their visas and validity of work permits have been extended, we hope our government will take all the steps to send them back to the kingdom. It is good to know that Saudia Airlines has already started regular flights to and from Dhaka and the first flight carried around 255 Bangladeshis to Saudi Arabia. However, according to the officials of the Saudi Arabian Airlines, only around 800 more would be able to go to the country on these twice-a-week flights by September 30. And even if Biman starts its four weekly flights to the kingdom, it would not be possible for all the migrants to return to work before October 17.

Therefore, for all our migrant workers to return to the KSA on time, either the two airlines will have to run more flights or other carriers will have to be given permission to operate flights. As Saudia Airlines has already sought permission to operate more flights, we think it should be given the go-ahead. Also, our government should put pressure on the Saudi government to extend the validity of visas and work permits by at least three months so that none of our workers remain stranded at home. Besides, our government must also help the migrants in submitting the necessary documents, including Covid-19 certificates, so that they do not have to face unnecessary trouble while travelling to the country.

No country for Bangladeshi women

How many female migrant workers need to be tortured before we speak up?



SHUPROVA TASNEM

THE story of migrant labour has two polar opposite faces in Bangladesh—one is the “success story” of hard-earned foreign exchange being sent back to the country by our dedicated migrant workers, keeping their families afloat and propping up the economy as well. The other side of that story is one of vulnerability, exploitation and the dehumanising of migrant workers, turning them into products for sale in a market where the cheaper the cost of labour, the higher the margin of profit.

Most recently, the face of this dehumanisation has been 14-year-old Kulsum, who was sent to Saudi Arabia as a domestic worker with false documents in April 2018 by the recruiting agency M/H Trade International. On September 12, she was returned to her family in Bangladesh in a body bag. Her lifeless form was covered with signs of torture—her employers had allegedly beat her mercilessly, breaking her legs and arms and damaging her eyes.

Kulsum is not the first female Bangladeshi migrant worker to be tortured and killed in their host country. According to the Expatriate Welfare Desk at the airport, from 2016 to 2019, the bodies of 410 female migrant workers were returned to Bangladesh, with the highest number coming from Saudi Arabia (153), followed by Jordan (64) and Lebanon (52). What is the price of their lives? Data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) suggests that out of the USD 16 billion of remittances sent home by migrant workers in the fiscal year 2019-2020, the highest portion came from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (USD 3.5 billion).

Given this amount, it is perhaps no surprise that the bulk of Bangladeshi migrant workers end up in the KSA—57 percent of documented Bangladeshi migrant workers were based there in 2019; out of over 18,000 documented female Bangladeshi migrants, over 10,000 were in Saudi Arabia alone, mostly working as domestic workers. This is despite the fact that Human Rights Watch (HRW) has described the conditions of foreign domestic workers in the country as “near-slavery”, attributing them to “deeply rooted gender, religious, and racial discrimination”. Last year, at least 800 female migrant workers returned from KSA after being tortured and sexually abused, according to the Brac Migration Programme. After Kulsum's death, *The Daily Star* interviewed other migrant workers, recently returned from the same country, who also recounted terrible stories of sexual violence, imprisonment and starvation. These women had no legal protections and no access to justice, were unable to contact their embassies, and were abandoned by their recruiting agencies.

It is not just Bangladeshis who have fallen victim to the terrible violence inflicted on domestic workers by certain employers—the KSA has been criticised for years by rights organisations for not

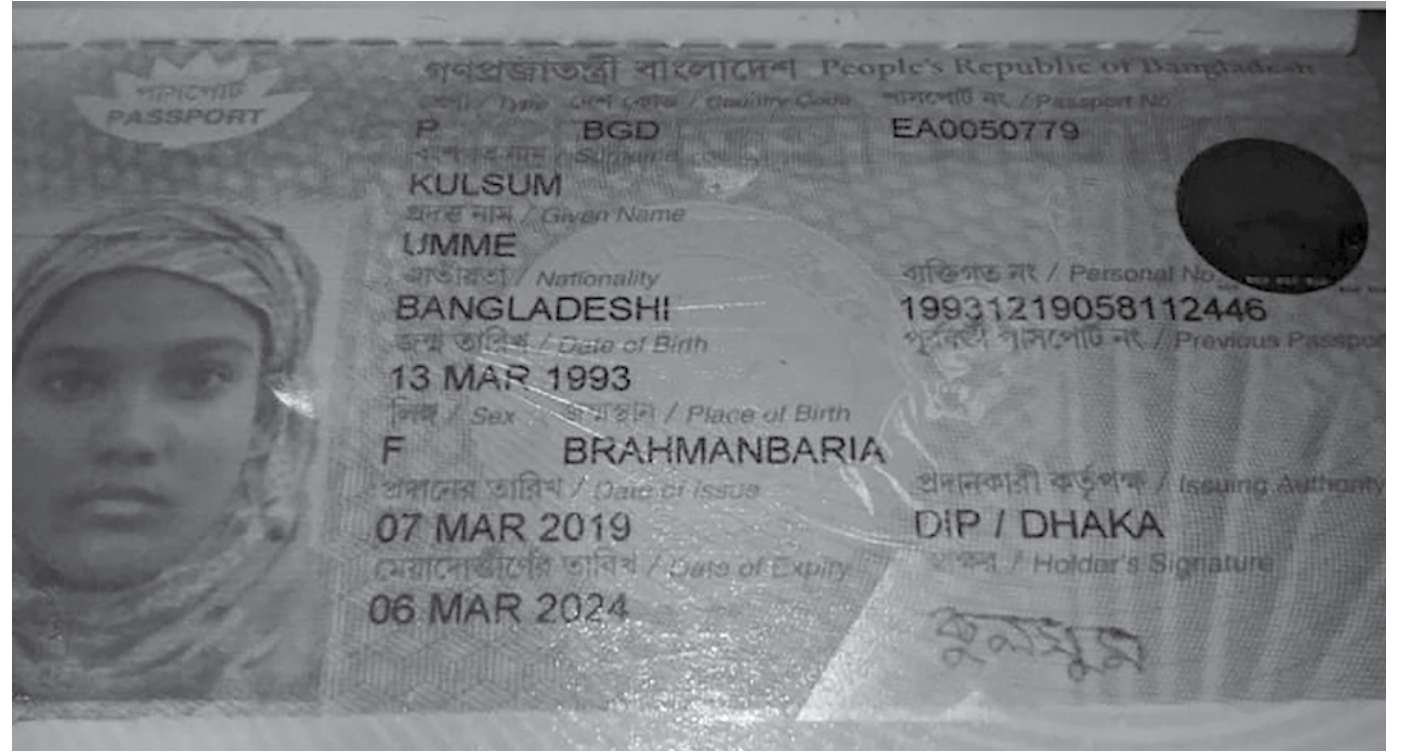
only failing to protect foreign domestic workers from their employers, but also for creating conditions that trap workers with their abusers with no recourse to justice. In a *Guardian* report from 2013, an HRW spokesperson said: “The Saudi justice system is characterised by arbitrary arrests, unfair trials and harsh punishments. Migrants are at high risk of being victims of spurious charges. A domestic worker facing abuse or exploitation from her employer might run away and then be accused of theft. Victims of rape and sexual assault are at risk of being accused of adultery and fornication.” Although a 2015 amendment to KSA migrant labour laws criminalised certain abusive labour practices (confiscating passports, working without contracts, etc.) and strengthened certain labour rights (paid leave, injury compensation, etc.), it excluded domestic workers, who are still at the complete mercy of their employers due to the horribly restrictive *kafala*

to save one of them. Can female migrant workers from Bangladesh expect the same treatment from our authorities?

If we look at the case of M/H Trade International alone, there is little room for doubt regarding our authorities' stance. The allegations against this agency surfaced as early on as 2017. In 2018, one returnee domestic worker, sent to KSA by this same agency, spoke out on how she was raped, starved and finally pushed off the roof by her employers, leaving her permanently disabled. Not only did M/H Trade International not help her, she was even raped by their local recruiting agent. Yet the Rab raid of this agency's office and arrest of its agents only occurred in 2020. Why did this take so long? How did this agency manage to get a fake passport for Kulsum and send her abroad through completely legal migration channels, with the blessings of the BMET stamped on her documents? Why did the Bangladeshi embassy in Riyadh fail to protect Kulsum

pocketed by those pulling the strings in the “manpower” trade. In fact, the only issue that Bangladesh and KSA are currently debating is the outrageous demand that Bangladesh provides passports to thousands of Rohingya refugees who are seeking protection within Saudi borders—the exploitation of our workers is almost always kept on the back burner.

Even as you read this, Bangladeshi workers are scrambling to manage airline tickets that will get them back to their workplaces in Saudi Arabia. Many of these workers were unjustly deported during the start of the pandemic, when foreign workers were scapegoated for spreading coronavirus. (The fact that high transmission in these communities reflected the often abysmal conditions they live in was swept under the rug.) Many are in debt after selling whatever little land they had to pay recruiting agencies for the visa sponsorship system



Snapshot of a page from Kulsum's passport.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

(visa sponsorship) system. If anything, the institutional bias against female migrant workers has become even more entrenched in Saudi law.

In 2014, the Indonesian government paid USD 2.1 million in “blood money” to save Indonesian maid Satinah binti Jumadi Ahmad in Saudi Arabia, who was on death row for murdering her employer. According to Indonesian rights group Migrant Care, Satinah had been regularly abused by her employer, and had finally snapped and retaliated in self-defence. In 2018, the authorities of this Gulf state were strongly condemned by Indonesian officials for executing domestic worker Tuti Tursilawati without even informing her family or the consular staff. Migrant Care alleged that Tuti had murdered her employer while defending herself from being raped. While these stories of abuse are eerily similar to the ones recounted by Bangladeshi workers who have returned from the KSA, there is a marked difference—their country of origin vocally and publicly condemned the country for violating the rights of these women, even going as far as paying two million dollars

and so many of our own?

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there is no clear data on how much money the recruiting agencies and other interested parties (such as *dalals* or brokers) actually make from the trade in human labour. However, it is common knowledge that transnational syndicates resembling trafficking rings exist to profit from this lucrative trade at the expense of migrant workers. It is also quite clear that it is not possible for these agencies and brokers to operate, in both host and origin countries, without the support of corrupt officials who are getting a slice of the migrant trade pie.

And what do our female migrant workers—those who managed to survive their traumatic experiences but will carry these scars for the rest of their lives—get? No justice in either host or origin country, and the knowledge that their exploitation and torture is considered, by all accounts, to be the unfortunate side-effect of a multibillion-dollar and completely legal industry. The abuse of a few hundred women pale in comparison to the golden ticket of USD 3.5 billion, not to mention the unaccounted-for bulk profits being

and are tied to their employers, with no option but to return. Many of these workers are the sole wage-earners in their families and have no recourse to employment at home.

In all likelihood, a huge portion of these workers are also completely unaware of their rights and the potential exploitation they might face in their host countries. Cynics might ask, given that most of the developed world have no interest in the state of human rights and democracy in the Gulf states and are instead filling their coffers with oil money in exchange for weapons, what can smaller nations like Bangladesh do, especially when the future prospects of so many workers are at stake? But perhaps we should also ask ourselves: what is the price we are willing to put on the lives of our migrant workers, and is USD 3.5 billion worth the human cost of trading in their rights, autonomy and personhood?

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

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED NATIONS

The Future We Want, The UN We Need

ROBERT W. SANDFORD

AS we reflect on this week and celebrate the United Nations' rise in the war-ravaged world some 75 years ago, humanity is again being asked to lay the foundation for a new world.

As in 1945, we are asked to envision the world that emerges from a global catastrophe. Similarly, as well, in our post-pandemic world we will need to make not a partial but a full transformation, one in which human self-interest again aligns with planetary realities.

Such a global reset can produce universal benefits in the form of a healthier, more just, safer, kinder and more spirituality connected society.

As UN historian Paul Kennedy noted, it is difficult today to recapture the optimism and high spirits of those who, in the latter days of the most devastating war in history, thought that a new world order was possible, or had already arrived.

Of course, these visionaries were overly optimistic. All who roll boulders uphill are.

The lesson and inspiration for us is that they were able to look at a world reduced to rubble and see in it a transformational moment for all. If they did that then, surely we can also do so today.

In 1945, the UN inherited the same challenges faced by an earlier experiment in global cooperation, the League of Nations. For every voice favouring the creation of institutions committed to global cooperation, there was another warning against the erosion of national sovereignty. This fierce debate continues today.

Meanwhile, the UN remains unable to escape the fundamental paradox of all international bodies. It only performs as well as its member nations.

Former US Ambassador to the UN, Richard Holbrooke expressed it famously:



Just as in 1945, this truly is a transformational moment—for the UN certainly, but also for the entire world.

CREDIT: UNITED NATIONS

“Blaming the UN for a crisis is like blaming Madison Square Gardens when the New York Knicks play badly. You are blaming a building.”

And, by virtue of its founding charter conditions, action against rogue states cannot be pursued if a Great Power—that is one of the five countries possessing the veto in the Security Council—is opposed.

It is impossible to understand the history of the United Nations without understanding that this tension was baked into the system at the time of its birth.

That said, even with this structural limitation, the UN has made enormous progress in domains in which individual nations could not adequately or satisfactorily act alone.

And the UN is unlikely to ever collapse because of the growing range of world issues such as climate change that cannot

be addressed alone by even the most powerful member states. As is often claimed, despite its many failings, “if the UN didn't exist, we would have to invent it.”

We live on a different planet than we did in 1945. How could it be otherwise when, in the span of a single lifetime, Earth's human population has swelled almost four-fold to nearly eight billion in 2020—and total global production has grown from USD 4 trillion to more than USD 140 trillion in the same period, with many consequences.

It is important to acknowledge that our current global situation is not all bad. There is, for example, the growing power of international opinion to expose human rights abuses and cause even the most recalcitrant and repressive regimes to consider the consequences of their

crimes. We cannot allow that pressure to let up.

If the Great Pause imposed on us by Covid-19 is to become a transformational moment, the level of change has to emerge from the hearts and collective conscience of humanity.

At minimum, that change has to manifest itself in action in the form of implementation of the UN's existing framework for creating a more just and more sustainable world: the UN's 2030 Transforming Our World global sustainable development agenda.

Difficult as the UN's sustainable development goals may appear to be, and distracted as we presently are by the pandemic, we cannot afford to lose sight of what this agenda can do for humanity. This agenda, if implemented now, may well be seen in time as the greatest gift the United Nations has given humanity.

The problems facing the UN as a world body 75 years into its mandate have not and will not deter it from trying “to save generations from the scourge of war,” “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,” and “to promote” social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

Those ambitions in the original Preamble to the founding Charter of the United Nations had it right. The question now—in this new transformational moment—is, can we finally do it? And the answer is yes, we can.

The boulder is still only half way up the mountain. To advance it further, to create the future we want and the UN we need, much effort is needed.

Just as in 1945, this truly is a transformational moment—for the UN certainly, but also for the entire world.

Robert W. Sandford is the Global Water Futures Chair, UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health in Hamilton, Canada. Copyright: Inter Press Service (IPS)

Bangladesh should host ICC's proceedings in Cox's Bazar

FARHAAN UDDIN AHMED

ON August 4, 2020, the legal representatives of three specific groups of Rohingya victims submitted a joint request to the Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC), requesting it to direct the Registry of the Court to prepare an assessment of potential venues for holding the Court's proceedings in a state other than the host state (i.e. the Netherlands) so that proceedings can be held in a location which is physically closer to the victims of the alleged atrocities, who are currently residing in various refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In brief, the victims requested the Court to direct the Registry to explore whether the proceedings could be held in a location physically closer to Cox's Bazar, where the victims are currently residing.

On August 17, the Office of the Prosecutor filed its response to the aforesaid request expressing its apprehensions and concerns. Nonetheless, on August 20, the Court issued an order inviting the Registry to submit its observations on the aforesaid request of the victims. Accordingly, on September 21, the Registry filed its observations. In that, they identified five possible scenarios corresponding to different types and stages of the Court's proceedings which could take place in Cox's Bazar. The potential scenarios range from logistically simpler and temporally concise options like a visit by a judge to a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar or organising a video-link testimony by a witness based in Bangladesh rather than bringing them to The



File photo of Rohingya refugees praying at a gathering organised to mark the second anniversary of their exodus from Myanmar, at the Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar, August 25, 2019.

PHOTO: REUTERS/RAFIQUR RAHMAN

Hague, to more logistically complex and temporally longer options such as holding the entire confirmation of charges hearing or rendering the decision on the confirmation of charges in Bangladesh.

The Registry identified two potential locations which could be utilised for the aforesaid scenarios: a refugee camp, or a UN compound or similar infrastructure in Cox's Bazar. The Registry also observed *a priori* that, from the standpoint of security, both the locations are suitable if: (i) Bangladesh provides general and security support, (ii) international organisations running the refugee camp

cooperate, and (iii) adequate human and financial resources are provided.

The Registry also informed the Court that they are in the process of finalising the requisite legal arrangements for the Court's cooperation with Bangladesh. However, the adoption of such legal arrangements may take a few months. The Registry also noted that Bangladesh has not signed the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC and highlighted its practical implications. In conclusion, the Registry emphasised that the holding of proceedings in Cox's Bazar is, in any event, subject to the agreement and cooperation of Bangladesh, barring

which no progress can be made on this front.

Now, from the standpoint of Bangladesh, two specific questions require answering: Should Bangladesh host the ICC's proceedings on the alleged crimes perpetrated against the Rohingya community in Myanmar? And can Bangladesh host the aforesaid proceedings?

To answer the first question, it should be first noted that if Bangladesh moves ahead with it, it will be the first time in the history of the ICC that it will be holding its proceedings outside the host state (i.e. the Netherlands). More importantly, these proceedings will set a key precedent in the practice of the Court and will be a great leap in the direction of victims-centred justice, by bringing the Court and the actual process of meting out justice physically closer to the victims, thereby highlighting their centrality and indispensability to the global fight to end impunity for atrocities. Undoubtedly, Bangladesh will be playing a key role in the ultimate success of this endeavour.

Bangladesh will also once again act as the pathfinder for international justice in South Asia and South East Asia, considering that, other than Afghanistan and Maldives, it is the only South Asian nation which is a state party to the Rome Statute—the founding treaty of the ICC. Bangladesh is also one of only three countries in South East Asia (others being Timor-Leste and Cambodia) that are state parties to the Rome Statute.

From a material and diplomatic standpoint, the holding of the ICC's proceedings in Cox's Bazar will refocus the world's attention to the

plight of the Rohingya and their continued persecution in Myanmar, and encourage renewed calls for the creation of a safe and secure environment in Rakhine to allow for their voluntary return to their homeland.

It is quite evident that, if the answer to the first question is in the affirmative, the answer to the second is simply a test of the will. None of the legal, financial, logistical, infrastructural or security issues identified by the Registry in its observations are novel or insurmountable. If Bangladesh has the will, these issues can easily be dealt with efficiently and effectively, even under the current circumstances with the ongoing pandemic. Moreover, in all likelihood, there are still many months left before the initiation of any relevant proceeding before the Court. The Prosecution is still conducting its investigation, which is not likely to conclude anytime soon. Hence, Bangladesh has enough time to prepare for the anticipated proceedings.

Finally, the people of Bangladesh have their own history of being targets of genocide and crimes against humanity, vying for justice and to end impunity for the perpetrators of atrocities. It is only appropriate that the first-ever ICC proceeding outside the host state should be in Bangladesh—in which Bangladesh is standing up for the cause of justice for a people who are widely seen as the most persecuted group in the world.

Farhaan Uddin Ahmed is a lecturer in public international law at the School of Law, BRAC University, and former legal professional at the International Criminal Court (ICC), The Hague. Email: fua@cantab.net

Madhupur forestland: who are the real grabbers?

SHOHEL CHANDRA HAJANG

ON September 14, 2020, the forest department forcibly cut down banana plants raised on a "grabbed" forestland under Dokhala range in Madhupur upazila, Tangail without serving any prior notice to the affected, according to a report by *The Daily Star*. A local forest department official was quoted as saying that they were conducting the drive following directives from the government and that they don't need to serve any notice to the "grabbers" before conducting such drives. Who are these land grabbers? Why is it that the forest department is claiming the land to be theirs? These are concerns that need to be addressed.

The local indigenous peoples of the Madhupur Garh area believe that it is their ancestral place where they have been living and cultivating crops for generations. The owner of the land in question is Basanti Rema, a Garo indigenous forest-dweller of Pegamari village in the Sholakuri union of Madhupur upazila.

Before we discuss this, it's important to recall that Bangladesh ratified the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1972. Moreover, the government of Bangladesh pledged to consider ratifying the ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 and endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) 2007.

Following the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) rules before taking any land of the indigenous peoples, or evicting them from their ancestral lands, is crucial. Unfortunately, no consent was sought during the latest eviction drive. This was in direct contravention of the UNDRIP that deals with consent. Article 10 of the UNDRIP says,

"Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return." Article 19 of the declaration says, "States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them." As a member country of the United Nations, Bangladesh needs to follow the UNDRIP properly.

Moreover, in conducting the eviction drive, the forest department also violated the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 of ILO. Article 11 of this convention says, "The right of ownership, collective or individual, of the members of the populations concerned over the lands which these populations traditionally occupy shall be recognised." Article 12 (1) says, "The populations concerned shall not be removed without their free consent from their habitual territories except in accordance with national laws and regulations for reasons relating to national security, or in the interest of national economic development or of the health of the said populations." And article 12 (2) says, "When in such cases removal of these populations is necessary as an exceptional measure, they shall be provided with lands of quality at least equal to that of the lands previously occupied by them, suitable to provide for their present needs and future development. In cases where chances of alternative employment exist and where the populations concerned prefer to have compensation in money or in kind, they shall be so

compensated under appropriate guarantees." This convention was ratified by the government of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1972.

By now, it is abundantly clear that the local indigenous peoples in Madhupur Garh area are not land grabbers. They did not grab lands from other persons. They have been occupying their ancestral lands for generations. Therefore, the government should respect and recognise the traditional ownerships of these forest-dependent indigenous peoples.

Unfortunately, a lot of incidents involving human rights violations against indigenous peoples are taking place across the country with the help of state and non-state actors. Thousands of acres of lands belonging to indigenous peoples were reportedly brought under the process of acquisition, mostly for the establishment of special economic zones, tourism complexes, business establishments, and creation of new reserve forests in Chittagong Hill Tracts and plain lands. The latest incident cannot be seen in isolation from this trend. According to some media outlets, the drive was led by Jamal Hossain Talukder, assistant forest conservator (ACF) in Madhupur, ranger Abdul Ahad and local ruling party leader Jahangir. They destroyed around 500 banana plantations of 0.40 acres of land which was the only source of income for Basanti Rema's family. Being outraged by the incident, the local indigenous people surrounded the Dokhala beat office and demanded punishment for the perpetrators as well as adequate compensation for the victim family.

On February 15, 2016, the Forest Department of the Environment and Forest Ministry issued a gazette notification declaring 9,145 acres of land in Madhupur Garh area—home to the Garo, Barman and Koch

indigenous peoples—as reserved forest under the Forest Act 1927. The government made this decision without taking the free, prior, and informed consent of the indigenous peoples of Madhupur. It provoked fear that more than 20,000 forest-dependent indigenous peoples living in the area would be adversely affected. The communities have since been protesting against this decision. Local indigenous leaders alleged that the main objective of the government's move is to grab the lands of indigenous peoples by manipulating loopholes in the Forest Act, 1927. After the September 14 incident, they fear that destroying the crops of indigenous peoples' lands is part of a conspiracy to evict ethnic communities from the area. The responsibility to protect these peoples and their rights and allay their fears rests squarely on the government.

The Forest Act 1927 is very old and thus needs to be amended. I would urge the government to publish the "draft version of the Forest Act 2019" that is now available on the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. But this draft act did not take into account the interests of forest-dependent indigenous people appropriately, unlike the forest act 1927. The enactment of a new forest law should ensure the protection of the rights of forest-dependent indigenous peoples as well as the accountability of the forest department.

I think the government should conduct an impartial investigation into the incident of cutting down banana plants in Madhupur while the perpetrators must be brought to justice and appropriate compensation should be provided to the affected farmers. Also, to resolve the land problems of indigenous peoples of plains, the government should establish a separate land commission

for them. It's important to note that the ruling party pledged in its 2008 election manifesto to form a separate land commission for indigenous peoples of the plains so as to establish their traditional rights over the lands. Thirdly, the government should withdraw the gazette notification declaring over 9,145 acres of lands at Madhupur as reserved forest. Fourthly,



The forest department cut down banana plants raised on a "grabbed" forestland under the Dokhala range in Madhupur upazila, Tangail, on September 14, 2020.

PHOTO: STAR

as per the ILO C107 Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957, the government should recognise the lands traditionally occupied by indigenous peoples across the country. And finally, the state or other private actors should seek free, prior and informed consent of concerned indigenous peoples in case they plan to enact or amend any policy related to them and/or implement any projects in their lands.

Shohel Chandra Hajang is an indigenous human rights defender and a member of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum. He is currently working with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) in Thailand. Email: shohelchandra@gmail.com

QUOTABLE Quote



JULIAN ASSANGE
(Born 1971)
Australian computer programmer who founded the media organisation WikiLeaks.

One of the best ways to achieve justice is to expose injustice.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Old horses
- 5 Decree
- 10 Long-plumed bird
- 12 Loving grandma, e.g.
- 13 Patient person's tactic
- 15 Genesis woman
- 16 Sock part
- 17 Michele of "Glee"
- 18 Rise up
- 20 Tie up
- 21 Cut off
- 22 Has dinner
- 23 "Skyfall" singer
- 25 Plummeted

DOWN

- 1 More original
- 2 Desert plants
- 3 Show sorrow
- 4 Harden
- 5 Border

28 Mournful music

- 31 Metal sources
- 32 Out sick
- 34 Sprinted
- 35 French friend
- 36 Bar concern
- 37 Alias
- 40 Honking birds
- 41 Horse opera
- 42 German steel city
- 43 White's counterpart

6 Beagle or boxer


- 7 Roma's nation
- 8 Sidewalk stuff
- 9 Tire features
- 11 Like nobles
- 14 South Bend school
- 19 Egg outlines
- 20 Saloon orders
- 24 Lusty drive
- 25 Seek food
- 26 Makes blank
- 27 Eye parts
- 29 Frozen dessert
- 30 Tooth layer
- 33 Shake your booty
- 35 Hymn finish
- 38 Try out
- 39 Opposing vote

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


YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

S	T	A	T	D	A	T	E	R
P	I	L	E	O	L	I	V	E
A	M	E	N	D	O	N	A	T
C	O	R	S	A	G	E	S	I
E	N	T	I	C	E	S	I	R
S	C	O	N	E	P	O	E	T
T	A	U	S	D	O	N		
A	R	T	P	E	R	S	I	S
L	A	D	A	T	E	I	N	T
E	V	O	L	V	E	O	D	O
D	E	N	I	E	S	N	I	N
L	E	A	S	T	S	A	Y	S

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



N Korean troops killed missing S Korean official

Says Seoul

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korean troops shot dead a South Korean fisheries official who went missing earlier this week, before dousing his body in oil and setting it on fire in what was likely an effort to prevent a coronavirus outbreak, South Korea's military said yesterday.

South Korea's military said evidence suggested the man was attempting to defect to the North when he was reported missing from a fisheries boat on Monday about 10 km (6 miles) south of the Northern Limit Line (NLL), a disputed demarcation of military control that acts as the de facto maritime boundary between the two Koreas.

Why the 47-year-old official was shot was not known but North Korean troops appear to have been acting under anti-coronavirus orders, South Korea's military said.

The presidential Blue House's national security office said the killing was a "crime against humanity", and called on North Korea to apologise and put measures in place to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents in the future.

Citing intelligence sources, the military said the unidentified man

appeared to have been questioned at sea, north of the NLL and about 38 km (24 miles) from where he went missing, before he was executed on an "order from a superior authority". Troops in gas masks then doused the body in oil and set it on fire.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said the North's shooting of a South Korean civilian was "shocking" and "unpardonable", Yonhap news agency said, citing a presidential Blue House spokesman.

Moon also ordered the South Korean military to tighten their alert to protect the lives of citizens.

The military said it sent a message on Wednesday to the North through the land border demanding explanations, but has not received any response yet.

"Our military strongly condemns such an atrocity, and strongly demands North Korea provide explanations and punish those who are responsible," General Ahn Young-ho, who is in charge of operations at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a briefing.

The U.S. military commander in South Korea said this month that North Korean troops had been given "shoot-to-kill orders" to prevent the coronavirus entering the country.

Woman gang-raped

FROM PAGE 12
Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station.

The victim is undergoing treatment at Khagrachhari General Hospital.

Her mother demanded exemplary punishment for the offenders.

In Jashore, two teenagers were gang-raped in Benapole on Wednesday night.

Police yesterday arrested three people in Benapole and Jhikargachha in this connection.

The arrestees are Rafiqul Islam, 34, of Raipur village under Benapole Port Police Station, Shahin Ali, 28, of Dhanyakhola village, and Biplob Ghosh, 31, of Jhikargachha upazila.

According to police sources, the arrestees were trying to traffic the girls to India. On the way, they took the girls to a secluded place in Putkhali border area and raped them.

As the trio failed to traffic the girls, the victims returned to Dhaka and filed a case with Mirpur Police Station.

[Our Bandarban and Benapole correspondents contributed to this report]

34 policemen

FROM PAGE 12
workplaces by September 29 and be present at a scheduled briefing at Rajarbagh Police Lines in Dhaka around 10:00am the next day.

Fatah, Hamas

FROM PAGE 12
government following the 2006 polls, but it soon collapsed and bloody clashes erupted in the Gaza Strip between the two sides the following year.

Hamas has since ruled Gaza, while Fatah has run the Palestinian Authority based in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Numerous attempts at reconciliation have failed to close the rift, including a prisoner exchange agreement in 2012 and a short-lived unity government two years later.

The recent talks have been fuelled by two Arab states -- the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain -- normalising their relations with Israel.

The accords break with decades of Arab consensus that ties with the Jewish state should not be normalised until it has signed a comprehensive peace deal with the Palestinians.

Trump hedges

FROM PAGE 12
United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House."

Mitt Romney, a rare Trump critic among Republican senators, said on Twitter: "Fundamental to democracy is the peaceful transition of power; without that, there is Belarus. Any suggestion that a president might not respect this Constitutional guarantee is both unthinkable and unacceptable."

However, US Senate leader Mitch McConnell, who is Republican, yesterday assured that the results of the November 3 presidential election would be implemented in an orderly way.

"The winner of the November 3rd election will be inaugurated on January 20th. There will be an orderly transition just as there has been every four years since 1792," McConnell said in a tweeted statement.

Trump, who is moving quickly to nominate a successor to liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Friday, said earlier on Wednesday he thinks the election "will end up in the Supreme Court and I think it's very important that we have nine justices." Trump plans to announce his nominee on Saturday.

A Senate confirmation vote before the election would seal a 6-3 conservative majority on the court, potentially spelling trouble for Democrats should it be called on to decide any legal dispute over the results of the election.

"This scam that the Democrats are pulling, it's a scam, the scam will be before the United States Supreme Court, and I think having a 4-4 situation is not a good situation," Trump said.

Only one US presidential election, the 2000 contest between Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore, has had its outcome determined by the Supreme Court.

Earlier, in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was campaigning to win the crucial black votes, Biden said Republicans were "violating the essence" of what the country's founders had intended in quickly seeking to fill the Supreme Court seat.

"This is an abuse of power of what they're doing, and I think we should focus on what this is going to mean for healthcare," Biden said, suggesting such a conservative majority could roll back abortion rights and the Obamacare healthcare law.

Trump has already appointed two conservatives to lifetime posts on the court, Neil Gorsuch in 2017 and Brett Kavanaugh in 2018. Supreme Court appointments require Senate confirmation, and Republicans hold 53 of the chamber's 100 seats.

Mitch McConnell has said he intends to act on any nomination Trump makes. Democrats accuse McConnell of hypocrisy, pointing out he refused to have the Senate even consider Democratic President Barack Obama's nominee to fill a vacant Supreme Court seat in 2016 because it was an election year.



Pro-democracy protesters flash lights from their phones and hold placards during a mass rally to call for the ouster of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and reforms in the monarchy in front of parliament in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Constituent assembly

FROM PAGE 12
Bangabandhu today calls upon female students of the country to come forward along with others and play their role in reconstructing the war-ravaged Bangladesh. In a message to the annual conference of Rokeya Hall and Shamsunnahar Hall branches of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Bangabandhu says that the peace, progress and prosperity of sovereign and independent Bangladesh lay on the united endeavours of the people.

SIRIMAVO ASSURES FULL SUPPORT TO BANGLADESH

Khurram Khan Panni, personal envoy of Bangabandhu, has an hourlong meeting with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandarnaike today. Among the topics discussed is admission of Bangladesh into the United Nations for which Bandarnaike is learnt to have assured total support. Panni hands over a message from Bangabandhu to the Sri Lankan premier.

SOURCES: September 26, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

US WWII bomber

FROM PAGE 12
of ice, the war plane has re-appeared, mangled and torn but still able to provide a fascinating glimpse into the past.

Locals such as the former mayor of Isafjorour, Guomundur Gunnarsson, see the wreck as a tourist attraction and have rejected calls to clean it up.

An experienced hiker, Gunnarsson said: "Ever since I heard about the wreck, I've been restless. I found the story compelling, and once I told my friends about it, they became restless too."

They hiked to the American wreck last week to inspect the area and take photos which were later shared on social media.

In 1996, the US Air Force revealed details behind the 1944 crash. The US bomber was on its way to England after landing at Keflavik Airport to refuel.

However, the weather conditions were poor in Iceland and the bomber was caught in a down-draught before crashing into the ice cap.

Fortunately, the plane landed on soft snow and kept sliding along its fuselage until coming to an abrupt stop at a snow bank.

One of the plane's wings was ripped off and the engines caught fire.

Some crew members were thrown into the snow through tears in the fuselage while those left on board managed to escape the plane before it caught ablaze.

Giving it all for a dream

FROM PAGE 12
their daughters. If girls get such an opportunity, they will be able to defend themselves when the need comes."

She thinks not just girls, but all young students can discipline themselves through taekwondo.

Swantana used to teach the martial art to children in her village. She would make it a point to visit various schools and colleges to consult with teachers and exchange views with the students, especially the girls, and would also give training during the visits.

The martial artist is currently working as a taekwondo teacher at Cambrian School and College in Dhaka. She has been providing taekwondo training to students on 15 campuses of the institution since 2018.

Swantana won the "Joy Bangla Youth Award-2018" for her role in building self-reliant women by training them in Taekwondo.

Since 2012, she participated in national and international taekwondo competitions and bagged 10 gold medals as a champion martial artist.

Swantana's father Subhash Roy is a farmer. With her mother Jamuna Rani and three younger siblings, they live in Taluk Haridas village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila.

Whenever Swantana gets a break from her work in the capital, she rushes to her village to spend time with her family.

She passed her SSC examinations in 2001 from a local school.

As a student, she had to earn the money to continue her studies by herself and remained in Rangpur division as her family did not want her to go far away to study.

In 2001, she began working for various non-govt organisations (NGO) and travelled to different villages in her own district, Kurigram and Rangpur on a motorcycle for work.

She was admitted to Rangpur

Government College in 2004 and had the opportunity to learn martial arts there. In 2008, she did her Master's in History from Rangpur's Carmichael College.

Juggling her job, studies and taekwondo practice was quite a struggle, but that was where all her determination stemmed from.

She passed her LLB from Rangpur Law College in 2013, but continued working for NGOs till 2017.

Throughout that time, she did not give up on her passion for martial arts.

"I used to do yoga with my mother since I was a child. And so, picking up martial arts wasn't much of a trouble. I was trained in taekwondo fairly quickly," she said, adding "I still practise to make myself the self-reliant woman I want to be. Taekwondo is still teaching me many lessons."

With the help of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has granted her Tk 10 lakh in July, she has been spending part of her income on conducting taekwondo practise sessions for students, especially for the girls in her village.

Her father Subhash Roy told The Daily Star that his daughter Swantana had come as far as she has after many a struggle. "She is still struggling. She trains students in taekwondo even when she comes home from Dhaka. She also teaches handicraft to the older women of our village."

He added, "I'm proud of our daughter, but there are also things that make me feel bad. I haven't been able to marry her off yet. The age to marry has passed but the girl just won't listen."

Swantana said that she might get married but that isn't for now. "If I find someone who is against taking dowry, I might consider marrying him."

The ultimate dream Swantana is and has been working towards is building a taekwondo institution in her district. "I am still struggling [to do so] but I will fight till the last day of my life to fulfil my dream."

2,191 died with Covid

FROM PAGE 12
yesterday, 28 patients died of Covid-19 and 1,540 people tested positive for coronavirus, read a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths due to the highly transmissible virus rose to 5,072 which is 1.43 percent of all confirmed cases.

Besides, the total number of confirmed cases rose to 355,384 since the first three cases were reported on March 8.

Ten days after March 8, the DGHS reported the first casualty in the country due to the virus.

As new 2,139 patients were added to the total number of recoveries. The recovery rate was 74.59 percent of all confirmed cases, according to the press release.

Against 12,900 tests in the same 24 hours, the positivity rate was almost 12 (11.94) percent.

Since January 21, more than 18,755

lakh samples were tested across the country. The total number of RT-PCR laboratories for Covid-19 tests was 103 as of yesterday.

With yesterday's number of tests, the overall positivity rate stands at nearly 19 percent (18.95).

Of yesterday's deceased, 21 were males and seven were females. All of them died in hospitals, according to the press release.

One of them aged between 21 and 30 years, one between 31 and 40, three between 41 and 50, six between 51 and 60 and the highest 17 were over 60 years.

As of yesterday, more than half of the deceased were over 60 years old.

One each was from Sylhet, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, two were from Khulna, six from Chattogram and the highest 17 from Dhaka division.

As of yesterday noon, a total of 2,668 Covid-19 patients were undergoing treatment in Covid-19 hospitals, read the press release.

HC forms judicial body

FROM PAGE 12
inquiry committee during recording of statements.

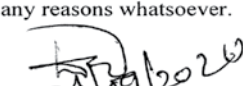
The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman ordered the judicial probe committee to submit its inquiry report to this court by November 4.

The bench fixed November 5 to hear and pass order on this issue.

The HC came up with the directives following a revision petition that challenged the police action of

arresting three accused, and the latter's confessional statements to a magistrate about the alleged rape and killing of the child who was rescued alive in Narayanganj.

During hearing on the revision petition on September 17, Shamim Al Mamun, the investigation officer of the case and Sub Inspector of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, and current IO of the case and SI Mostafizur Rahman appeared with case records before the HC bench as per its August 27 order.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Chattogram Zone, Agrabad, Chattogram. Tel: 031-712811, Fax: 031-714330. e-mail: acechi@rhd.gov.bd; acectgzone@gmail.com		Date: 24-09-2020
Memo No.- 461		
Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Short listing of Firm for		
"Providing Consultancy Services for Review of Pavement, Bridge, Culvert Design and Supervision of Construction works for widening the Barayerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh Road (R-151 & R-152) under Chattogram Road Division."		
Ministry Division	:	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Road Transport & Highways Division.
Agency	:	Roads and Highways Department.
Procuring Entity	:	Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Chattogram Zone, Chattogram
Procuring Entity District	:	Chattogram
EOI for Selection of Operation & Management (O&M) Operator	:	Time Based Contract.
Title of Services	:	Providing Consultancy Services for Review of Pavement, Bridge, Culvert Design and Supervision of Construction works for widening the Barayerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh Road (R-151 & R-152) under Chattogram Road Division.
EOI ref No.	:	EOI/CZ-02/CTG/Consultancy/LOC/2020-2021
Date	:	24-09-2020
Procurement Method	:	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
Source of Fund	:	GoB
Program Name	:	i. Review of Pavement, Bridge, Culvert Design and ii. Supervision of Construction works for widening the Barayerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh Road (R-151 & R-152) under Chattogram Road Division.
EOI Closing / Submission Date & Time	:	With all supporting documents, the EOI must be submitted at or before 12:30 pm on 26-10-2020 in sealed envelopes.
EOI Submission Place	:	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Chattogram Zone, Chattogram.
Brief Description of Assignment	:	1. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has decided for widening the Barayerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh Road (R-151 & R-152) from 5.50m. to 11.30m., construction of 9(nine) bridges and several culverts thereon with the fund jointly invested by the GoB and the Indian Government (Line of Credit III). The length of the road is 38.00 KM starts from Barayerhat, Mirsharai, Chattogram and ends at Ramgarh, Khagrachari. The GoB has allocated public funds for engaging a consulting firm for Review of Pavement, Bridge, Culvert Design and Supervision of highway Construction works (Length 38.00 Km.) under Chattogram Road Division. 2. The consultancy services include but not limited to the following: a) Review of Pavement Design & Preparation and review of Bridge/Culvert Design. b) Supervision of highway Construction Works. c) Ensure Quality and Quantity of Works. d) Examine Interim Payment Certificate and BoQ of Work done. e) Provide comments and engineering solutions regarding the problem originated during construction period. f) Other services as per instruction of the employer.
Experience, Resources and Delivery capacity Required	:	• The Firm should be nationally or internationally reputed. • Interested Consultancy firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Registration Certificate, Registered Address, Legal Status, Brochures, Company profile (including management, personnel, firm's specialty, performance), Description of Similar Assignments (List of rendered services in last 10 years for: i. Design review of Pavement, Bridge/Culvert. ii. Supervision of Construction Works.), Experience in Similar Conditions, Average annual turn-over of the last 5 years, Availability of Appropriate Skills among Staff, Number of Highway and Bridge Engineers, those who belong to the firm more than a year and average working experiences (years) of those Highway and Bridge engineers etc.). • Following information should be provided for the experience certificates: Client's name, nature of services, contract amount, man-months included in the contract, duration of the service with actual commencement and actual completion date; • A Firm may constitute Joint Venture to enhance their capabilities. Interested firms may associate with other firm (Local or Foreign) to enhance their qualifications. The formation of joint venture shall be done on non-judicial stamp paper of value BDT 300. The share and role of each partner of the joint venture shall be mentioned clearly in the agreement. Key Professionals – Senior Bridge Engineer & Pavement Specialist as Team Leader, Bridge Engineer, Pavement Engineer, Civil Engineer specialization in highway construction, Material Engineer and other key personnel etc.
Other Details	:	Submission of EOI shall be in closed envelope mentioning the name and address of the applicant, EOI ref. no. & date addressing the EOI issuing authority in 2(Two) copies; 01 (One) marked as "ORIGINAL" and other as "COPY" in separate envelope in the form of bound book, both the "ORIGINAL" and "COPY" shall be inside a single envelope. The applicant shall put the page number on EOI documents serially and authorized person shall sign on every page.
Name of Official Inviting EOI	:	Md. Abdul Wahid
Designation of Official Inviting EOI	:	Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Chattogram Zone, Chattogram.
Address of Official Inviting EOI	:	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Chattogram Zone, Chattogram
Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	:	Tel: 031-712811, Fax: 031-714330. Email: acechi@rhd.gov.bd; acectgzone@gmail.com
The interested applicants should visit the site before submitting the EOI.		
The client shall not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firms in connection with the preparation and submission of the EOI.		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reasons whatsoever.		
 (Md. Abdul Wahid) ID No.- 005109 Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Chattogram Zone, Chattogram.		
GD-1518		

'A different world'

Tigers adjusting to life inside bio-secure bubbles

MAZHAR UDDIN

The coronavirus pandemic has widened the world's vocabulary by driving words such as lockdown, quarantine and isolation into daily use. The latest buzzword is bio-secure bubble.

The England and Wales Cricket Board first introduced the term as they prepared to host the West Indies in what would be the first cricket series following the outbreak of the coronavirus earlier this year.

The ECB successfully managed the complex process of creating a bio-secure bubble, which is basically a bio-secure environment that is designed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The 'bubbles' are sealed off from the outside world, with players, staff and officials on the inside.

Normally bio-secure bubbles aim to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus from one person to another while training, staying together or having meals during ongoing tournaments and training camps and it is prescribed by the International Cricket Council.

With the Bangladesh aiming to return to cricket through the upcoming Sri Lanka tour, the



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has already started a residential camp for its 27-member preliminary squad by creating a bio-secure bubble with frequent coronavirus testing.

It can still be hard for the general public to understand what goes on inside the bubble, so The Daily Star tried to get insights on the experience from Bangladeshi cricketers who have

been inside a bubble at a city hotel since September 20, when the BCB initiated the residential camp.

"It's like a different world. The first and the most important thing about the bubble is that we are not allowed to go outside the hotel premises. We are not allowed to even have any food from outside, not even chocolates or chips. We have a dedicated lift for players," a national cricketer requesting

anonymity said.

"We have our meals in the hotel and when we are at the restaurant, there is no one from outside. Even the hotel staff who serve us maintain social distancing. After having breakfast, I go to gym or swimming in a restricted environment. When we go to the ground, we have to take alternative exit routes to avoid crowds."

According to many cricketers, it was a challenge initially but one that they later adjusted with.

Although the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka is still under dark clouds as the Sri Lanka Cricket officials are yet to provide revised health protocols for the tour, it is understood that the Tigers -- who previously planned to travel to the island nation on September 27 -- are now expected to delay.

It was learned that SLC officials had tried to relax the mandatory 14-day quarantine for the visitors, but government health authorities led by the Covid-19 task force of Sri Lanka were unwilling.

If that is the case, then the tour of Sri Lanka could well get postponed. But the Bangladeshi cricketers who got a taste of living in a bio-secure environment will surely help the Tigers to cope with similar situations in the coming days as we have already stepped into a new normal.



Nobody around to hear players' dismay

ANISUR RAHMAN



Lack of professionalism in both the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and the clubs, combined with the dysfunction in the Football Players' Welfare Association (FPWA) has seemingly paved the way to the unpleasant decision of big pay cuts of footballers in the upcoming season, expected to start in December.

After a series of meetings with the clubs and the players, the BFF professional football league committee has decided to reduce footballers' payments by a whopping 75 percent of their new contracts, which will be similar to last season, citing the clubs' financial constraint due to the coronavirus pandemic. The demand from the players' side was to be paid 50 percent of the new contracts after clearing 100 percent of last season's contract money. The clubs agreed to pay last season's dues in full.

There had initially been talk among players that they were ready to sacrifice 30 to 35 percent payment for last season, which came to an end at the halfway stage due to the pandemic. Footballers of overseas leagues made a similar concession to minimise clubs' losses following cancellation of the season.

As per FIFA rules, if a season is declared over, the players' contracts would also expire and they would be free to choose new destinations. And FIFA, in its special guidelines following the Covid-19 outbreak, has emphasised on mutual negotiation between clubs and players to reach a decision regarding contracts.

The Bangladeshi clubs also settled their agreements with foreign players, with BFF mediating if needed, but unfortunately the clubs and the federation has apparently taken a different approach with local players. They are now not free to sign for any new clubs unless there is mutual understanding among the clubs, while they can take only 25 percent of their contracts' payments. This translates to huge savings for the clubs when forming squads, but the players themselves will ultimately be deprived.

The majority of footballers have to play with token payments for next season because in the last season, only three to four clubs offered lucrative amounts to top players, but the rest played with low salaries.

Last season, eight clubs out of 13 in the Bangladesh Premier League spent between Tk 50,000 and Tk 20 lakh for each players and there were a lot of players who received between Tk 1 lakh and Tk 5 lakh each. Under the new stipulations those players would earn between Tk 25,000 and Tk 1.25 lakh in the new season.

"It has happened due to lack of professionalism in the BFF and the clubs because they can't put a bar on the players in line with the FIFA guidelines. The players also know that they won't get their expected money from the clubs due to the new situation. Let the players be free to deal with their own contracts with clubs like the foreign players did," said a former footballer, who preferred not to be named.

Bangladesh captain Jamal Bhuiyan is also upset by the decision and hopes it will be revised in the near future.

"To be honest, I think that the number (25 percent) is too low. I hope it is not the final decision. I hope we can hear most of the players' opinions about it," Jamal told The Daily Star. "Of course, the clubs want to pay less money to local players so that they [the clubs] can save some money. But overall, I don't think it is good because football in Bangladesh needs to be talked about and promoted in a positive way so cutting so much of salaries is not a positive thing."

He also questioned whether foreign players got reduced payments or full payment as per their contracts.

"We are not satisfied with this decision of the league committee because all of us players hoped for a good solution from the League Committee Chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy bhai and the clubs' managements. We are not waiting for the new committee of the BFF and hope they will deliver a good decision after talking to the clubs," said former captain and current midfielder Mamunul Islam.

Former footballer Iqbal Hossain, president of Football Players' Welfare Association and incumbent BFF member, however denied their inactivity when looking after the footballers' interests.

"The association has always been with the players. As we all have been in the BFF election process, we can't discuss the matter with the clubs and the federation. We hope to sit with the federation after the elections and give them an ultimatum to keep the players' interests intact," said Iqbal.

Joytu Online Chess Two locals in contention for top spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi GM Enamul Hossain Razib and FM Khandokar Aminul Islam were tied along with four other players on top of the table in the Joytu Sheikh Hasina International Online Chess tournament after the close of the third round matches yesterday.

The tournament, which marks the birth anniversary of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, features 74 players, including 17 Grand Masters, and a prize pool of \$6,000.

Indian GMs Surya Shekhar Ganguly and Diptayan Ghosh, Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto and IM Novendra Priasmoro were tied with Razib and Aminul with three points from as many matches.

Razib beat Iranian GM Amin Tabatabaei, WIM Rani Hamid and CM Mahtabuddin Ahmed while Aminul beat Mohammed Shuaan of Maldives, Noshin Anjum and Mohammad Javed. 19 players were tied for second place with two points.

Departure of a 'true entertainer'

REUTERS



Former Australia cricketer Dean Jones, regarded as one of the finest batsmen of his generation, died from cardiac arrest on Thursday aged 59, Indian broadcaster Star India said, prompting tributes from the prime minister and fellow players.

Jones won the World Cup with Australia in 1987 and played 52 Tests and 164 one-day internationals in an international career that spanned 10 years from 1984.

Jones was in Mumbai as part of Star India's commentary panel for the Indian Premier League.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison paid tribute to "an absolute cricketing legend" as he sent his condolences to Jones's family.

"A true entertainer at the crease, whose flair with the bat and electric running between the wickets changed the game forever. A genuine good guy & a huge loss," Morrison tweeted.

Former India batsman Sachin Tendulkar said he was heartbroken. "A wonderful soul taken away too soon," Tendulkar said. "Had the opportunity to play against him during my first tour of Australia. May his soul rest in peace and my condolences to his loved ones."

One of Jones's most memorable innings came in the tied Test against

India in Chennai in 1986, when he battled extreme heat and physical exhaustion to notch a memorable double century.

Jones ended his career with 3,631 runs in Tests at an average of 46.55 with 11 hundreds and 14 half-centuries, and over 6,000 runs in ODIs with seven centuries and 46 fifties.

Earl Eddings, chair of Cricket Australia, said Jones would be sorely missed by fans around the world.

"Dean Jones was a hero to a generation of cricketers and will forever be remembered as a legend



of this great game," Eddings said in a statement.

The cricketing fraternity took to social media to pay tribute.

"I can't believe this news. So very sad to hear about this. Rip Deano," Australian batsman David Warner tweeted while Steve Smith said Jones was a "wonderful player for Australia" who would be missed.

FACTS

Full Name: Dean Martyn Jones.

Born: March 24, 1961,

Coburg, Victoria, Australia.

Died: September 24,

Mumbai, India.

Test: 52 matches, 3631 runs,

46.5 average, 11 100s, 14 50s.

ODI: 164 matches, 6068 runs,

44.6 average, 7 100s, 46 50s.

Former Australian batsman Darren Lehmann said: "Dean Jones ... taught me so much on and off the ground. I and all of the cricketing world will miss him. Our thoughts are with Jane and the family at this time."

Ramiz Raja, who worked with Jones as a co-commentator, said the news had left him in complete shock.

"One of a kind you were Deano and how lonely and helpless you must have felt on your own in that hotel room - a death we commentators fear the most, and likely to meet, helpless and gone in that hotel room... RIP my friend," Raja tweeted.

Jones retired from all forms of cricket in 1998, going on to work as a coach and commentator. He was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2019.

'Games can be held sans vaccines'

AGENCIES



The recent resumption of sports events show they can be organised safely without vaccines, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said on Thursday.

The Tokyo Olympics were postponed from 2020 to 2021 due to the coronavirus. The pandemic has continued to spread, casting a shadow over the viability of hosting the Games next year.

Olympic boss said that the Tokyo Games could take place next year even

without a coronavirus vaccine, pointing to the success of the Tour de France.

"We can see that sport is coming back slowly but surely, and that a number of big events have been successfully organised recently, including matches in different Japanese leagues," he said via video link. "Also, very complex events like the Tour de France and others, which showed to us and showed to the world that we can organise safe sports events even without a vaccine."

But a vaccine and progress in rapid testing "would of course greatly facilitate" holding the event, said Bach.



Hamilton one shy of Schumacher

AFP, New Delhi

Lewis Hamilton seeks to equal Michael Schumacher's record 91 Formula One wins at the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi on Sunday despite fears over allowing 30,000 fans to attend.

The six-time world champion is one win away from what once was believed to be an untouchable total, but he will be a clear favourite to succeed on a track where he has triumphed four times in six years.

He has also reeled off six wins in nine races this season to open up a 55-point lead in the title race.



IT'S NOW 20

Rohit Sharma, nicknamed 'hitman', probably does not have to remind anyone about his batting prowess. But it seemed as if the Mumbai Indians skipper, who propelled his side to a 49-run victory against Kolkata Knight Riders, went the extra mile in pointing it out to Kolkata captain Dinesh Karthik after their IPL face-off on Wednesday. A blistering 54-ball 80 saw Rohit become the highest run-scorer against KKR (904), surpassing David Warner (829). The six sixes hit by the 'hitman' helped him enter the elite 'club of mighty hitters' as he became only the fourth batsman after Chris Gayle, AB de Villiers and MS Dhoni to hit 200 IPL sixes. Also, with that win, Mumbai Indians became the first team in IPL history to register 20 wins against one franchise.

PHOTO: TWITTER



Chelsea midfielder Kai Havertz got off the mark with a hattrick in a 6-0 thrashing of Barnsley in the League Cup on Wednesday and Frank Lampard said Havertz was just getting started. Meanwhile, Eddie Nketiah took his tally to two goals in as many matches as Arsenal booked their place in the fourth round of the Carabao Cup with a 2-0 win at Leicester.

PHOTO: TWITTER



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

Giving it all for a dream

Santwana Rani Roy defying odds to set up martial arts school for girls in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Her strength is evident in her belief, her past, present and her dreams for the future. Fighting social norms, martial artist Santwana Rani Roy, 36, has made herself a fine example for women and girls of the country to live up to.



"Marriage is not a solution in a woman's life. Marriage is [more often than not] just a decision a family takes to save women from the harsh eyes of society," she said.

Unmarried still, she says there is a lot of pressure from family and society for marriage but she believes that first and foremost, a woman needs to be able to stand on her own two feet no matter what.

"I am still struggling to be self-reliant and self-sufficient. Women need to be self-reliant. And that is what I am working towards from my position."

Delving into martial arts is a good way for girls to become self-reliant, believes Swantana, a specialist in taekwondo -- a Korean martial art characterised by its emphasis on head-height kicks, jumping spinning kicks, and fast kicking techniques with strikes being above waist height only.

"Taekwondo helps strengthen girls' minds and helps them reach their goals," she said, adding, "Most parents in society do not come forward to give such opportunities to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



The Char Godagari Government Primary School is sinking into the Bangali river in Bogura's Sariakandi upazila. It is only a matter of time before the school building completed in 2002 is devoured by the river that has been eroding its banks over the last four days.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

2,191 died with Covid symptoms in last 6 months

Says Centre for Genocide Studies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 2,191 people died with Covid-19 symptoms between March 22 and September 19 this year, said a report from the Center for Genocide Studies.

Of them, the highest 843 people died in June, according to the report compiled based on the media reports during this period.

The report also included a division-wise figure of such kinds of deaths during this period.

Highest 728 deaths were recorded in Chattogram division, followed by 394 in Dhaka while the Mymensingh division saw the lowest 60 deaths.

If these numbers of deaths were counted in the official tally of coronavirus deaths, the actual number would be much higher.

Meanwhile, in the past 24 hours till 8:30am

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Fatah, Hamas reach deal over Palestinian polls

AFP, Ramallah

Gaza rulers Hamas and their rivals in the occupied West Bank, Fatah, have agreed to hold the first Palestinian elections in nearly 15 years, officials from both sides told AFP yesterday, after two Arab countries normalised ties with Israel.

Polls will be scheduled within six months under a deal reached between Fatah leader Mahmud Abbas and Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh.

"We have agreed to first hold legislative elections, then presidential elections of the Palestinian Authority, and finally the central council of the Palestine Liberation Organization," said Jibril Rajub, a senior Fatah official.

The last Palestinian parliamentary elections were held in 2006 when Hamas won an unexpected landslide.

Saleh al-Aroui, a top Hamas official, said the deal was reached during meetings held in Turkey.

"This time we reached a real consensus," he said, speaking to AFP by phone from Istanbul.

"Divisions have damaged our national cause and we are working to end that," Aroui added.

The two sides formed a unity

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Constituent assembly to sit on October 12

September 25, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEETING SUMMONED

The Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh has been summoned today to meet on October 12 at 9:30am at the Gono Parishad Bhaban. Meeting exactly after six months of the first session of the assembly, the second session would be momentous in the history of the country as the draft constitution would be placed before the house. It will be for the first time that the draft bill will be in Bangla since the language of the country's constitution would be in Bangla. BANGABANDHU REVIEWS JUTE POLICY Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at a high-level conference today reviews various aspects of jute, the principal foreign exchange earner of the country. Problems of export of jute and jute goods, including problems of transportation, are discussed at the conference. The internal price of jute and the internal purchase programme are also reviewed. Bottle-necks encountered in the internal purchase also come up for discussion. The production in jute mills is assessed and various problems felt in jute industry are discussed with a view to taking measures for increased production. TAKE PART IN REBUILDING NATION



SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

'DEAD' GIRL FOUND ALIVE HC forms judicial body to investigate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday formed a judicial inquiry committee to probe police actions regarding the arrest of three men and the subsequent confessions of the latter to raping and killing a girl who turned out to be alive.

The fifth grader was rescued 49 days after she was abducted.

The probe committee includes the chief judicial magistrate of Narayanganj.

The HC asked the judicial inquiry committee to record statements from the investigation officers of the case, the three accused, the child and her parents.

The chief judicial magistrate of Narayanganj has been ordered to allow, if necessary, the lawyers of the accused, the girl and her parents, and the public prosecutor of the case to appear before the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

US WWII bomber emerges from glacier in Iceland



MAIL ONLINE

A US WWII bomber has emerged from a melting glacier in Iceland 76 years after it crashed on its way to England.

The B-17 Flying Fortress bomber flew into the Eyjafjallajökull glacier in southern Iceland on September 16, 1944.

Miraculously all of its 10 crew members survived but the wreckage was abandoned and was swallowed up by the glacier.

Today, with global warming stripping the land

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

34 policemen transferred at one go from Cox's Bazar

UNB, Dhaka

Thirty-four police inspectors posted in Cox's Bazar have been transferred out of the district.

Sources at the Police Headquarters said a notification, signed by Additional IGP Md Moinur Rahman Chowdhury, was issued in this regard on Wednesday.

The transferred inspectors were asked to take release order from their current

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 25

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:30 4:15 6:00 7:30
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:30 6:05 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Woman gang-raped in Khagrachhari

Rapists broke into her house; two girls gang-raped in Jashore

STAR REPORT

A Chakma woman was gang-raped in Khagrachhari early yesterday, while two teenage girls were gang-raped on Wednesday night in Benapole.

Quoting the 32-year-old victim's mother, Khagrachhari police said at least nine perpetrators with sharp weapons broke into the house around 2:00am.

They then tied up her mother and stepfather and raped her. The perpetrators then beat up her mother when she tried to save her daughter. They also looted cash and gold ornaments from the house, said police.

The mother said her daughter had been suffering from mental ailments after losing her brother and father in 2005 and 2006.

The victim's relatives said all the criminals were settlers.

A case was filed with

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



A monkey carries its offspring on its back as it leisurely walks on the roof of a building in Sutrapur of Old Dhaka. The people of that part of the city have accepted monkeys as part of the neighbourhood and their lives. However, some say the number of the primates have dwindled due to scarcity of food.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Trump hedges on transferring power peacefully

Says US polls may end up at SC; Republican Senate leader promises 'orderly transition'

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump declined on Wednesday to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the November 3 election to Democratic rival Joe Biden and said he expected the election battle to end up before the Supreme Court.

"We're going to have to see what happens," Trump, a Republican, told reporters at the White House when asked whether he would commit to transferring power.

The president, who trails Biden in national opinion polls, has repeatedly cast doubt on the legitimacy of the election, asserting without evidence that mail-in voting would lead to fraud and a "rigged" outcome.

"The ballots are a disaster," Trump said. Democrats have encouraged voting by mail as a way to cast ballots safely during the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of Americans, including much of the military, have cast absentee ballots by mail for years without problems.

In 2016, Trump also raised questions about whether he would accept the results of the election. He went on to win the presidency.

Biden, speaking to reporters in Delaware, said Trump's comments on the transition of power were "irrational."

His campaign said it was prepared for any "shenanigans" from Trump, and reiterated comments from July that "the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3