

## A race

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48 hours to carry out tests. But due to the way it is being done now, staffers are not even getting 24 hours.

"If they fail to get their reports, Bangladeshi workers might miss their flights. Who will take responsibility for this?" he questioned.

Moinul said even though staffers are supposed to stop collecting samples after 2pm, they have been doing so till late at night for the last few days, considering the remittance earners. "But we usually need at least 24 hours to carry out the test."

Talking to this correspondent, several Saudi-bound passengers blamed Saudia and travel agents for mismanagement of tickets and schedules, leaving them with insufficient time to get tested.

This correspondent repeatedly tried to contact Tarik A Alowaidi, country manager at Saudia, regarding the claims, but he did not respond. However, another top official of the airline, wishing anonymity, said they will have to verify the allegations.

Saudia is now operating two flights weekly from Dhaka, and is scheduled to operate four from October 1. Biman is scheduled to resume its regular flights to Saudi Arabia from the same day.

Around 50,000 stranded Bangladeshi workers are waiting to return to their workplaces since March, due to the pandemic.

Many of them are afraid of losing their jobs if they fail to return before expiry of their visa and work permit.

**TO-LET**  
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## Intensify actions to ensure people's right to info

## Right to Information Forum urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Right to Information Forum Bangladesh yesterday called upon the government to accelerate actions at every levels involving all stakeholders to fulfil the true spirit of the RTI Act 2009 for improving governance situation in the country.

In a statement, marking the Right to Know Day today, which will also be observed globally as International Day for Universal Access to Information, RTI Forum said the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated that right to information strengthens access to health, education, ensure justice and contribute towards reducing inequalities.

"During the ongoing pandemic, it was seen that the relationship between government and the people has been badly affected due to lack of interaction. The RTI Act can help the government reduce citizen's concerns about their actions, empower citizens and hold duty-bearers accountable in times of crisis," reads the statement.

Appreciating progress made so far in the implementation of the RTI Act 2009, RTI Forum emphasised that these achievements need to be sustained and scaled-up.

The forum urged the government to review various targets set in the RTI Implementation Strategy and draw up revised plans, in the light of findings of RTI Survey 2019, and global indicators under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). It also called upon the Information Commission to play a greater role to increase public awareness about the law and urged the media -- both print and electronic -- to give attention to this act.

RTI Forum is a coalition of institutions and individuals that played a pivotal role in the enactment of right to information law in 2009 and since then have been supporting the government in its implementation and promotion.

## Prime Minister's

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abdication of General Ayub Khan.

In 1968, she married nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah. During the Liberation War, Hasina and her family were interned at a house in Dhaka. On July 27, 1971, her first child Sajeeb Wazed Joy was born. Her second child Saima Wazed Hossain was born on December 9, 1972.

After the assassination of Bangabandhu and most of her family members on August 15, 1975, Hasina along with her sister, Sheikh Rehana, was offered political asylum in India, where she stayed till 1981. During the time, she was elected president of Awami League in her absence.

Hasina returned home on May 17, 1981.

In 1996, 21 years past the assassination of Bangabandhu, Hasina led Awami League to power and became the prime minister. In 2008, she led the alliance to another victory with 90 percent of the seats in parliament.

In 2014, Hasina once again became prime minister. She assumed office of the prime minister for the third consecutive term after winning the December 2018 election.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted her Bangladesh counterpart on the occasion. A letter from him was handed to Sheikh Hasina by outgoing Indian High Commissioner Riva Ganguly Das at Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Meanwhile, a letter from the Communist Part of China, the ruling party of the country, also wished the premier, terming her contribution "significant" to the development of Bangladesh and Bangladesh-China relations.

Sheikh Hasina has been honoured with various honorary degrees, accolades and awards in recognition of her leadership excellence. Her most recent role in providing humanitarian support to Rohingyas drew accolade from global leaders, institutions and personalities.

## ARMS CASE AGAINST PAPIA

## Court sets Oct 12 for verdict

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday set October 12 for delivering the judgment in an arms case against expelled Jubo Mohila League leader Shamima Nur Papiya and her husband Mofizur Rahman Sumon on completion of the trial within nine working days.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka fixed the date after the defence lawyers completed their arguments.

During yesterday's hearing, the defence told the court that the prosecution has failed to prove the charges brought against their clients. They also sought acquittal of their clients from the case.

Earlier, the prosecution on September 24 completed arguments and sought the highest punishment -- life term imprisonment -- for the couple.

The tribunal recorded statements of

12 prosecution witnesses, including complainant of the case. The same tribunal framed charges against the couple in the case on August 23.

A team of Rab arrested Papiya and her husband -- a former Chhatra League leader -- and their two accomplices from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on February 22 while they were trying to leave the country.

The following morning, Rab raided Papiya's house on Indira Road in Farmgate and recovered a foreign pistol, two magazines, 20 bullets, five bottles of foreign liquor, Tk 58,41,000 in cash, credit and debit cards of different banks.

On February 24, an arms case was filed against the couple with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station. On June 29, Rab Sub-inspector Arifuzzaman submitted the charge sheet against them to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

## 'DEROGATORY FB POSTS' SC suspends enrolment of Eunus Ali Akond for 2 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday suspended the enrolment of Advocate Md Eunus Ali Akond as a lawyer for next two weeks for posting derogatory comments about the judiciary on his Facebook account recently.

The apex court directed Akond not to practice law before the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the SC for two weeks.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain also summoned him to appear before it on October 11 to explain his conduct. The apex court came up with the order on a voluntary move after Additional Attorney General Murad Reza placed Akond's Facebook posts before the court.

The SC also ordered BTRC to immediately remove the derogatory posts given by Akond and to block him from Facebook, said Murad Reza, acting attorney general.

On August 12, the SC issued a contempt of court rule against lawyer Syed Mamun Mahub for posting a derogatory status about the chief justice and the judiciary on Facebook. It, however, exempted him on August 23 as he apologised unconditionally.

## Biman, US-Bangla to resume flights to Muscat next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman and US-Bangla Airlines yesterday decided to resume their flights on Dhaka-Muscat-Dhaka route from October 2 and 1 respectively.

Both Biman and US-Bangla will operate two weekly scheduled flights on this Middle Eastern destination in compliance with all the health guidelines.

The national flag carrier will operate its flights on Mondays and Fridays, Biman Managing Director and CEO Mokabbir Hossain said in a message.

US-Bangla Airlines will operate flights on Mondays and Thursdays to Muscat, the airlines said in a release.

Flight of US-Bangla Airlines is scheduled to leave Dhaka at 10pm on Mondays and Thursdays. The return flight from Muscat will leave at 2pm (local time) for Dhaka.

With the resumption of Muscat route from October 1, Biman so far resumed its regular flight operations on Kuala Lumpur, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, London and Doha routes.

The national airliner is also scheduled to resume regular flight operations to Saudi Arabia from October 1.



At one point on Mohammadpur's Ring Road in the capital, Dhaka Wasa had dug a large hole for their work two and a half months ago, and the scene hasn't changed since then. As a result, a bottleneck has formed at that point, constricting traffic and pedestrian movement. The photo was taken earlier this week.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited**  
Based on Islamic Shari'ah

**Operations Wing Engineering Division**  
PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER HARDWARE AND ACCESSORIES DEPARTMENT (PCHAD)  
20 Dilkusha C/A (9<sup>th</sup> floor), Dhaka -1000

**Tender Notice**

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from reputed Manufacturers/ Local Agents/ Companies/ Dealers/ Distributors/ Resellers for supplying 15,00,000 units EMV VISA Chip Card & Dual Interface (DI) Credit Card for Islami Bank Bangladesh limited under the following terms and conditions:

The intending bidders have to apply in their letter head pad for purchasing tender document to supply 15,00,000 units EMV VISA Chip Card & Dual Interface (DI) Credit Card for IBBL. The tender document will be sold upon payment of Tk.5,000/- only in cash (non refundable) from 28.09.2020 to 11.10.2020 during office hours. Tender will be received at the office of the undersigned during office hours up to 03.00 PM on 12.10.2020 and Technical offer(s) will be opened at 03:10 PM on the same date at the same place in the office of the undersigned in presence of the Bidder(s) or their representatives (who may like to attend). Details information relating to the Tender are available at Bank's website: [www.islamibankbd.com](http://www.islamibankbd.com) or in the form of hard copy in the office of the undersigned.

FAVP & Head of Department

**Contact Center: 16259**

**Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)**  
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
Phone: 8181658-61, 8181664-69, Fax: 8181678, Website: <http://www.pksf-bd.org>, [www.facebook.com/PKSF.org](http://www.facebook.com/PKSF.org)

**Request for Expression of Interest (REoI)**  
(Selection of Consulting Firm: National)

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is hereby requesting for applications in sealed envelope from competent national consulting firms for providing the following two short term consulting services under a project titled Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises (PACE) Project of PKSF jointly financed by PKSF and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Least Cost Selection (LCS) method and Standard Request for Proposal (SRFP: PS-5) documents for selection of consulting firm on Lump-sum Contracts of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 of the Government of Bangladesh will be followed for evaluating the applications of the consulting firms.

- Package No: PKSF/PACE/SD-02: Impact Study on "Buffalo Rearing by using improved management technique" value chain development sub-project.
- PKSF/PACE/SD-03: Impact Study on "Increasing income and creating employment through production and marketing of imitation gold jewelry" value chain development sub-project.

Each of the impact study mentioned above will be considered as separate one. The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) documents and Short-listing Questionnaire are obtainable from the office of the undersigned during office hours: 10:00 am to 4:30 pm at free of cost. It will be also available at PKSF website (<http://tender.pksf-bd.org>). Interested eligible consulting firms are requested to submit EoI along with all necessary documents in sealed envelope to the office of the undersigned directly or by courier/mail by 2:30 PM on or before 15 October 2020.

Any kind of persuasion will be treated as disqualification of the consulting firm. PKSF reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all EoI or cancel this advertisement without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

**Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin**  
Deputy Managing Director

## A submerged

FROM PAGE 3  
water pump of her four-storey building went out of order as it got inundated.

"All the families in my building are now stranded as we have no scope to get out in this situation. We are in need of food and other essentials," she said over phone yesterday afternoon.

Many areas in the city are also facing power outage.

According to residents, such waterlogging was reported in the city on July 20 after heavy rainfall. But no action was taken to increase the water flow of Shyamasundari and KD canals -- considered the lifeline of Rangpur city.

"We would get some relief if their water flow is restored," said Tuhin Wadud, an assistant professor of Begum Rokeya University.

Also, water is not receding smoothly as the sewers cannot drain towards the rivers, he said. The number of drains in the city is not adequate, he added. "Bhagat river can be used to drain out water," he said.

According to city corporation sources, the city has 200km of drains.

This correspondent tried to reach RCC Mayor Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa but his phone was found switched off.

In July, the mayor said such a problem would not exist after a couple of months.

Md Emdad Hossain, superintendent engineer of RCC, had also said they will take steps to clear the sewers on a regular basis to mitigate people's suffering.

Asked, Mostafizur Rhaman, assistant meteorologist of Rangpur Meteorological Department, gave a forecast of more rainfall in the next 48 hours.

But the fire service and water development board officials claimed Shyamasundari and KD channels are enough to drain out water.

They, however, said more rainfall will unleash more sufferings.

Meanwhile, water of Teesta, Karatoa, Ghagat and Jamuneshwari has been flowing near the danger level. Large croplands in the area have already been flooded due to the rainfall.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Barishal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jalokathi, Borguna  
Madaripur & Shariatpur Agricultural Development Project  
Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)  
Khamarbari, Dhaka

Memo No. BADP/DAE/LLP/2020-21/17

Date: 24/09/2020

## e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No.	Description	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
498131	Supply of LLP (Low Lift Pump) set and Canvass pipe at Project area.	27/10/2020 (05.00pm)	28/10/2020 (03.00pm)	28/10/2020 (03.00pm)

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Zahidul Alam

Project Director

E-mail: [pdbadp@gmail.com](mailto:pdbadp@gmail.com)

GD-1523