



THE DAILY

Star

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"The president of the United States conducted himself the way he did -- I think it was a national embarrassment." JOE BIDEN ON TRUMP'S ABRASIVE PERFORMANCE IN THE FIRST US PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE PAGE 6



"Putin is behind this act, I don't see any other explanation." KREMLIN CRITIC ALEXEI NAVALNY ACCUSES RUSSIAN PRESIDENT OVER POISONING PAGE 6



"Humanity is waging war on nature. And we need to rebuild our relationship with it." UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES TELLS BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT PAGE 6

# ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAW Amend it to curb cops' raid powers

Foreign minister writes to law minister, seeks an end to 'harassment' of recruiting agencies

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and ZYMA ISLAM

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has lately written to Law Minister Anisul Huq seeking amendment to the trafficking prevention law, to potentially leash the capacity of law enforcers in raiding recruitment agencies.

There were complaints about "abuse of the law" and "harassment" of recruitment agencies by the law enforcers in recent times, the minister said in his September 21 letter.

The section of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 which the foreign minister wants amended, is Section 20 (1) and (2), titled "Preventive search and seizure".

The section allows the law enforcement agencies the "power to conduct preventive search, to enter into any premises and to seize any equipment or proof or document used or likely to be used in the commission of any offence under this Act."

The section states that the "search may be undertaken without a warrant if there is reasonable ground to believe that there are equipment or materials for the commission of any offence under this Act". It also adds that two civilian witnesses must be present at the operation.

Foreign Minister Momen stated in the letter that the anti-trafficking law was enacted to prevent human trafficking, prosecute human traffickers, and protect victims, while the "Overseas Employment and Migrants Act 2013" is used to fairly regulate the manpower export industry. "A conflicting provision in the two laws is creating obstacles in manpower export," he wrote.

"Section 20(1) and (2) of The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 allows the law enforcers uninterrupted power, and

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Wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing, a group of A-Level students waits to enter a British Council-approved test centre in the capital's Dhanmondi area around 11:00pm yesterday. Advanced Level examinations of the October and November session began yesterday amid the pandemic, leaving many candidates and their guardians in anxiety over health safety.

# A-LEVEL EXAMS Students negotiate a new reality

Maintain health safety protocol at exam halls

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Advanced Level examinations of the October and November session began yesterday amid parents' concern about the grades their children would get as many could not prepare for the tests properly due to the closure of schools.

Many were worried not only about the health safety at exam halls but also on their way to and from the exam centre.

"We are worried about what grade my child will get ... She could not concentrate on her studies. I had advised her to adjust to the situation," said a guardian waiting outside Oxford International School exam centre in the capital.

Anjum Ara said as school remained closed

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# Dhaka, Beijing can strengthen ties further

Hasina writes to Xi Jinping on occasion of China's 71st founding anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

Terming China one of the most valued partners of Bangladesh for its socio-economic development, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has appreciated the East Asian country's continued aid and support to Bangladesh during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

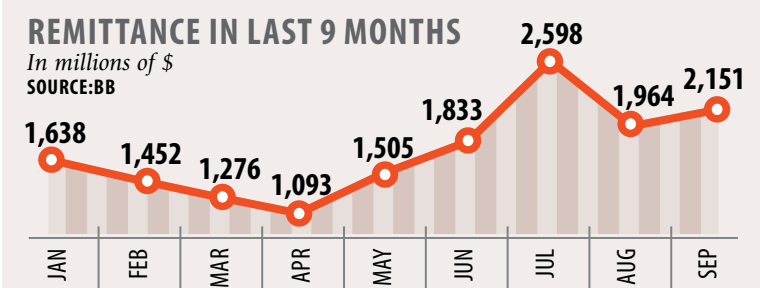
The premier sent a congratulatory message to Chinese President Xi Jinping on the occasion of the 71st founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. She conveyed heartfelt felicitations and warmest greetings to the government and the people of China.

Hasina also recalled President Xi's visit to Bangladesh in 2016 and hers to China in 2019 -- one elevating bilateral relations to Strategic Partnership of Cooperation and the other bringing the two friendly

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# Remittance inflow defies grim forecast

Expats sending last savings before returning home might be a reason, say experts



JAMIL MAHMUD and AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Despite grim predictions, remittance inflow stayed strong for the fourth straight month as expatriates sent home \$2.15 billion last month, giving the country's economy some relief amid the pandemic.

The inflow went up by 9.53 percent from the previous month and 45.64pc from September last year, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

Experts attributed the rise in remittance to the government's two percent cash incentive for remitters.

They said the cash incentive, being disbursed since July last year, has encouraged remitters to send money through the formal channels, at a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# Closure of edn institutions extended till October 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to reduce further spread of Covid-19, the government has extended the closure of all educational institutions till October 31.

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education issued separate statements regarding the matter yesterday.

Both the ministries suggested students and participate in TV education and online education programmes during the shutdown.

The ministries also urged guardians to ensure safe stay of students at home.

Earlier on Wednesday, Education Minister Dipu Moni said the situation was not in favour of reopening schools.

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# 3 CHINA-FUNDED RAIL PROJECTS PMO to review plans and costs

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Prime Minister's Office has formed a committee to review negotiated contract costs of three railways projects and whether the projects should go ahead as they have been planned.

The projects were supposed to be implemented with Chinese finance and by Chinese companies.

The decision came at a meeting held Wednesday at the PMO over four projects that have Chinese links. Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus chaired the meeting.

The committee, led by Shamima Nargis of the physical infrastructure division of the Planning Commission, would have members from the railways ministry, Bangladesh Railway (BR), Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).

The Daily Star learnt about the developments from five railways officials who sought anonymity.

"The committee will review all three projects. It will review both cost and technical issues," one of the officials said.

Conversion of metre-gauge rail into dual-gauge between Akhaura and Sylhet; construction of dual-gauge double line between Joydebpur and Ishwardi; and construction

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

# Taqsem Khan reappointed as Wasa MD for 3 more years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ignoring widespread criticism, the government yesterday reappointed Taqsem A Khan as the Dhaka Wasa managing director for three more years.

The move came after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the appointment put forward by the Wasa board.

Mohammad Ibrahim, additional secretary (water supply wing) of Local Government Division, said the PM has approved the file.

The LGRD and cooperatives ministry yesterday issued a circular mentioning that Taqsem was reappointed for the next three years from October 14.

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# CLINICAL TRIAL OF VACCINE Globe Biotech plans to start it this month

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladeshi company Globe Biotech will seek government approval to start clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccine this month, having already completed successful animal trials in the pre-clinical stage.

The company will seek approval through a contract research organisation (CRO) to start the first phase of human trials of the vaccine to examine whether the dose is safe and effective for humans.

The pharmaceutical company claimed they have gotten encouraging results from pre-clinical trials, initially done on rabbits and then mice.

The pre-clinical trial results were pre-published in the international platform, bioRxiv.org -- an archive for unpublished pre-prints in life sciences, and the company is likely to hold a press conference in this regard early next week.

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# TROOPS MOBILISATION ON BORDER Myanmar putting kind of pressure on us

Brig Gen (retd) Sakhawat talks to Star

Bangladesh has expressed its concern to the UN Security Council over the recent deployment of Myanmar troops on the Bangladesh border. Tensions on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border are mainly centring the Rohingya crisis, a creation of Myanmar. Does Myanmar want to create war-like situation? How is Bangladesh's preparations, ability and strength? How significant is the Bangladesh-Myanmar relations in international and regional politics? The Daily Star's Golam Mortoza turned to military and security expert Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain to have an in-depth analysis of Bangladesh-Myanmar relations.

Following is an excerpt of the interview:

TDS: Why is Myanmar raising tension along the border now?

MSH: First of all, I would like to say that I am speaking based on my long research and observations. You can say, this is my own experience-based analysis.

For this we have to look at the international situation. Tensions are running high over India's border conflict with China. From Myanmar's point of view, it cannot be kept out of this tension.

The polarisation with the United States, Australia, and Japan behind India against China is also there. In this, it



seems Bangladesh is neither here nor there. But one thing very noticeable is that US Secretary of Defence Mark Esper suddenly called Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina. This is a big issue in the geopolitical context. Bangladesh is being dragged into the US-Australia-Japan-India pole. A number of unconfirmed sources, especially in various international media, reported that they [US] apparently want to sell some sophisticated war equipment to Bangladesh which include Apache helicopters that have been discussed at different times. They [US] also want to assist in necessary training. India

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# 21 more die from Covid in a day

Another 1,508 infected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one people died from Covid-19 in the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of deaths reached 5,272, and the death rate was 1.44 percent.

In the meantime, 1,508 new infections were recorded, taking the number of people infected to 3,64,987, added the release.

Against yesterday's 11,420 tests, the positivity rate was 13.20 percent, and the overall positivity rate stood at 18.63 percent.

Bangladesh is currently the 15th in the list of worst-affected countries in the world in terms of the number of cases.

The position is one step ahead of Iraq and one step behind the United Kingdom, according to worldometers.info.

In the same 24 hours,

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In fond remembrance of a life, lived truly and well  
Iftekhar Uddin Ahmed (Ifti)

(August 27th 1950 - October 2nd 2015)  
Founding Chairman Bonanza Group of Companies and Raj Overseas Ltd

The memories of your calm strength, your indelible smile, and your unflinching fortitude guide us through these trying times.

We ask all friends and family to remember him in their prayers.

**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**1,508**  
New cases in 24hrs



**3,64,987**  
Total cases



**5,272**  
Deaths



**2,77,078**  
Recoveries



**1,021,476**  
Deaths



**34,356,358**  
Total cases

## WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN WORKFORCE

# PM pledges to raise it to 50pc by 2041

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday pledged to increase women's participation in the workforce to 50-50 by 2041 and called for protecting their jobs in the context of Covid-19 pandemic.



She also urged the international community to renew its commitments and enhance efforts to ensure women's equality, empowerment and advancement.

"In the context of Covid-19, the jobs of female workers, including migrant workers, across the global supply chains and other major employment sectors, must be protected so that they are not further marginalised and financially excluded," she said while highlighting three issues at a high-level meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

The High-Level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women was held virtually on the sidelines of the 75th UN General Assembly.

Pointing out two other issues, Hasina said firstly, the world can benefit from every girl whose potential is realised, from every woman whose talent is tapped, and this can only be done through education.

"Secondly, empowerment comes with income and employment. Therefore, engaging women in income-generating activities should be a priority," the PM said.

She said the Covid-19 pandemic has particularly aggravated the vulnerability of women.

"During this pandemic, women are facing discrimination and increased domestic violence, and therefore, threatening to reverse our hard-earned achievements in women empowerment."

Talking about Bangladesh's tremendous development in women empowerment, Hasina said women are now becoming higher court judges, public university VCs, secretaries of the government ministries and so on. Gender budgeting, micro-finance and similar initiatives have ensured women's financial inclusion.

The premier said the government's investment in women was paying dividends with women thriving in every sector of the society.

"Today, 20 million women are engaged in agriculture, industry, and service sectors, while over 3.5 million are working in the readymade garments sector, our largest export-earning sector," she added.

## Remittance inflow defies

FROM PAGE 1

time when the "hundi" -- an illegal cross-boundary financial transaction system -- has stalled pushing the inflow through the banking sector.

They also said expatriate Bangladeshis in North America and Europe now send in a robust amount of remittance as interest rates on deposits in those countries have dropped to almost zero in the wake of the ongoing coronavirus-driven economic slowdown.

The experts, however, warned against complacency and advocated for building on the rising trend of inward remittance flow to achieve a sustainable future growth target in the sector.

More than one crore Bangladeshis live in about 160 countries. Most of them are low-paid migrant workers in the Middle East and Southeast Asian countries, who contribute a bulk of foreign currency in the state coffers.

Beating forecasts, Bangladesh has received as high as \$1.83 billion in remittance in June, a record \$2.59 billion in July and \$1.96 billion in August, shows data from the central bank.

The World Bank in April had made a forecast that remittance flow to Bangladesh may plunge by as much as 22 percent in 2020 because of the fallout of the pandemic.

Each of the monthly remittance inflow was higher than that of any given month in recent years. The previous highest was \$1.74 billion in May 2019.

Between the months of July and September, remittance hit \$6.71 billion, up from 48.52 percent year-on-year.

### THE REASONS

"Travelling has almost come to a halt due to the ongoing pandemic and it has dealt a big blow to the hundi system," Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, told The Daily Star.

The upturn of export against the dwindling import and foreign loans, financial aids and grants has helped the financial sector enjoy a robust amount of foreign currency, he said.

Zahid, however, said that many migrants, who lost work opportunities in the host countries amid the pandemic, sent their last savings before returning home, which has given a boost to the remittance inflow.

Against the backdrop, the discrepancy in exchange rates of dollars between formal and informal sectors has declined significantly, encouraging remitters to send their hard-earned money through the legal banking system.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal echoed a similar view and said expats previously sent 49 percent of the total remittance using the non-banking channels.

But the two percent cash incentive and an increase in distribution channels of remittance in the country have discouraged remitters to send their money using the non-banking channel that ultimately registered a shining growth in recent times, he added.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said interest rates on deposits have almost become zero in the US and European countries, encouraging the Bangladeshi diaspora living there to send more money to the country.

The Bangladeshi banks now offer more than five percent interest rates, way higher than the rates offered by those host countries, he said.

"Besides, the Bangladeshi expats now try to invest their idle funds in the country. Many of them are purchasing land here to use their fund in a fruitful manner," he said.

Mansur, also a former top official of

the International Monetary Fund, thinks high remittance inflow from North American and European countries may continue in the years ahead as the nations would require more time to avoid the deadlock of zero percent interest rate.

"CONCERN IS TO HOLD ON TO IT" Prof Selim Raihan, executive director of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling, said the recent growth was a positive sign considering remittance's importance in the country's economy and also because it happened during the pandemic.

"But the concern is to hold on to it," he told this newspaper by phone.

Pointing to the remittance growth achieved at the end of the outgoing fiscal year, Prof Selim, a teacher of economics at Dhaka University, said it was important that it continued towards the end of the year or the fiscal year.

The country received a record \$18.20 billion in remittance in the last fiscal year, up from 11 percent year-on-year, shows BB data.

Saudi Arabia was the top remittance-generating country for Bangladesh in 2019-2020 with \$4 billion, followed by the United Arab Emirates (\$2.47 billion) and the USA (\$2.4 billion), shows the data.

Other top remittance-generating countries included Kuwait, UK, Oman, Malaysia, Qatar, Italy, and Singapore.

Prof Selim Raihan suggested introducing "privilege cards" for remitters to encourage them to send more.

Mohammad Shams-Ul Islam, managing director and chief executive officer of Agrani Bank, said they received about \$435 million in July and about \$235-\$240 million in August in remittance.

Agrani Bank is now the second highest remittance receiver after Islami Bank among all banks.

The bank usually received 10-11 percent of the total monthly remittance which increased to about 17 percent in July, he told The Daily Star by phone.

He termed the surge a "remarkable achievement" and said they have recently launched an app-based system in Singapore to reach Bangladeshi remitters.

Using the app, one can remit money staying at home, he said, adding the app would be launched in other countries as well.

Md Mahubul-Alam, MD of Islami Bank, said both the government and the central bank should take initiatives to widen the volume of the remittance distribution channels so that the receivers get the fund easily.

The lender has received remittance worth \$756 million in September, up 147 percent year-on-year.

The government should continue to provide cash incentives to remitters in the years to come so that remittance maintains the upward trend, he said.

Shariful Islam, head of Brac Migration Programme, said about one lakh migrant workers returned to the country amid the pandemic.

"They tried to remit their last penny before returning home," he said.

Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, founding chair of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), said the high remittance inflow did not necessarily reflect that all migrants remitted their earnings during the pandemic.

Inward remittance could be higher by ensuring engagement of more migrants in the formal channel, she added.

"This is a lesson to learn," said Prof Tasneem, adding more government initiatives were needed to turn remitters from "the informal flow towards the formal flow".



Floodwater devoured a culvert on Basail-Natiapara Road in Tangail's Basail upazila early yesterday, disrupting road communication among 30 villages of Basail and nearby two other upazilas. The photo was taken later in the afternoon.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Amend it to curb cops' raid powers

FROM PAGE 1

there are complaints that this is creating abuse of the law," the letter continued.

"You must be aware that legal manpower recruiting agencies are not at all involved in human trafficking or fraudulent activities like these. The Ministry of Home Affairs has received multiple complaints regarding harassment of recruiting agencies by law enforcers, but these instances of harassment have yet to stop.

"It needs to be mentioned that the former state minister of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment sent a semi-official letter on June 25, 2019 seeking an end to the harassment of recruiting agencies by the police. I too have received multiple requests from the members of the recruiting agency association at different times, seeking a cancellation of the above-mentioned law.

"Under these circumstances, I would like to especially request you to partially amend Section 20(1) and (2) of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 to stop the unnecessary harassment of recruiting agencies by police in the name of preventing human trafficking."

The letter was also forwarded to the home minister, overseas employment minister, and the chairman of Female Worker Recruiting Agencies Association and Abdul Alim, the chairman of Female Worker Recruiting Agencies Association of Bangladesh.

Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq said, "We will examine the laws and scrutinise the request. I cannot make any comments about this now."

The Daily Star called Foreign Minister Momen several times in the last two days, but he informed thrice that he was busy and would talk later.

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad could not be reached.

Abdul Alim, the chairman of the recruiting agency association, said he complained to the government several times about the anti-trafficking law being "unfair" on agencies.

"This law is hurting us. An anti-trafficking law should be for traffickers. Trafficking involves coercion, abduction, and clandestine operations. Migration is not trafficking because it involves two governments, and several layers of validation," said Alim, who is also the managing director of SA Trading.

"This law was formulated by foreign-funded NGOs to implicate us," he claimed.

The United States Department of State publishes a Trafficking in Persons Report each year. The 2020 report on

Bangladesh stated "Because a number of government officials, including parliamentarians, maintained close ties to foreign employment agencies, there were concerns such officials had conflicts of interest in approving migrant-friendly practices, such as prosecution of abusive recruitment agencies and increasing protections for migrant workers."

In September 2019, Bangladesh ratified the "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children", a protocol under an international treaty called United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Among other forms of trafficking, the protocol states that "trafficking in persons" include recruitment, transportation and harbouring of persons through fraud, deception, abuse of power, for the purpose of exploitation. According to the protocol, exploitation includes forced labour, servitude and conditions similar to slavery.

The protocol also states that "The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth [above] shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth [above] has been used."

Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA), said, "How is it that a recruiting agency can be prosecuted based on the words of a worker, without proof? Their offices are raided publicly, and media trials are held. A recruiting agent was arrested for sending a 14-year-old girl to Saudi Arabia who died of torture. Her passport said she was 26 -- why not hold the passport giving agency responsible? The embassies are not functional either."

His comment referred to the case of Umme Kulsum who died of torture in Saudi Arabia and whose body came back on September 9. On September 17, Rapid Action Battalion-3 raided the office of MH Trade International, the recruiting agent that sent her to Saudi Arabia.

During the raid, members of recruiting agencies protested in front of the office, under the banner of Recruiting Agency Oikyo Parishad. Their chairperson Tipu Sultan told this newspaper, "We can't be culpable for crimes of employers. We want the law repealed."

A further investigation by The Daily Star revealed that the agency was responsible for sending at least four more female workers into conditions

where they were raped, thrown off the roof, starved, and beaten. The workers claimed to this correspondent that they had all contacted the proprietor of MH Trade International, Mokbul Hossain.

According to standard contracts of manpower export, once an employer has paid for a worker, if the worker chooses to leave the employment for whatever reason, the Bangladeshi manpower agency must pay \$2,000 or provide a replacement worker to the employer. In the case of MH Trade International, at least four women said they came back before completing their employment.

So Mokbul Hossain was asked by this newspaper whether he sent women as replacement or he paid the money.

"If a woman came back without completing her contract, we paid back \$2,000 that the employer had given for her. The local office in Saudi Arabia either found another worker, or paid on our behalf, and that money was adjusted from our account," he had claimed.

Asked if he had receipts to prove that he paid \$2,000 for every abused woman who came back without completing their contracts, he had said he had no receipts.

Assistant Inspector General (media) Sohail Rana of Police Headquarters and the Additional Deputy Inspector General Sheikh Rezaul Haider of Criminal Investigation Department said that they only raided and arrested people from recruiting agencies when there was clear evidence. Police sources claimed they found the involvement of at least 30 recruiting agencies in trafficking.

Rab Media Wing Director Lt Col Ashiq Billah said, "The anti-trafficking law is very realistic. Meanwhile, we are also creating awareness about trafficking."

Between October 2019 and September of this year, Rab-3 raided offices of 10 recruiting agencies. Three cases were filed last month, one related to labour trafficking in Brunei, and two related to labour trafficking in Saudi Arabia, and six people were arrested.

"I truly hope that good businessmen are not harassed, but let not something be done that will allow traffickers to get away. Migration and trafficking become cross-cutting issues when someone is sent abroad and his or her rights are violated, when a worker is exploited. Trafficking in the name of migration should be recognised," said Shariful Hasan, programme head of BRAC Migration Programme.

## Dhaka, Beijing

FROM PAGE 1

nations even closer on bilateral, regional, and international issues of common interests, according to the Chinese embassy in Dhaka.

With the vision to explore new avenues of further cooperation to realise the full potentials of China-Bangladesh relations, Hasina wished Xi Jinping good health, long life and happiness as well as continued peace, progress and prosperity to the friendly people of China.

She has also sent another congratulatory message to Li Keqiang, premier of the State Council of China. In the message, she emphasised that the friendly relations between the two countries exist on the basis of shared values, similar national objectives and mutual respect.

Hasina highlighted the Strategic Partnership of Cooperation between China and Bangladesh established in 2016 with common aspirations towards peace, progress and prosperity of the two peoples.

She recalled her visit to China last year when the two countries reached broad consensus on various issues.

The PM expressed optimism that the two countries can further fortify their relations through exploring new avenues of cooperation.

She wished her Chinese counterpart good health and happiness.

## Closure of edn

FROM PAGE 1

On March 17, the government closed educational institutions to contain the spread of coronavirus.

The closure was extended till October 3 in several phases. The long closure has led to the cancellation of exams and left academic calendars in disarray.

After the closure extension till October 31, all educational institutions will remain close for almost seven and a half month.

Meanwhile, the introduction to the new curriculum by National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has been delayed by a year from January 2021 due to Covid-19 outbreak.

Introduction to technical and vocational courses at all general stream schools and madrasas for developing skilled and efficient human resources was also delayed by one year.

The government started tele education through Sangsad TV for primary and secondary students as well as for technical and madrasa students.

Many public universities are in fear of session jams caused by the closure of universities.

Public universities are taking online classes but many cannot join the classes due to scarcity of digital devices.

Most private universities are conducting online classes.

## Taqsem Khan

FROM PAGE 1

The decision of his reappointment was made in the Wasa board's 97th special meeting held virtually on September 19.

Following this, a writ petition was filed with the High Court on September 24 challenging the legality of the MD's reappointment process.

The reappointment comes at a time when the hearing of the petition is pending with the court.

Taqsem has been the Dhaka Wasa MD for the last 11 years. He was appointed for four consecutive terms of varying lengths. His current term will expire on October 14.

When he took office in 2009, most parts of the capital used to be waterlogged after heavy rains. The situation remains unchanged.

Residents still complain of getting dirty and foul-smelling water from Wasa.

There is no proper sewer system in about 80 percent of the capital, like it was 11 years ago.

A Transparency International Bangladesh report published on April 17 last year said 91 percent of Wasa subscribers had to boil the water to make it drinkable and, in the process, burned natural gas worth Tk 332 crore a year.

The TIB findings also showed that nearly 45 percent of the subscribers got inadequate supply of water, while about 35 percent complained of being supplied poor-quality water throughout the year.

Allegations of massive irregularities and corruption in the small and large projects of Wasa were raised in the TIB report.

Taqsem was widely criticised last year for claiming that Dhaka Wasa water was 100 percent safe at source.

He also told reporters on various occasions that water-related issues can be attributed to technical problems, and often denied reports of corruption and mismanagement in Wasa.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday also reappointed Chattogram Wasa Managing Director AKM Fazlullah for three more years.

According to another circular issued by the LGRD and cooperatives ministry, the reappointment will be effective from November 1.

## Globe Biotech plans to start it this month

FROM PAGE 1

Asif Mahmud, in-charge of research and development of Globe Biotech limited, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"If everything goes smooth and according to plan, we hope [all three phases of] the human trial will be completed by January," Asif added.

Contacted, Dr Mahmood-Uz-Jahan, director of Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC), said he could only comment once they got the application.

Prof Md Sayedur Rahman, chairman, Department of Pharmacology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, an expert on research ethics, told The Daily Star that Globe Biotech has to apply to BMRC and its national research ethics committee will analyse the pre-clinical trial results, and then make a decision on whether or not it will give permission for human trials.

According to healthcare professionals, clinical or human modelling trial is done in three phases. In the first phase, the dose is given to a small group of people to test the drug's safety. The phase-II trial is done in larger groups to further assess safety and effectiveness.

The phase-III trial is conducted to

assess the side-effects of each drug and to see which one works better, and enrolls more people than the previous two phases, said healthcare professionals.

Every day, a substantial number of people are volunteering to sign up for the trials, said Asif Mahmud.

He said human trials would begin after taking necessary measures as per international protocol.

A third-party CRO has also been finalised and Globe Biotech is now working with them to formulate the protocol and guidelines.

When asked about the name of the CRO, the officials said they would disclose the name soon after finalising background work.

In a press conference on July 2, Globe Biotech announced that they were developing a Covid-19 vaccine.

During that press conference they said they would need six to eight weeks to complete regulated animal trials, after which they would apply for permission to conduct human trials if the animal trials proved successful.

More than 200 studies across the globe were conducted for developing a Covid-19 vaccine. Half a dozen are in the final stages of human trials.

University of Oxford and British

company AstraZeneca; US firm Moderna; a collaboration between American pharmaceutical company Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech; and China's CanSino Biological, SinoVac Biotech and SinoPharm are well advanced in the race.

Moderna became the first to publish the complete blueprints of its study following calls for greater transparency.

Russia's Gamaleya Institute has become the first to get the nod to produce its vaccine, although its final trials are still ongoing.

## 21 more die

FROM PAGE 1

1,591 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illness.

With this, the total number of recoveries stood at 2,77,078, and the recovery rate reached nearly 76 percent.

Among the 21 deceased, 16 were males and five females. Three of them died in homes and the rest in hospitals, according to the release.

One of them was aged between 41 and 50, six were between 51 and 60 and the rest 14 were above 60 years old, added the release.

## Focus on future sustainability

PM tells UN biodiversity summit; places 4 proposals to save planet from impacts of climate change

BSS, DHAKA

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for focusing on "future sustainability" while making investment as she placed a four-point proposal to save the planet from the adverse impacts of climate change.

"To save the planet and to save us (from the adverse impact of climate change), we should focus on future sustainability while making investment," she said in her first proposal.

The prime minister made the proposal while delivering a statement at a high-level event of a virtual biodiversity summit on the sidelines of the 75th UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York on Wednesday



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



This road at the capital's Tejgaon was submerged yesterday to the extent that motorcyclists had to wade through the waves while moving on their vehicles, while the water poured over the footpath. Despite promises by city authorities to resolve it, waterlogging remains a perennial problem of the city, even in off-season.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Addl SP's wife alleges torture for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wife of an additional superintendent of police (Addl SP) yesterday brought allegation of torture against her husband for dowry.

Nusrat Jahan made the allegations soon after her family members rescued her from the residence of her husband's sister in Munshiganj.

"My mobile phone was snatched away. I was not allowed to communicate with my parents. I was held captive," Nusrat told The Daily Star yesterday over phone.

She also alleged that her husband -- Sheikh Abdullah Bin Kalam -- and his family members used to rebuke her all the time. She said Abdullah often beat and tortured her.

Failing to contact her daughter, Nusrat's mother Sultana Khatun lodged a general diary (GD) with Kushtia Model Police Station on Wednesday.

In the GD, she alleged that Abdullah used to torture her daughter physically and mentally since their marriage. She further alleged that they could not contact Nusrat since she went to her husband's house on September 11 from their Kushtia home on Abdullah's return from abroad.

Nusrat had been living with her parents for the last one year after Abdullah went to the UK on a one-year study, she mentioned in the GD.

"Under this circumstance, my daughter's life can be endangered," the GD reads.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## VIOLATION OF CHILDREN'S FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

### Legal notice seeks probe into 3 child dev centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday sent a legal notice to the government, requesting it to form a high-powered inquiry committee in three days to probe the violation of fundamental rights of the children in the three Child Development Centres of the country, meant for underage convicts of crimes.

Lawyer Manoj Kumar Bhowmick, also a rights activist, served the legal notice to the social welfare secretary and director general of the department of social services following a report published on The Daily Star on September 29 headlined "No better than a jail".

The report narrated violations of fundamental rights of children and their miserable condition at the child development centres.

In the legal notice, the lawyer said his heart bled at the condition of the children and violation of their rights.

Manoj Bhowmick told The Daily Star that he will move a writ petition before the High Court seeking necessary directives if the respondents do not act in line with the requirements of the legal notice.

## Give Tk 20 lakh more to Russel in compensation

HC directs Green Line Paribahan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Green Line Paribahan to give Tk 20 lakh more in compensation to Russel Sarker, who lost his leg after a bus of the company ran him over in April 2018.

Green Line earlier gave Tk 13 lakh plus to Russel and will give Tk 20 lakh more in three months after receiving the HC verdict, the Paribahan's lawyer Shah Monjurul Hoque told The Daily Star.

He also said the company will not move any appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the HC

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## 975 women raped in last nine months: ASK report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 975 women were raped across the country in the last nine months from January and 161 rape incidents took place last month, said rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) in a report yesterday.

Of them, 208 women were gang-raped, 43 murdered after rape and 12 victims of rape died by suicide afterwards, the report added. Three women and nine men were killed while protesting assault incidents.

ASK prepared the statistical report based on information from nine daily newspapers, online news portals and its own sources, said a press release.

Apart from this, 216 were killed in "crossfire" and police custody across the country in the last nine months, the report said. At least 27 people died while they were in police custody in the last nine months, it added.

Additionally, 58 people died in different jails throughout the country due to various reasons including illness.

About 209 journalists were victims of repression, 66 women were killed for dowry while BSF killed 39 persons at Indian border in the last nine months.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

RAPE CASE

## BCL leader among two held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested two persons including a Chhatra League leader after a woman filed a case against them with Mirpur Police Station on charges of rape and abetting it.

The arrestees are: Sabuz Al Sabba, vice-president of Dhaka (north) city unit of BCL, and his associate Fatema alias Jhumur. They were arrested after the 22-year-old filed the case on Wednesday night, said Sub-inspector Ruksana Akter.

She was sent to one-stop crisis centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday for tests, said Ruksana, also the case's investigation officer.

The complainant alleged that she was employed as a house help at Fatema's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## NAIMUL ABRAR'S DEATH

### Prothom Alo editor, nine others get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matur Rahman and nine others in a case filed over the death of Naimul Abrar Rahat, a ninth-grader of Dhaka Residential Model College.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order following their surrender and separate bail petitions.

Earlier in the day, the judge took cognisance of the charges against the 10 after scrutinising the case dockets and other relevant documents. He fixed October 13 for charge framing hearing.

The other accused include Kabir Bakul, head of event and activation of Kishor Alo; Shuvashish Pramanik Shuvo and Shah Paran Tushar, assistants at event and activation of Kishor Alo; and Mahitul Alam Pavel, senior assistant editor of Kishor Alo.

Earlier, Matur Rahman and others received bail from the High Court and Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on different dates.

On November 1 last year, Abrar was electrocuted during the anniversary programme of Prothom Alo's youth magazine Kishor Alo.

Mojibur Rahman, the victim's father, filed the case against Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman and nine others with the Fourth Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka on November 6 that year.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Bangladeshi team wins MIT contest

Awarded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for neonatal incubator

SYEDA AFRIN TARANNUM

A Bangladeshi team, Bioforge, was announced as one of the winners at this year's prestigious MIT Solve Challenge. The team received Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation award for winning the "Maternal & Newborn Health" challenge, with their pitch for cost-effective and easy-to-assemble neonatal incubators for doctors with limited resources.

Bioforge is among the 35 teams selected from 20 countries. For the class of 2020, a total prize funding of over USD 1 million was announced for winners. Furthermore, the Bangladeshi team also secured the Community Prize.

The team will now have access to resources from MIT and partner organisations Microsoft and General Electric for technical, logistical and financial support. They will also be able to collaborate with other winners for the project and ask for assistance from MIT students and professors.

Led by founders Dr Dewan AFK Choudhury and Ju-un Nahar Choudhury, Bioforge is a biotechnology company offering a low-cost and practical model of neonatal incubator for areas without proper access to healthcare technology.

According to the team, the incubator should be able to provide all the necessary functions of a traditional incubator, without the high price and mobility issues for treatment of premature and low birthweight babies.

The locally designed and manufactured incubators are easy to assemble and do not require highly skilled operators, reducing repair costs. Bioforge's incubator technology, with MIT Solve's network, claims to reduce Bangladesh's neonatal mortality by one-third in the next five years.

"The motivation behind this project comes from my final year as a medical student and my time as an intern, when I had to inform new parents to look for an ICU for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Theatre resuming at Shilpakala Oct 23

Open only on weekends initially, one-third seats can be filled up

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Three performance halls of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) -- National Theatre, Experimental Theatre and Studio Theatre -- are set to open their doors to theatre lovers of the country from October 23, after over seven months of closure.

The premier hub of theatre in the country suspended their shows on March 18 in light of the Covid-19 outbreak.

A meeting at BSA with its director general Liaquat Ali Lucky in the chair made the decision yesterday evening.

However, plays will only be staged on Fridays and Saturdays initially, with one-third of spectator capacity and maintaining all health guidelines, Kamal Bayezid, secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation told The Daily Star.

Eminent theatre artistes met with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs multiple times regarding this matter. "We are delighted to get back to the stage and are grateful to the government for granting permission for shows again," he said.

"We have dedicated our souls to theatre, and this dedication comes from a place of love and not money," said noted thespian, director and playwright Mamunur Rashid. "Everything was reopening and the theatre halls were yet to open, so we are grateful to the government for the initiative."

"It was decided earlier that the halls will reopen, and now that the decision is being

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## MINI BYTES



## How many computer case fans is too many?

BY EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

Heat is the biggest enemy of a custom PC build. An average CPU temperature should be within 75-80 degrees Celsius. Poor heat management can see temps climbing past 100 degrees resulting in slowing down becoming an indoor BBQ pit. To combat heat, current trend in Bangladesh is to build a PC with lots of RGB fans that light up like an 80's disco. More fans must mean more cooling, right? You're probably wasting your money doing it wrong.

### GET THE CORRECT AIR-FLOW DIRECTION

Goal is to bring cool air from the front or the bottom of a case, pass it across the heat generating GPU/ CPU and out through the back. Two fans are usually enough. Two more may see a max 2-3 degree drop in temperature. Benefit of any more fans is usually negligible. Keep in mind the GPU/ CPU have their own fans which benefit from a well-designed airflow from the case fans.

### FOCUS MORE ON CFM THAN NUMBER OF FANS

Buy fans following the CFM (Cubic Feet per Minute) number. It measures the volume of air removed by the fan per minute. Higher the number, better the flow. A good 120mm 59CFM CoolerMaster RGB fan is around BDT 1300.

### BALANCE YOUR PRESSURE

There's a science to it. Case fans act as either intake or exhaust fans depending on which direction they face. Intake brings in cool air (screwed if you're in hot, humid Dhaka). Exhaust fans get rid of hot air developed by your GPU while playing Call of Duty. I have seen a recent setup with multiple fans all blowing air outward. This creates a negative pressure inside with no cool air able to circulate inside. On the other hand, positive pressure happens when you have more cool air coming in than

going out (two intake fans and one exhaust). Pro tip: It's okay to err a little on the positive side.

### INVEST IN A BETTER CASE

Good computer casings are not just for style points. They help manage your heat better. The only con being they are usually a bit on the large side. A proper case Phanteks will offer a large, unobstructed space for your airflow while keeping hard drives, power supply unit and cables neatly



out of the way in separate modular compartments. These also have dust filters because as Spiderman said, "With great fans come great dust." Prices are around 5k-8k BDT for a mid-tower case. If you spend any more, you should expect your PC case to also cook your dinner and tie shoe laces.

Parting tip: Most builders mount a fan on the top as an exhaust. I've found fitting the top mounted fan as an intake works better to feed cool air to the CPU below (not suitable for liquid cooling).

For queries, mail to ronnyraza@gmail.com

## Ctg zoo welcomes Sambar fawn

Now hosts five members of the critically endangered species

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

On Tuesday morning, Chattogram Zoo welcomed a fifth member to its small, but tightly knit Sambar deer community, after a Sambar fawn was born.

"The female Sambar fawn weighed 3kg at birth," said Shahadat Hossain Shuvo, a veterinary surgeon and curator of the zoo. The zoo now hosts four female and a male Sambar, he said.

According to him, Chattogram Zoo is the only zoo in the country that has a Sambar population. The large deer found in the Indian Subcontinent, Southern China, and Southeast Asia -- including Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Philippines and Indonesia -- the Sambar is listed as critically endangered species in Bangladesh, as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

In Bangladesh, the Sambar used to be a common presence in the hilly regions of Chattogram, Chattogram Hill Tracts and Sylhet, said Dr Farid Ahsan, professor at the Zoology Department of Chittagong University.

However, as their population thinned due to severe hunting and loss of habitat, they are now



This baby, belonging to the largest deer species of the subcontinent, was born at the zoo in the wee hours of Wednesday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

only seen in Bandarban, that including spotted and barking too very rarely. Additionally, the reproduction rate of the species is quite slow, especially when compared to other deer species

for Chattogram Zoo, where the last fawn was born four years ago.

The zoo now has a total of 31 deer of three different species.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# No bar to remove illegal structures from Sugandhya Point on Cox's Bazar beach

## Supreme Court scraps HC stay order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the government to remove unauthorised business structures from Sugandhya Point at Kalatali on Cox's Bazar sea beach.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain scrapped the rule and stay order issued by the High Court on removal of the structures.

The apex court came up with the verdict after hearing an appeal filed by the land ministry and other authorities concerned of the government challenging the HC rule and order.

Appellants' lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that 52 persons have constructed structures without permission from proper authorities for running businesses at Sugandhya Point.

Cox's Bazar Development Authority on April 10, 2018 issued a notice to evict them. The 52 persons had filed a writ petition

with the HC challenging the eviction notice, mentioning that the Cox's Bazar municipality trade licence authorities had permitted them to set up the structures.

Following the petition, the HC on April 16, 2018 issued a rule questioning the eviction notice and stay its effectiveness.

Later on, the offices concerned of the government including the land ministry filed the appeal, he said.

During yesterday's hearing, Manzill Murshid told the SC that the HC and apex court directed the authorities concerned to evict structures from the Cox's Bazar sea beach which was declared ecologically critical area.

But some unscrupulous businessmen have built unauthorised structures violating the verdicts, he added.

Writ petitioners' lawyer AM Mahub Uddin Khokon told The Daily Star he can say after going through the full text of the SC verdict whether the structures at Sugandhya Point on Cox's Bazar sea beach can be removed.

# EMK Center marks 8th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Edward M Kennedy Center, popularly known as the EMK Center, celebrated its 8th founding anniversary on Wednesday. To commemorate the occasion, a virtual session was held, where various luminaries spoke of the centre's journey so far.

Founded in 2012 through a partnership between the Liberation War Museum and the American Center of US Embassy, Dhaka, the centre is now run jointly by the American Center and University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB).

In his remarks, Earl R Miller, US Ambassador to Bangladesh, said, "One's life is not just for oneself, but for one's community. Whether in Bangladesh or in the US, we can all do our part to give back to our community."

The session also featured Prof HM Jahirul Haque, VC of ULAB; Asif Uddin Ahmed, acting director of the EMK Center; George Tsiatis, CEO and Co-Founder of The Resolution Project; and Manik Mahmud, head of Social Innovation Cluster at Aspire to Innovate (a2i) as speakers, among others.

The ceremony also marked the closing of a two-month-long Youth Employment Campaign that hosted around fifty webinars and online sessions on youth employment issues.

During his concluding remarks, Professor Imran Rahman, special advisor to the Board of Trustees at ULAB, thanked all who supported EMK Center during its 8-year-long journey.

# Focus on

FROM PAGE 3 (Bangladesh time early Thursday morning).

The title of the summit was "Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development", while the theme of the event was "Leaders Dialogue 2: Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity."

In her second proposal, Hasina said creating greater public awareness through education and research, and strengthening national legislation and monitoring mechanisms are key actions for safeguarding biodiversity.

"Global access to benefit-sharing must be ensured for the true owners of the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge," she said in her third proposal.

In the fourth proposal, the premier said, "Achieving the Paris goals could be the difference between our extinction and survival. We must implement them."

Mentioning that Bangladesh fully subscribes to the "Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development", Hasina said, "We live in an inter-dependent world where every species has a specific role to play in our ecosystem."

She, however, said according to the WWF and the Zoological Society of

London, the world's wildlife population has fallen by an average of 68 percent just from 1970 to 2016.

Pointing out that Bangladesh is heavily dependent on freshwater, the PM said freshwater biodiversity is declining at the fastest rate in the world, while 85 percent of global wetlands have already been lost since the Industrial Revolution.

Hasina said the population of freshwater mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish has fallen by an average of four percent each year since 1970.

"We're aggravating climate change and loss of biodiversity, and as a result, increasing the risk of 'Zoonotic' diseases like Covid-19," she said.

The premier continued, "We're not only causing extinction of other species, we are actually moving towards ultimate extinction if our current actions continue unchecked."

Hasina said in Bangladesh, biodiversity conservation has been recognised in its constitution as a fundamental principle of state policy. Bangladesh is one of the few countries that enacted law to implement the convention on Biological Diversity, she said.

The government has declared more than 5 percent of total terrestrial area and about five percent of the marine area as "Protected and Ecologically Critical Areas", she added.

# 975 women

FROM PAGE 3

ASK underscored the need for ensuring rules of law and accountability to prevent rights violation.

"Otherwise, the culture of impunity gets established in the society and the number of incidents of violation of human rights rises," read the press release signed by ASK Secretary General Md Nur Khan.

The rights organisation urged the government to ensure safety of all during this crisis period. It also asked the government to take immediate steps to ensure justice to the victims of human rights violation.

In a separate press release, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad said they recorded 129 rape incidents in September where 83 victims were minors.

Six were victims of acid attack and five women were killed over dowry, said Mahila Parishad, adding that their estimate is based on reports of 13 dailies.

# BCL leader

FROM PAGE 3

Cumilla residence couple of days ago. On September 29, Fatema took her to Sabuz's Dhaka residence where he raped her, the police official said quoting the case statement.

Sabuz met Fatema through social media, she added. Sabuz was supposed to give Tk 10,000 to Fatema. As they were arguing over the money, the girl somehow escaped and later rushed to Mirpur Police Station.

Police arrested Fatema as she followed the victim to the police station. Later, they arrested Sabuz from Paschim Monipuripara early yesterday.

Sayedur Rahman Redoy, general secretary of Dhaka City North Unit BCL said they came to know that vice-president Sabuj was arrested in a rape case.

"We will write to the central committee, recommending actions against him after going through the allegations," he said.

In a Facebook post before his arrest, Sabuz mentioned that he is the VP of Dhaka north city unit of BCL and claimed that a vested quarter was trying to frame him in various ways to take political revenge.

Though this paper could not independently verify that the Facebook ID "Sabuz Al Sahba" in Bangla belongs to the accused, several BCL activists said it was his Facebook ID.

He was seen with top BCL leaders participating in party programmes in photos shared from the Facebook ID.

Mentionable, in another post four days ago, two days after a woman was gang-raped allegedly by BCL men inside MC College in Sylhet, Sabuz wrote: "Honourable IGP, what is the problem if the rapists are put on crossfire?"

# Ex-Ghoraghat UNO released from hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Ghoraghat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Wahida Khanam, who was undergoing treatment at National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital after a brutal attack on her in Dinajpur, was released from the hospital yesterday.

"The brain surgery conducted on her was hundred percent successful. Now she can walk but it will take one or two more weeks for her full recovery," said Dr Md Zahed Hossain, chief of the Neurotrauma Department of the hospital while briefing reporters after her release.

Wahida will be taken to Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed. It will take around one month for her to get back to normal life, he said.

# Addl SP's

FROM PAGE 3

Talking to The Daily Star, Nusrat said her family arranged her marriage with Abdullah, a 29th BCS police officer, in 2016. "My husband often beat me as my father could not give him a flat and car," she alleged.

Two pictures of Nusrat that this newspaper obtained show marks of bruises on her arms. Asked, she said the pictures were taken around a year ago.

Md Touhidul Islam, a brother-in-law of Nusrat who rescued her, said they will first admit her to a hospital and then will file a case.

Despite repeated attempts, Abdullah could not be contacted for comments on his cellphone. He also did not reply to the text messages sent to him.

Contacted, M Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Kushtia Model Police Station, said they are looking into the matter.

# Prothom Alo

FROM PAGE 3

In the complaint, Mojibur said his son was electrocuted and became unconscious around 4:30pm that day, while attending the Kishor Alo programme.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Aminul Haque took cognizance of the charges and ordered the Mohammadpur Police Station OC to submit an investigation report in this regard.

On January 16 this year, Abdul Alim, an inspector of the police station, submitted the probe report to the court.

The report said that the charges brought against all the 10 accused were found to be true.

On September 20, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jasim ordered to transfer the case to the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court for trial.

# Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 3

their newborns. ICU in hospitals require a high capital to set up, with the incubator itself costing anywhere between Tk 3 and 5 lakh," Dr Choudhury said.

"I realised that making the device more affordable could help relieve parents from much of the cost. We can now deliver incubators with the same basic functionalities at a quarter of the cost of other devices available on the market," he said.

"Our biggest achievement is that we were able to break the barrier and have a Bangladeshi medical device endorsed by an organisation like MIT and supported by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Previously, we were heavily dependent on developed countries for equipment, and now we can develop our own medical technology," he added.

The project will move into clinical trials next, and if successful, find partners to deliver and deploy the incubators to resource-stricken regions in Bangladesh.

Solve is an initiative of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). It aims to find tech-based social entrepreneurs around the world through innovation challenges. The initiative then brings together MIT's innovation ecosystem and members to fund and support these entrepreneurs to create a long-lasting, positive impact on different sectors of the society.

# Give Tk 20 lakh

FROM PAGE 3

verdict as the HC delivered the directive on agreement from the bus company.

Deputy Attorney General Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashar told this newspaper that the HC also asked Green Line to submit a report to this court through the SC registrar general's office in 15 days after complying with the directive of paying Tk 20 lakh to Russel.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader came up with the verdict

after hearing a writ petition seeking its directive on Green Line Paribahan to give adequate compensation to Russel Sarker.

In April, 2018, Russel (26), a chauffeur working for a power company, and a Green Line bus driver locked into an altercation after the bus rear-ended his car. At one point, while Russel was chasing the bus, it ran him over.

SC lawyer Umme Kulsum Smrity, on May 13, 2018, filed a writ petition

with the HC, seeking necessary order to give Russel compensation and stop reckless driving.

Following the petition, the HC issued a rule the next day, asking the Green Line authorities and the government to explain why they should not pay Tk 1 crore to Russel.

The HC on March 31 last year directed Green Line to pay Tk 50 lakh.

Later on, the HC bench held hearings and passed orders on several days on this issue.

# Theatre

FROM PAGE 3

implemented, we are delighted," said renowned cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar.

"Theatre was the one place that us artistes could breathe freely, and it was unfortunate that it was closed for such a long time," said eminent artiste Ferdousi Majumdar. "The reopening announcement has filled me with joy."

"We can see the light of hope once again," adds Masum Reza, playwright and director.

Bangladesh Mahila Samity reopened its stage for plays on August 28, after being closed for five months.

# Ctg zoo

FROM PAGE 3

Other than the Sambar, it hosts 22 spotted deer, and four barking deer, said Dr Shuvo.

Contacted, Dr Manzoorul Kibria, a professor at CU Zoology Department, said awareness should be developed to conserve rare deer species, as well as nature in general. Strict steps should be taken to stop illegal hunting, he added.

# প্রতি বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা বারিধারায় চমককার লোকেশনে আই-ব্লকে ১, ১.৫, ২, ৪, ৭ বিঘার কমার্শিয়াল / আবাসিক এবং জে-ব্লকে ১ বিঘার আবাসিক প্রট বিক্রয় হইবে। মোবাইল: ০১৭৮৮-৮৮৮ ৯৯২

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District: Sherpur  
Memo No. Eng.Deptt.Sher.Poura/20/773  
**e-Tender Notice No. 03/2020-21 (Limited Tendering Method)**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under Sherpur Pourashava, District: Sherpur.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender closing and opening date & time
01	Sher/Pou/20-21/CCTF/01	500207	05-Oct-2020, 09:00am	21-Oct-2020, 2:00pm
02	Sher/Pou/20-21/CCTF/02	500224	05-Oct-2020, 09:00am	21-Oct-2020, 2:15pm
03	Sher/Pou/20-21/CCTF/03	500229	05-Oct-2020, 09:00am	21-Oct-2020, 2:30pm
04	Sher/Pou/20-21/CCTF/04	500245	05-Oct-2020, 09:00am	21-Oct-2020, 2:45pm
05	Sher/Pou/20-21/CCTF/05	500259	05-Oct-2020, 09:00am	21-Oct-2020, 3:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System 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 required. The fees for downloading the e-Tendering documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 20-Oct-2020 at 4.00pm respectively. Only enlisted tenderer under Sherpur Pourashava, District: Sherpur will be eligible to participate this e-Tender. 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)). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Dewan Rejaul Karim  
Executive Engineer  
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Establishment of 100 Technical School and College (TSC) in Upazila  
Directorate of Technical Education  
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207  
Web: [www.techedu.gov.bd](http://www.techedu.gov.bd)  
Memo No. 37.03.0000.070.007.203.020.317 Date: 01 October 2020  
**e-GP Tender Notice/Corrigendum**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods. Details below in the table.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No. (From e-GP Portal)	Tender Ref. & description	Corrigendum item	Old value	New value
1	494662	37.03.0000.070.007.203.2 0-267 Date: 17/09/2020 Supply and installation of Computer and IT Trade Equipments for 14 Technical School and College at Different Upazila.	Eligibility of Consultant/ Tenderer	(d) Average annual turnover for last 3 (three) years is at least 3 (three) BDT= 75000000.00 (seven crore fifty lakh)	(d) Average annual turnover for last 3 (three) years is at least 3 (three) BDT= 75000000.00 (seven crore fifty lakh)
2	494304	37.03.0000.070.007.203.2 0-246 Date: 13/09/2020 Supply and installation of Computer Lab Equipments for 25 Technical School and College at Different Upazilas.	Last date & time for Tender/ Proposal Security Submission	15/09/2020 12:00	15/10/2020 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the 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 required. The fees for downloading the e-GP tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to specified date & time mentioned in the e-GP System. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

Dr. Md. Serajul Islam  
Project Director (Joint Secretary)  
Email: 100ts.pd@gmail.com

# Boundless prospect of hilsa

SHYKH SERAJ

Hilsa, a fish that has emotional bondage with the Bengali community living across the world, is engaged with our life, literature and culture. The taste and smell of hilsa fascinate us in many ways. I was born on the bank of Meghna river in Chandpur. It is said that the home of hilsa is Chandpur. Since my childhood, I have such a deep connection with hilsa. I have gone to the deep Meghna river many times on fishermen's boat to see how they catch the fish. I heard the history of the old Hilsa Ghat in Chandpur, which is 400 to 500 years old. There were direct launches from Kolkata. I have seen hilsa in the ghat since I was a boy. The season of hilsa means a festival to me, to the Bengalis.

Silver crop hilsa carries the identity of Bangladesh. I read in the newspaper a few days back, which quoted a research that mentioned hilsa is the only fish in the world, whose religious, social and socio-cultural value is over two and a half thousand crore taka (About USD 259 million). Hilsa can become an even powerful sector of our economy.

Various initiatives are being taken to increase the production of hilsa and to protect it. Among them, all kinds of fishing are prohibited during the spawning season of hilsa in the river for 22 days, starting from



Shykh Seraj at old Hilsa Ghat in Chandpur.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

October 14. There are also two off-seasons for catching fish. Sometimes there is strict monitoring, sometimes there is no sign of it. I have talked to the fishermen many times. They complained that many of the real fishermen did not get government benefits. Again, in the off-season of hilsa, many amateurs are enjoying the government benefits illegally. The project titled 'Development and Management of Hilsa Resources' worth Tk 248.27 crore (USD 29.30 million) was approved at the ECNEC meeting on September 22 to increase the production of hilsa. I have learned from various news sources that the project will increase the production of mother hilsa and jatka (hilsa fry) conservation through implementation of fisheries conservation act and sanctuary management, ensuring alternative employment for 30,000 fisher families, creating awareness on distribution of 10,000 legal nets and conservation of mother hilsa and jatka. Undoubtedly, it's a timely initiative.

A mother hilsa has 10 lakh (one million) eggs. Killing a mother hilsa means destroying 10 lakh hilsa fishes. Hilsa, smaller than 10 inches is considered as jatka and catching them is banned. As a conscious and responsible citizen of the republic, one should refrain himself from buying jatka no matter what the price is. In 2019, I visited Hilsa Research Centre in Chandpur. At that time I spoke in detail to the then Principal Scientific Officer Md Anisur Rahman. He said that the production of hilsa has increased due to improved hilsa management strategies. He said that till the year 2000, the production of hilsa was at best 1,50,000 tonnes a year. In 2010, the production of hilsa went up to 3,12,000 tonnes. Last year,

the production went further up to 5,33,000 tonnes. This is the result of maintaining the right production method and conservation strategy.

According to the Department of Fisheries, the production of hilsa is increasing at a rate of around 10 percent every year in Bangladesh. Hilsa production has increased by 66 percent in the last nine years. Hilsa of Bangladesh has already taken a permanent place in the international arena. This recognition as a geographical indicator or GI product is one of the far-reaching cultural achievements of Bangladesh. Hilsa is now Bangladesh's product.

Hilsa is a sea fish. At some point in its life cycle, it leaves the salty water and finds the new abode in the freshwater. It's a diversified fish. From May 20 to July 23, all kinds of fishing is not allowed in the sea. This time is also very important. However, at that very period, big Indian trawlers enter our waters and catch hilsa from the sea. As a result, the aim in which we are refraining from catching hilsa, gets undermined, says the fishers.

In 2019, I went to Ocean University in Qingdao, China, to learn about their research on the fisheries. I discussed with Professor Chun Leo, a fisheries researcher, about the conservation, research and other issues related to fishing at seas. He said that if a safe environment and pathway from the sea to the rivers for hilsa could be created, its production will increase even more. Professor Chun Leo also suggested that the maritime boundaries of Bangladesh, India and Myanmar are very significant in creating this safety net for hilsa to grow more; hence a united effort from these countries would ensure a far better outcome, in regards to the environmental and economic aspect of hilsa.

The contribution of hilsa to our culture and economy is undeniable. Hilsa accounts for 11 percent of the annual fish production in Bangladesh. Seventy-five percent of the world's total hilsa production comes from Bangladesh. Apart from Bangladesh, several other countries including India, Pakistan and Myanmar produce hilsa. About 35 lakh (3.5 million) people of the country are directly or indirectly involved in hilsa fish industry. Multifaceted measures are required to further enhance the protection, expansion and economic potential of hilsa industry. In particular, navigability is a must and rivers must be sheltered from pollution.

To keep the production of hilsa, a sustainable and effective decision has to be taken in the light of more advanced research, regarding production and netting the fish from both sea and rivers. It's significant when we're looking forward to prospering in blue economy and working steadily on 100-year delta plan. In particular, it is necessary to explore the zones of the sea where hilsa roams most. No trawler zone should be ensured at the hilsa roaming areas. Hilsa production also depends a lot on the climate. The context of climate change needs to be brought to the fore in all research and planning. If all of these come into reality, we can say we are looking at even wider and brighter future of hilsa production in Bangladesh, which will surely take us to an unimaginable field of prosperity.

# Mongla female crab farmers struggling to survive

Suspension of crab export to China has left them in utter despair

NILIMA JAHAN

The time of the year that Priyanka Biswas usually waits with the bated breath - crab harvesting season - turned her down this year instead, pushing her towards the brink of nervous breakdown.

After incurring huge losses during the previous season this year, the 21-one-year-old crab farmer from Sonaitola union of Mongla in the coastal district of Bagerhat and her husband are expecting to make good money from export during the time but they are yet to get any green signal from the buyers.

The couple are in utter despair as their crabs remain unsold and left to die.

"These crabs will die if those remain unsold for another one or two months. We have incurred a huge loss after the suspension of crab export in February due to the deadly outbreak of novel coronavirus. Our earnings fell drastically and it will be a double blow if we cannot sell those this time," said frustrated Priyanka.

After starting crab cultivation in a small pond seven years back, Priyanka learnt the scientific method of farming crab from Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) in 2014. She and her husband then took a lease of 28 bighas of pond, with a yearly instalment of Tk 3.50 lakh for farming female crabs.

And the profit was quite good - around Tk 7 lakh per year. The crabs are being imported to livemarkets of China, other South Asian countries and frozen markets of Europe. But things took a turn for the worse after the detection of Covid-19 in the country as Priyanka could sell only 25 percent of the crabs to Chinese buyers in Dhaka.

"Within two months (March-April), all the remaining crabs died in unsold condition. It was a loss of more than Tk 1.5 lakh. We released baby crabs worth around Tk 1.80 lakh in our ponds in January," she said.

She could not sell those locally as there was little demand in the market. One kg of crab was sold at Tk 200 while it was sold at Tk 2,200 to the buyers before the coronavirus outbreak.

Priyanka added that two months ago they were told by crab buyers in the local market that the export would resume after Eid-ul-Azha, and they again released baby crabs in their pond spending Tk 50,000. Those crabs were ready for harvesting in 40 days of release. But she did not get any response from the buyers.

"I don't know how we would pay the money to the land owner this year and when will everything go back to normal,"

she said.

Like Priyanka, suspension of crab export to virus-stricken China has left 358 female crab sellers in Mongla struggling to survive, said Md Shafiqur Rahman, project lead, women and youth entrepreneurship and employability at VSO Bangladesh.

He added that although they tried to earn by farming fish, those could not help much. Because, they get quick returns from crabs as those could be harvested in 40 days. But other fish require six months to sell.

Shafiqur said an overwhelming majority of these women once worked as day labourers at others' farms, before the project started.

"But, with their sound knowledge and our assistance, every one of them brought a change in their lives in the past years, in terms of financial solvency and decision making, asset development, and a better lifestyle," he said.

"But currently, all are struggling as their savings dried up amid a fall-off in the demand of crab," he said.

Although Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on April 12 announced a stimulus package of Tk 3,000 crore to give financial assistance to small and medium farmers to help them face the fallout of Covid-19, most of the female crab farmers are unaware of such support.

Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury, deputy director (finance and planning), department of fisheries, agreed that most of the farmers are not aware of how they can avail the money.

"The money from the stimulus package is being disbursed via the state-owned banks. At first, the concerned farmers, who need the money, should inform the upazila fisheries officer about his fallout due to the pandemic. Then the officer will visit his/her farm and receive his/her application," he said.

"We have a committee to select the beneficiaries in every upazila. If the committee has no objection, the loan is disbursed in accordance with the procedure of the banks," he added.

Sources at the finance ministry said that the progress of disbursement of the fund is slow. Last month, Bangladesh Bank last month extended the timeframe of disbursement.

As of August 31, the total disbursed amount was Tk 286 crore.

Noted agriculture activist Rezaul Karim Siddiqui said as the government announced it to help the farmers, there must be adequate campaigns so that these badly affected farmers can avail the support.



Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively. He is a BIDS, Ashoka and Bangla Academy Fellow. He also received highest award for agricultural journalism from the United Nations, FAO A.H. Boerma Award, Gusi Peace Prize (Philippines) and many other prestigious accolades at home and abroad. At Channel i, he's the Founder Director and Head of News. He's also Director and Host of Channel i's popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Directorate General of Drug Administration**  
 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

**Invitation for Tender (National)**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Health Service Division.
2	Agency	Directorate General of Drug Administration, Aushadh Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
3	Procuring entity name	Director (CC), Revenue Budget.
4	Procuring entity code (Economic Code)	1270301-(3256102).
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Chemicals.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	Memo No. DGDA/Tender/13/2018/711
8	Date	22/09/2020

**KEY INFORMATION**

9	Procurement method	National Open Tendering Method (NCT).
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB).
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	N/A.
14	Tender package No.	Chemicals-01
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Chemicals.
16	Tender publication date	02/10/2020.
17	Tender last selling date	15/10/2020.
18	Tender closing date and time	18/10/2020, 11:00am.
19	Tender opening date and time	18/10/2020, 11:30am.
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Directorate General of Drug Administration, Aushadh Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
	Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate General of Drug Administration, Aushadh Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
	Selling tender document (others)	N/A.
	Receiving tender document	Directorate General of Drug Administration, Aushadh Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
	Opening tender document	Directorate General of Drug Administration, Aushadh Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

21	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	(a) Only enlisted vendors in Drug Testing Laboratory (DTL) of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in the tender. (b) Technical capability to perform the contract (evidence to be submitted). (c) Additional details are available in the tender schedule.
22	Brief description of goods	Procurement of Chemicals (details mentioned in Section 6 of Tender Schedule).
23	Brief description of related services	Certificate of Analysis (COA) of each batch & Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) must be submitted with supplied Chemicals.
24	Price of tender schedule (BDT)	1500/- (one thousand five hundred Taka) only per set schedule (non-refundable).

Package No.	Identification of package	Location	Tender security amount (BDT)	Completion time (in weeks)
Chemicals-01	DGDA/Tender/13/2018/711 Date: 22/09/2020	Directorate General of Drug Administration, Aushadh Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212	2,70,000/- (two lac seventy thousand Taka only)	To be completed within 03 weeks after issuance of work order

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

25	Name of the official inviting tender	Md. Ayub Hossain.
26	Designation of the official inviting tender	Director (CC).
27	Address of the official inviting tender	Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), Aushadh Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
28	Contact details of the official inviting tender	Phone: 02222280831, E-mail: dgda.gov@gmail.com
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

**Md. Ayub Hossain**  
 Director (CC)  
 Directorate General of Drug Administration  
 Mohakhali, Dhaka

GD-1559

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
**ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়**  
**প্রধান কার্যালয়**  
**মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০**  
**বাংলাদেশ।**

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১০৬/২০২০

তারিখ: ১৫ আশ্বিন ১৪২৭  
 ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০

রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর ৭৩৬টি পদে (২০১৬ সাল ভিত্তিক) নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা।

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর 'অফিসার' পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হলো:

400408	400796	401373	401460	401907	402794	403087	403738	405018	405107	405125	405263	405576
405620	405677	405719	405869	405921	406041	406107	406354	407280	407506	407567	409725	409762
410361	410510	410675	410746	411584	411635	412388	412492	413744	414063	414069	414680	416669
416957	417106	417122	417151	417792	417797	418122	418363	418400	418437	418562	419069	420049
420196	420424	420667	420815	421370	421494	422717	423369	424121	424504	424945	424995	425082
425193	425224	425243	425428	425541	426260	426402	426477	426940	427232	427233	427243	427247
427488	427491	427739	427858	428001	428873	429151	429349	429729	433126	434039	434552	434671
434916	435049	435296	435395	435398	435566	436622	436938	436939	437549	437578	438597	439324
439512	440062	441623	441915	442034	442420	444241	444248	444494	444985	445565	445575	445947
446259	446360	446469	446728	446764	446781	446819	446909	446934	446975	447332	448625	448863
450150	450551	450566	451065	451437	451463	451987	452086	453166	453336	453905	453931	453940
454408	454551	454645	454956	455006	455039	455164	455179	455547	455624	455658	455675	457345
457451	457502	457909	458076	458122	458612	458891	458945	459607	460088	460518	460617	460675
461444	461893	462024	462056	462130	463063	463769	463795	463907	464507	465457	465588	466380
466568	466621	466735	466769	466899	466976	467155	467512	467704	468068	468186	468739	468907
469572	469619	469830	470081	470099	470198	470386	470455	470687	470787	471074	471078	471079
471514	471677	471815	471893	472013	472456	473692	473867	474143	474705	475211	475667	476219
477418	477785	477925	478183	479025	479749	479880	480453	481602	481912	482888	483056	483252
485349	485656	485667	486428	486525	487079	487152	487794	489137	489139	489272	491046	491911
492548	492988	493161	493172	493314	493366	493387	493872	493874	494402	494189	494639	494855
495140	495281	495322	495343	495403	495536	495633	495739	496366	496449	496544	496906	498089
499818	500066	500363	500462	500662	500770	500779	501292	501529	501611	502520	502527	502903
503914	504310	504894	504977	506338	506530	506992	507491	507548	507580	507740	507848	510533
512858	513341	513413	513790	514187	514429	514711	514966	515417	515574	515592	515628	515874
515997	516009	516351	516420	517465	517935	517935	518274	518325	518463	518619	518691	518698
519153	519384	519413	519545	519892	519926	521017	521463	523121	523243	523405	523466	523635
525613	525753	525907	526021	526464	526617	527525	527747	527762	528268	528110	528420	528524
532088	532112	532360	532706	533298	534323	534669	534969	535032	535054	535091	535262	535383
536650	536723	537083	537314	537350	537990	537994	538120	538178	538433	538544	538621	538685
539437	540529	540584	540714	540732	541977	542703	543616	543619	543640	544023	544155	544513
544636	545195	545257	546155	546168	546205	546431	546612	546648	546822	547358	549609	549629
549845	550047	550076	550528	550625	550697	550852	551098	551131	551233	551592	552680	552712
552933	554039	554891	555174	555191	555252	555991	556225	556921	557010	557213	557265	558211
558494	559264	559305	559725	559729	560245	560373	560396	560526	560566	560762	560775	560785
561749	563357	563495	563690	563957	563971	564398						

## GANG-RAPE AND KILLING OF DALIT WOMAN

## Cops arrest Gandhi scions as protests flare in India

REUTERS, Lucknow/Delhi

Indian police arrested several opposition leaders, including Congress leaders Priyanka and Rahul Gandhi, yesterday heading for the site where a low-caste woman died after being gang-raped in the latest high-profile assault to whip up nationwide anger and protests.

The 19-year-old victim from the Dalit community, which often faces violence and discrimination, died from injuries on Tuesday after the Sept. 14 attack in a field near her home in Hathras district, authorities said.

Police have arrested four men for rape. India is one of the world's most dangerous places for women, with a rape occurring every 15 minutes, according to federal data - figures that rights groups say vastly underestimate the scale of the problem.

Priyanka and Rahul Gandhi, siblings and leaders of the main opposition Congress Party, were blocked and arrested by police as they tried to drive then walk to see the woman's family in Hathras about 100 km (62 miles) from Delhi, the party said.

Video footage from ANI news agency

showed Rahul - the descendant of three former prime ministers - jostling with police before falling to the ground. Congress said other senior party members were also detained, without giving more details.

Rahul and Priyanka were later released.

Protesters and security forces had clashed in the district of northern Uttar Pradesh state on Wednesday after police cremated the woman's body.

The victim's brother told Reuters the cremation was against the wishes of her family, who had wanted to perform funeral rites. Local officials deny this.

Twenty-five people were arrested over the unrest, according to a police information report. A witness told Reuters police had wielded batons.

Authorities yesterday said they were barring gatherings of five or more people and would block politicians from the area.

The victim and her brother are not being identified due to laws against naming victims of sexual violence. The four men arrested were all from a higher caste, her brother told Reuters.



Riot police officers detain people during a protest urging the release of twelve Hong Kong activists detained on the Chinese mainland, who were arrested at sea after attempting to flee to Taiwan, on Chinese National Day in Hong Kong yesterday. Dozens of democracy supporters were arrested in Hong Kong yesterday for defying a protest ban as the city marked China's National Day and its leader hailed Beijing's new security law for restoring stability to the restive finance hub.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Google to invest \$1b with news partners

AFP, Paris

Google plans to invest \$1 billion on partnerships with news publishers worldwide to develop a "Showcase" app to highlight their reporting packages, CEO Sundar Pichai said in a statement yesterday.

"This financial commitment -- our biggest to date -- will pay publishers to create and curate high-quality content for a different kind of online news experience," Pichai said.

Google has locked horns with publishers repeatedly in recent years over its reluctance to pay for displaying articles, videos and other content in its search results, which has become a vital path for reaching viewers as print subscriptions fade. It is currently in a standoff with several European media groups, including Agence France-Presse, over its refusal to comply with a new EU law governing digital copyrights.

Pichai said Google had already signed up almost 200 publications in several countries, including Der Spiegel in Germany and Brazil's Folha de S. Paulo, but the list lacked any from the United States or France.

Google News Showcase, he said, will highlight "the editorial curation of award-winning newsrooms to give readers more insight on the stories that matter, and in the process, helps publishers develop deeper relationships with their audiences."

"It will start rolling out today to readers in Brazil and Germany, and will expand to other countries in the coming months where local frameworks support these partnerships," Pichai said.

## Stop 'waging war on nature'

Says UN chief, warns imbalance in nature causes pandemics like Covid-19

AGENCIES

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has warned humanity must stop "waging war on nature" at the United Nations' first ever summit on the biodiversity crisis.

He said one consequence of the imbalance with nature - caused by deforestation, climate change and food production - was the emergence of deadly diseases such as HIV-AIDS, Ebola and COVID-19.

"Humanity is waging war on nature. And we need to rebuild our relationship with it," said Guterres.

"Wildlife populations are plummeting because of overconsumption, population growth, and intensive agriculture. And the rate of species extinction is accelerating with some one million species currently threatened or endangered."

Earlier this month, the UN published a major assessment that found none of the 20 global biodiversity targets agreed 10 years ago with a 2020 deadline were fully met.

Guterres said governments must include nature-based solutions in coronavirus recovery plans, investing in forests,



wetlands and oceans.

"Ten years ago, we secured commitments that should have protected our planet. We have largely failed. But where effort has been made, the benefits to our economies, human and planetary health are irrefutable. Nature is resilient and it can recover if we ease our relentless assault," the UN chief said.

Wednesday's online event gave more than 100 heads of state and government the opportunity to raise ambitions for the development of the 10-year-strategy.

Addressing the summit in a video message, Chinese President Xi Jinping urged global cooperation on the environment,

saying countries were "passengers in the same boat".

French President Emmanuel Macron said "2021 must be the year of action," while European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen reaffirmed her commitment to the new global biodiversity framework.

The United States did not participate in the UN summit.

The world spends an estimated \$80-\$90bn on conservation each year, but studies show hundreds of billions of dollars may be needed to save ecosystems from collapse.

Ahead of the UN summit, leaders from more than 70 countries and the European Union signed a pledge to reverse losses to natural habitats by 2030.

But leaders of some of the world's worst polluters - Brazil, China, India and the US - did not sign the pledge.

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg noted "it's so easy to pledge".

"Everyone wants to save nature and save the climate. When it comes to real action, however, they fail every single time," she tweeted.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



## Navalny blames Putin

Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny accused President Vladimir Putin of being behind his poisoning with nerve agent Novichok, as he vowed to return to Russia to press on with his opposition campaign. Navalny was evacuated to Berlin for treatment after he collapsed in August following a campaign trip to support opposition candidates in local elections. The Kremlin has firmly denied allegations of involvement and accused Western leaders of launching a disinformation campaign over the opposition leader's illness. Yesterday, Moscow accused Navalny of working with Western security services.

## Turkey begins life under strict social media rules

Turkey yesterday entered a new era of tight social media restrictions which threaten to erase the local presence of Facebook and Twitter should they fail to take down contentious posts. The legislation was rammed through parliament by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AKP party and follows the government's crackdown on opposition newspapers and television channels. Under the new rules, platforms with more than one million daily users must open offices in Turkey that can deal with local court decisions to remove offending content within a day. If not, they face advertising bans, multi-million-dollar fines and -- crucially -- bandwidth reductions of up to 90 percent, making the platforms effectively unusable. They also require social media companies to "take necessary measures" to store user data locally.

## Trump slashes US refugee admissions to record low

President Donald Trump's administration said late Wednesday the United States will admit a record low of no more than 15,000 refugees over the coming year despite surging global displacement, stepping up its hard line one month before elections. The 15,000 figure -- the maximum who can be admitted over the next 12 months barring a change in administration -- is a further cut from 18,000 last year and down dramatically from more than 100,000 under previous president Barack Obama. Trump, who has campaigned on fierce denunciations of immigration, already suspended refugee admissions entirely for several months this year citing the Covid-19 pandemic. Nearly 80 million people around the world are displaced, double the number a decade ago, according to the UN refugee agency.

SOURCE: REUTERS



Jockeys compete in Chonburi's 149th annual buffalo race festival in Chonburi, Thailand yesterday. Thailand's annual water buffalo racing festival ploughed ahead yesterday despite coronavirus travel restrictions leaving the event with a fraction of its usual tourist crowds.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Covid vaccine won't be ready by US polls

Says Moderna; Spain locks down Madrid

AGENCIES

US biotech firm Moderna won't seek an emergency use authorization for its coronavirus vaccine before November 25, its CEO told the Financial Times on Wednesday.

The news deals a blow to President Donald Trump's hopes of having an injection ready before the election to give his campaign a much-needed boost. Stephane Bancel told the newspaper: "November 25 is the time we will have enough safety data to be able to put into an EUA file that we would send to the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) -- assuming that the safety data is good, i.e. a vaccine is deemed to be safe."

Moderna's vaccine is one of 11 experimental vaccines in final stage trials. The coronavirus pandemic has killed at least 1,018,634 people around the world since emerging in China in late 2019, according to an AFP tally based on official sources. More than 34 million cases globally have been officially diagnosed.

Spain's government published a decree extending drastic restrictions across the capital yesterday, with partial lockdown measures to come into play within 48 hours, despite fierce opposition from Madrid's regional authorities.

Meanwhile, the UN's International Labour Organization said Wednesday that at least 34 million jobs have been lost in Latin America due to the pandemic.

The ILO urged countries in the region to adopt "immediate strategies" to deal with the problem. The organisation's Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Vinicius Pinheiro, called it "an unprecedented challenge."

## Students negotiate a new reality

FROM PAGE 1

since mid-March, candidates could not take their desired preparations for the exams.

Parents said they were compelled to allow their children to sit for the exams in this situation because it could otherwise spoil an academic year.

"I am really tensed about the health safety of my child," said a guardian.

The exam authorities were seen allowing candidates who wore mask, one by one, at the exam centre and asking them to use hand sanitisers.

To avoid large gatherings outside the Oxford International School exam centre, the entrance was opened about one hour before the exams started.

Several candidates after the exams told this newspaper that the exam authorities kept at least two metres' distance between seats.

Ahsan Sujon, a British Council representative and an exam duty officer, did not allow this correspondent to go inside the exam hall.

At least three candidates after the exams said they did not have to sign any kind of consent form stating that candidates will bear "responsibilities if they get infected with Covid-19".

Some examinees on Tuesday and Wednesday alleged that they learnt that the British Council Bangladesh will take signatures in the consent form.

Asked about it, a British Council Bangladesh spokesperson on Wednesday avoided answering the question.

But the spokesperson said, "A consent form will

be made available to candidates at the venue to confirm that they are fit to sit for the exams."

On September 22, the Bangladesh government allowed the British Council to administer the exams with some conditions and one of that was that the council will bear the responsibility if any student gets infected with Covid-19 while attending the exams.

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

A-level exams under Cambridge started yesterday, and those under Pearson's would start on October 5. Pearson's Ordinary-level exams are set to start on November 2 and Cambridge's on November 5.

About 5,200 students in Bangladesh have registered for the exams.

The High Court on Wednesday rejected a writ petition seeking its order on the government to postpone the exams. An A-level student filed the petition.

A group of candidates protested holding of the exams amid the pandemic and demanded cancellation of the exams. They also demanded grades based on their previous results, a process known as "predicted grades".

In May-June session, educational boards globally decided not to stage exams due to the pandemic. Instead, they prepared results based on predicted grades and previous academic records submitted by schoolteachers.

## PAK SHELLING ALONG LOC IN J&amp;K

## 3 Indian soldiers killed, 5 injured

AGENCIES

Three soldiers of the Indian army were killed and five injured in separate incidents during heavy shelling by Pakistan along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. The troops responded strongly to the enemy fire, said the army, alleging that Pakistan used mortars to target Indian positions.

"A befitting response is being given," the army said. The ceasefire violation started on Wednesday night as Pakistan launched unprovoked firing in the Mankote and Krishna Ghati sectors, a defense spokesperson said yesterday.

Two soldiers were killed in firing by Pakistan in the Nowgam sector of Kupwara district in North Kashmir early yesterday morning. A third soldier was killed in overnight firing in Poonch. The injured soldiers were evacuated, the spokesman said.

India is separately locked in a serious military face-off with China along the border in Ladakh that those two countries dispute.

## 'Swearing and laughing' parrots removed from UK safari park

AGENCIES

A group of African gray parrots who were quarantined together at a wildlife park in Lincolnshire, England, taught each other how to swear, Lincolnshire Live reported on Monday.

The five birds arrived at Lincolnshire Wildlife Park in August and shared a room, the park's chief executive, Steve Nichols, told reporters.

The foul language made staff members laugh, which encouraged the birds to keep going with their naughty words, Nichols told Lincolnshire Live. The parrots started to equate swear words with laughter and would start laughing at their own obscenities.

It's not uncommon for parrots to learn swear words and be encouraged to continue when they see people enjoy their vulgar comedy.

"But when you get four or five together that have learnt the swearing and naturally learnt the laughing so



when one swears, one laughs and before you know it just got to be like an old working men's club scenario where they are all just swearing and laughing," Nichols told Lincolnshire Live.

By the time the park reopened to the public, the birds had gotten in the habit of calling visitors names. Nichols said the park decided to move to improve their vocabulary. "We put them in an off-shore enclosure with the intention that hopefully they will start learning the other parrot's noise that are around," Nichols told Lincolnshire Live.



(L) The bus, Chakar School, operates in different slum areas of the city. (R) Teachers and students of Chakar School are equipped with face masks, face shields and other safety precautions during classes.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF IHF



www.youthop.com

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### Reach Oxford Scholarships 2021 at Oxford University, UK

Oxford University offers Reach Oxford Scholarship for Undergraduates to learn any of the courses in the UK except medicine. A number of Reach Oxford scholarships are offered to students from low-income countries who, for political or financial reasons, or because suitable educational facilities do not exist, cannot study for a degree in their own countries.

DEADLINE: October 15, 2020 | Scholarships



### Ellen Fitzgibbon Memorial Photography Competition 2020

This photography competition welcomes photographers who share Ellen's appreciation for the natural world and who find inspiration in knowing their photograph might one day grace the wall of a cancer hospital as a messenger of Ellen's wish "to bring hope and beauty to those facing cancer."

DEADLINE: October 16, 2020 | Competitions

### British Chevening Scholarship for International Student 2021/2022 in UK

Applications are now open for the 2021/22 Chevening Scholarship. Chevening offers a unique opportunity for future leaders, influencers, and decision-makers from all over the world to develop professionally and academically, network extensively, experience UK culture, and build lasting positive relationships with the UK.

DEADLINE: November 3, 2020 | Scholarships

## WORLD TEACHERS' DAY SPECIAL

# A school on wheels turning around lives

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

It's Humanity Foundation (IHF), a social welfare organisation, aims to build opportunities for disadvantaged communities. Through their various endeavours, IHF intends to create facilities in education and vocational skills, while establishing a sustainable system for their beneficiaries. IHF has been providing underprivileged children with free education since 2010. Ahead of World Teachers' Day (October 5), we caught up with the team to find out more about their recent initiative, Chakar School (school on wheels).

IHF's innovative education system, based on a bus called Chakar School, is funded by Community Partners International (CPI) and TAO Foundation. Children from different slum areas attend pre-primary level classes in the bus. After a one-year course with Chakar School, these children will be enrolled into various government schools. Through Chakar School, Mohammad Adnan Hossain, the founder of IHF, aimed to reach out to different places and create a sustainable system for education.

Chakar School offers both traditional and digital lessons to their students. Well-trained instructors conduct these classes and each student is provided with a tablet



The team of Chakar School are currently conducting classes, following safety and social distancing guidelines as strictly as possible.

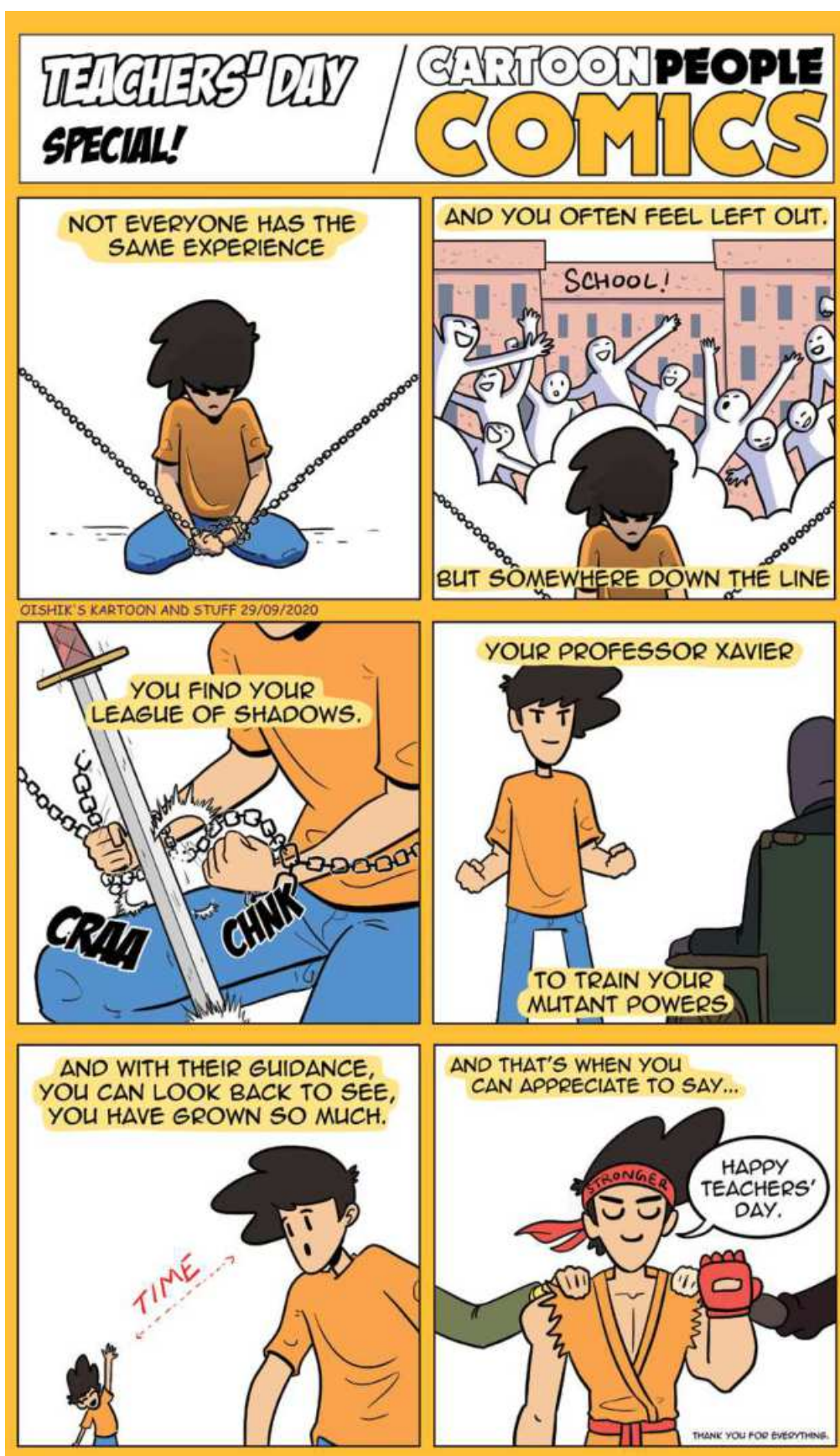
that helps them enhance their listening and pronunciation skills, through different cognitive games. "This is a happy place for our students, as they get to learn and play in a supportive environment. Every child deserves quality education. Through our platform, we encourage students to reinvent themselves through cognitive learning, life skills and different activities," shared

Sarah Jabeen, Project Manager, Chakar School. Due to the ongoing pandemic, they are currently emphasising on safety and hygiene lessons, along with extracurricular activities. For the first phase, Chakar School gathered 25 students from Diabari. IHF plans to reach out to slum areas in Mohammadpur and Banasree as well. The foundation also organises Protibha,

a project that empowers disadvantaged communities by providing them with handcraft training and promoting commercial sales for their products. Their other initiative, Center For Youth Development (CFYD), offers professional and soft skills training to the youth.

IHF further provides packed lunches to the students of Chakar School. Once a week, the instructors organise role playing, storytelling and arts and crafts sessions. They also arrange basic health checkups for their students every month. "Working with the organisation makes me feel that I am making a difference by inspiring these children to continue their education," added Tawhidul Islam Khan, an intern of Chakar School. The bus also includes CCTV cameras, an attendance machine and an emergency alarm.

Currently, the team of Chakar School is conducting the classes, following safety guidelines as strictly as possible. They are prepared with disinfectant sprays infrared thermometers, sanitisers, masks and face-shields for their teachers and students. "During classes, we show animated videos about how to prevent the spread of coronavirus. We are also trying to maintain social distance inside the bus," concluded Adnan.



Happy Tails volunteers protesting DSCC's decision to relocate stray dogs outside the capital.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HAPPY TAILS

## Happily assisting the four-legged

LABIBA KABIR

Happy Tails, a non-profit youth organisation, aims to ensure the physical and psychological well-being of stray animals in different areas of Dhaka. Their journey started in 2019, when a bunch of school students noticed a distressed dog on the streets. They acted on it quickly, and their teachers helped them to take the dog to the nearest veterinarian. After the incident, Ayman Mustakim, founder of Happy Tails, teamed up with his friends to start their programmes of looking out for stray animals.

The organisation operates in Kalabagan, Lalmatia, Dhanmondi, Shyamoli, Mohammadpur and other areas of Dhaka South. They work on neutering and sanitising the animals. They especially look out for stray dogs that are underfed or in need of medical attention for any signs of rabies, pica, parvovirus and leptospirosis. Their team also ensures that these dogs go back to their territories and receive proper medications and food, at least until they recover.

Happy Tails also organises campaigns about protection of animal rights and



Happy Tails volunteers at a veterinarian's clinic with rescued animals.

training courses for volunteers and the general masses, as well as fund raising events for the animals that require medical attention.

In August, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) announced a plan for relocating 30,000 stray dogs of the city to other districts, to contain the spread of rabies around Nagar Bhaban, Dhanmondi and

other areas. However, DSCC started off the programme under a verbal order and moved 15 stray dogs on an experimental basis from Dhaka to the Matuail landfill.

Several organisations and animal lovers protested the authorities' decision. They demanded vaccination and sterilisation instead of relocation of the dogs, citing that the decision goes against the Animal Welfare Act 2019, which prohibits killing stray dogs or removing them from their habitats. Happy Tails volunteers participated in the protests. Noted actor Jaya Ahsan and two animal welfare organisations collectively submitted a writ petition as a public interest litigation to the High Court, requesting it to stay the DSCC's decision to relocate the dogs.

"Neutering of stray dogs is already happening in different areas of Dhaka. Relocating them will not solve anything. This city belongs to them, as much as it belongs to us," says Ayman. With a mission to spread positivity and fight for the well-being of animals, Happy Tails marches on with their committed members and volunteers.

## Outrageous lies by Myanmar at the UN

*It exposes its unwillingness to start Rohingya repatriation process*

We are dumbfounded by Myanmar's despicable lies at the United Nations General Assembly alleging that Bangladesh was harbouring terrorists in Cox's Bazar's Rohingya camps. Myanmar also claimed that more than 350 Rohingyas from Cox's Bazar camps had returned to Rakhine State. Myanmar's continuous attempts to distort the truth—as part of which it presented fabricated facts to the UN—just expose its unwillingness to take back its own nationals with safety, security and dignity. Bangladesh made its position clear at the UNGA that it didn't allow terrorists to use its territory and also raised questions over Myanmar's claim of repatriating 350 Rohingyas.

Bangladesh has been sheltering over 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. More than three years have passed, but not a single Rohingya could be repatriated and more are entering Bangladesh amid violence in Rakhine. During these three years, two repatriation attempts failed—one in November 2018 and another in August 2019—because Myanmar had no intention of implementing the repatriation deal signed with Bangladesh. Myanmar made "concocted and misleading" statements on the development in Rakhine State, particularly regarding the repatriation process. However, in reality, the conditions in Rakhine were so bad that not a single Rohingya wanted to return to Myanmar. Myanmar must let Bangladesh know the whereabouts and conditions of the 350 Rohingyas who they claim have returned.

Myanmar has said at the UN that bilateral cooperation was the only way to effectively resolve the Rohingya repatriation issue between Bangladesh and Myanmar. We strongly disagree with Myanmar on this issue because the Rohingya issue is not a bilateral one—it is Myanmar's internal problem. Our prime minister has rightly said at the UN that "the problem was created by Myanmar and its solution must be found in Myanmar."

We urge Myanmar to shun its policy of lies and propaganda and demonstrate genuine political will to take back its own nationals with safety, security and dignity. Clearly, Myanmar's unsubstantiated claims and undue accusations against Bangladesh were part of their efforts to avoid their obligation of Rohingya repatriation. Myanmar must move away from such shameful practices, and work sincerely to start the repatriation process. It should open Rakhine to international organisations, UN and the media to observe the situation on the ground. The international community, especially countries that have good relations with Myanmar, should continue to exert pressure on Myanmar to improve the conditions in Rakhine for voluntary return of the Rohingyas. Most importantly, the Myanmar authorities must face justice for the atrocities they committed against a section of their own population. Only then will the Rohingya people get confidence to return to Rakhine.

## A parliament's effectiveness reflects the health of democracy

*How are we doing so far?*

TRANSPARENCY International Bangladesh, while unveiling its study report "Parliament Watch", expressed disappointment and concern at the lack of effectiveness of the Jatiya Sangsad. Our parliament at present is bereft of any real opposition. The Jatiya Party, which contested the 11th parliamentary elections under the banner of the grand alliance led by the ruling party (AL), has become a showpiece opposition. Thus, in the absence of any meaningful opponent, whose main role is to ensure government accountability, the power monopoly of the ruling party has been further strengthened in parliamentary activities, especially in law-making, budget formulation, and parliamentary standing committees. This ultimately does not bode well for our democracy.

According to the TIB study, only nine percent of parliament's time during five sessions was spent on law-making—compared to 45 percent in the Indian Lok Sabha in 2019. And it took an average of 32 minutes to pass each bill, including the time the ministers concerned took for their statements—compared to an average of 186 minutes to pass each bill in the Lok Sabha.

This clearly demonstrates a lack of serious debate (or any debate for that matter) in parliament about the laws that are passed. Most of the parliamentary committees have not played their role of ensuring accountability of the ministries concerned. When legislations waiting parliamentary approval are barely discussed, the chances of identifying problems with them before being approved are minimised. And that is what we have been seeing. Despite the outcry of citizens and others concerning various legislations (such as the draconian Digital Security Act), the concerns and controversies surrounding such laws have barely been discussed in parliament. And if they are discussed, the discussions are usually self-congratulatory and lop-sided.

The fact that out of the 350 MPs only 14 discussed bills by submitting notices—while the role of the rest of the MPs was restricted to simply voting yes or no—is telling. Moreover, Article 70 of the constitution, which prohibits members of a party from voting against his/her own party in parliament, has handicapped the Jatiya Sangsad, especially given the current circumstances.

A properly functioning parliament is an essential part of a democracy. Can we say that our parliament is functioning properly? Despite the disappointing history of our parliaments over the last two decades—especially due to the boycott culture long established by all main opposition parties—the state of our Jatiya Sangsad has perhaps never been worse.

We urge the government to heed TIB's recommendations to make the parliament effective, including through amendment of Article 70, so that members can freely express their voice and if necessary take a position against the party line except a no-confidence motion against the government and the budget. The membership of any standing committee member with conflict of interest should be cancelled. When legislations being passed in parliament are not discussed, when budgetary formulation is carried out without question, and when the Jatiya Sangsad lacks any opposition to hold the government and ruling party to account, democracy ceases to exist. This contradicts the principles upon which this nation was born.

# The plight of children of a lesser god

*Capricious internment, harassment and negligence*



C R ABRAR

It took only a few weeks for the authorities in Bangladesh to enact the third episode of a series that could be aptly titled as "Hatching conspiracy, tarnishing image". Quite like the previous

two instalments, the script remained unchanged and so did the principal protagonists representing the state and the performance sites. The rest of the cast was replaced by 32 returnee migrant workers including two women from Lebanon, a country ravaged by civil war in the midst of a devastating pandemic. This latest group of migrants came back to Bangladesh on September 13 after they were detained in Syria. Quite like their predecessors from the Gulf states and Vietnam, who were housed in Diabari quarantine centre and subsequently Kashimpur jail, they too were transferred to the detention facility without prior notice following a magistrate's order. They were charged under the nebulous Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The police convinced the magistrate that the crimes they committed were grave and the details of that would soon be unearthed. Sticking to the script, the police argued that for the greater good of the society, the accused needed to remain incarcerated.

Desperate to escape the violence-prone Lebanon, these migrants tried to go to Italy. Returning home (if indeed it was possible under the Covid-19 circumstances) was not an option for them, as they had already spent fortunes to migrate. They turned to human smugglers to facilitate their travel to Europe. Little did they know that they still remained under the spell of god *Shonee*. Thus not only were their attempt to migrate to Europe botched, upon return home they were detained too. Their eagerness to enjoy the warm hugs of their loved ones remained elusive.

Along the lines of the previous episodes, the ordeals of this cohort of migrant families have only begun. To secure their release, they travel to Dhaka and Kashimpur to gather more information, scour for money from relatives and friends to pay for lawyers to arrange bail, and wait out in police station and court premises.

They fail to understand in what way have their returnee family members "tarnished the image of the country" and why would they engage in "hatching a conspiracy" at a time when they were too distraught by their failed migration experience, too eager to share their disappointment with and seek solace from their loved ones. After all, if they had to blame anyone for their predicament, it would be the recruiters, *dalals*, traffickers and perhaps their luck. The families fail to reason what prompted the authorities to think that the accused held grudges against the omnipotent state and, even if they did, why not even an iota of evidence was produced before the court and the people. They wish someone in the administration would care to respond to their queries. After all, it is too trivial a matter to be an item on the agenda for deliberations in the much-celebrated national parliament.

Empathising citizens both at home and abroad are perplexed about on what

legal grounds the returnee migrants were detained in batches and what gains the state stands to derive in persecuting them. They wonder if this would be the fate of all returnee migrants in irregular status. They speculate the magic wand that police exhibit for the magistrates not only to grant initial order of detention but subsequent extensions without any new evidence for the alleged grave crimes, that too in breach of the High Court's directive allowing a maximum of 15 days under Section 54.

While batches of returnee migrants are assigned new roles in subsequent episodes of the Diabari-Kashimpur play, a new drama has unfolded in Gulshan-Shonargaon Road-Segunbagicha precincts. In this saga, migrant workers wishing to return to work in Saudi Arabia face hurdle after hurdle in accomplishing their goal. At every step of the process—conducting Covid-19 tests, securing flights and renewing their work permit and visa to gain re-entry into the kingdom—they face uncertainty, lack of information and clear guidance from Bangladesh authorities, concerned airlines and the embassy of the concerned country.



People, mostly migrant workers returning to Middle-Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia, wait their turn to get tested for coronavirus at the Dhaka North City Corporation kitchen market, on September 26, 2020.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A prompt initiative of both governments of Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia led to auto-renewal of the visa and work permits of the workers who got stranded in Bangladesh following the outbreak of Covid-19. The misfortune of the migrants began when Saudi authorities refused to auto-renew visa and work permit after September 30. This meant workers had to secure the explicit consent of their *kafuels* (sponsors) and that entailed submission of a number of authenticated documents at the Saudi end.

This decision put the workers in a quandary. While those working for ethical employers and big companies could meet the criteria with the support of the dedicated Human Relations department of the concerned companies, the vast majority of workers, employed by small companies and individual *kafuels*, were in a limbo. It is little wonder that the *kafuels* of thousands of "free visa" holders—who sponsored the workers and renewed their documents in the past against payment of hefty sums ranging from USD 1,200 to USD 1,700 (an illegal act under the Saudi law but is widely practiced with impunity)—have either refused or been

reluctant to take the initiative for renewal. This is because they feel there is no guarantee of their payment even if the workers landed on the Saudi shores.

The sudden Saudi decision of not going ahead with the auto-renewal arrangement came as a bolt from the blue for the workers. As the September 30 deadline was looming large, those fortunate to secure visa and work permit rushed for air tickets only to find a handful of seats available. Having no other redress, they took to streets demanding government intervention. This appeared to have yielded an immediate result when the ministry of foreign affairs announced that Saudi authorities had agreed to extend the deadline to October 24. Little did the workers know that it was only a verbal arrangement and that until it was formalised, they were required to secure the documents from their *kafuels*.

On advice of the Saudi embassy, those without visa and work permit rushed to embassy-approved visa agents only to be informed that the latter had no advice on the matter. As pressure of the visa-seekers mounted, an ethical agent explaining the circumstances urged workers to wait until

to three hours. In some instances, they found the Mohakhali office closed at 5pm and in other cases, as power supply to the testing facility was disrupted, the reports were handed out many hours later, making passengers miss the scheduled flights. On September 26, 32 passengers were barred from leaving Bangladesh on the ground that their tests were not conducted in designated government hospitals. The passengers claimed that while collecting tickets, the airlines authorities told them that tests at private facilities would be acceptable, only to find at the airport that the information was not correct.

It may be recalled that a hasty decision of the government earlier put thousands of workers in dire situation as Covid-19 clearance certificate was made mandatory for all travellers within a stipulated time prior to their travel, irrespective of the need of the destination countries. Only 14 centres were selected and the fees for testing was raised from Tk 200 to Tk 3500—a staggering 1,750 percent increase. Subsequently, the health minister lowered the testing fees to Tk 1,500 for migrant workers, while for all others it was reduced from Tk 200 to Tk 100.

The above narrative establishes that there is a clear absence of policy coherence with regard to the return of migrant workers both in countries of deployment and origin.

The Saudi government's abrupt decision not to extend auto-renewal of work permit and visa, its reticence to resume regular flights at higher frequency (despite the burgeoning demand) with reciprocal arrangement with Bangladesh, and its Dhaka mission's inability to timely communicate clear instructions with its own approved visa agents have exacerbated the plight of the migrants.

Likewise, through immediate and unconditional release of all migrants who are yet to be charged of any serious crime and have remained incarcerated for an indefinite period, charting out a clear departure strategy for returnee migrants by timely negotiating modalities with its Saudi counterparts, creating a congenial and hassle-free 24-hour Covid-19 testing and report delivery service, ensuring better coordination among various ministries (expatriates' affairs, foreign affairs, home affairs and civil aviation) to effect smooth return of workers and, most importantly, by creating a dependable channel of communication of updated, credible information with the migrants and the media—the Bangladesh government can minimise preventable hardship of the migrants.

Some members of the cabinet have expressed concern that through their collective action, protesting migrants "may be jeopardising their chances to migrate". Others have advised the migrants "not to be misled by politically motivated vested quarters". Those in authority need to acknowledge that at a time of crisis, migrants could hardly rely on any state institution for support, guidance and direction, and hence were forced to take to the streets. The ministers must also note that migrants have their own agency and have the ability to think for themselves. Finally, those in authority must internalise the fact that peaceful protest is an integral part of a democratic polity and migrants are merely exercising that right.

C R Abrar is an academic with an interest in migration and rights issues.

## Nature-based solutions: The cost-effective climate change mitigation we need



ZAC GOLDSMITH

THE Covid-19 pandemic has exposed our vulnerabilities, on multiple levels. But with any luck, it will also serve as a wakeup call. Grubbing out whole ecosystems and perpetuating the grim illegal wildlife trade—not to mention the worst excesses of factory farming—all contribute to dislodging and facilitating deadly new diseases. And at the same time, our routine misuse of antibiotics has compromised our capacity to cope.

The pandemic is a symptom of our abuse of the natural world, but the science couldn't be clearer; this crisis will be dwarfed by others if we continue destroying the natural environment and destabilising our fragile climate.

Last month, the Living Planet Index showed that populations of key species have declined by 68 percent in little more than my lifetime—an evolutionary nanosecond. Hundreds of thousands of species face extinction, from marine leviathans to chameleons small enough to balance on the head of a match.

Every minute, the world loses thirty football pitches worth of forests, making deforestation the second leading cause of climate change.

It is the Lorax writ large—a tragedy. And it is a human tragedy too. A billion people depend on the forests for their livelihood. Roughly the same number of people depend on fish for their survival. When nature's free services fail, it is the poorest

who suffer first.

Turning this around is surely the principle challenge of our age. We can do it, if governments step up.

As co-hosts of the next Climate COP, the UK is in pole-position to galvanise global action. On emissions, the market is thankfully racing ahead of the politics, with investment in renewable energy now exceeding investment in fossil fuels. But technology alone cannot prevent climate change.

*Nature-based solutions like protecting and restoring mangroves, forests and peatlands could provide a third of the cost-effective climate change mitigation we need, while helping turn the tide on the extinction crisis. Despite this, they attract a measly 3 percent of global climate funding.*

Nature-based solutions like protecting and restoring mangroves, forests and peatlands could provide a third of the cost-effective climate change mitigation we need, while helping turn the tide on the extinction crisis. Despite this, they attract a measly 3 percent of global climate funding. It makes no sense at all.

So the UK will use our Presidency of COP26 to persuade other countries to put nature at the heart of their climate response.

We have doubled our International Climate Finance and we will increase our spending on nature.

We are rolling out ambitious programmes—a new 100-million-pound Biodiverse Landscapes Fund to connect

critically important landscapes, and the 500-million-pound Blue Planet Fund to restore marine ecosystems. Our Blue Belt initiative is on course to protect an area the size of India around our Overseas Territories, and we are leading the global campaign to protect at least 30 percent of the ocean by 2030.

Money alone won't solve the problem, but governments hold powerful levers to make markets value nature and attach a cost to environmental destruction.

Globally, agriculture causes 80 percent of deforestation, mostly for growing commodities like palm oil, soya, and cocoa. If the top fifty food producing countries follow our lead in replacing their land use subsidies with a system that rewards farmers for environmental stewardship, 700 billion pounds a year—around four times the world's aid budget—would shift to support nature. And we have launched a world-leading consultation on a due diligence requirement on big companies to reverse deforestation from their supply chains. If we can persuade other countries too, this could flip the market to make forests worth more alive than dead.

On September 28 at the UN, our prime

minister signed a Leader's Pledge for Nature that the UK has played a leading role in crafting. An ambitious call to action, it recognises the failure of so many previous declarations, and invites every generation to judge leaders on whether they honour their word.

As governments map out their economic recoveries, we have a choice. We can prop up the status quo, locking in decades of carbon emissions and environmental destruction. Or we can choose this moment to profoundly reset our relationship with the natural world.

I am delighted that Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was among the leaders to sign up to this pledge. I had the pleasure to virtually visit Bangladesh in August and had a virtual tour of the Sundarbans, the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the world which plays an extremely important role in protecting communities from cyclone damage, and which also sequesters carbon from the atmosphere. This is a prime example of the natural heritage that needs our protection now more than ever. I also spoke to experts who are developing natural solutions to manage climate change impacts such as salt-water intrusion, flooding, and rainfall variability. The UK-Bangladesh partnership on climate action can help develop expertise and apply these solutions more widely, and is an example of the type of international collaboration Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina spoke so passionately about at the United Nations this week.

Lord Zac Goldsmith is the UK Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.



# Will Trump's USD 400m debt be a threat to US national security?

A report by The New York Times that US President Donald Trump did not pay federal income taxes has raised the question about how much impact it will have on the upcoming US election. Ali Riaz, distinguished professor of politics and government at Illinois State University in the United States and a non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, talked to Golam Mortoza of The Daily Star on the issue. The interview was taken before the presidential debate held on September 30.

Will the issue of tax evasion by US President Donald Trump affect the elections?

Mr. Trump's already weakened moral position will, in all likelihood, further deteriorate in the coming days. Because paying taxes is a sensitive issue in the United States. Everybody has to pay taxes. People here believe that they are playing their part for society through paying taxes and that they are entitled to certain rights in exchange for paying taxes. On the other hand, there are those who do not want to pay taxes. A majority of them are the supporters of Trump who think the state is taking away a lot of money from them already. But these people also have to pay taxes. Now that they know that their leader does not do so, it will create a kind of emotional and moral pressure on them. However, we do not know if they will change their mind about voting for Trump. The fact that Trump didn't pay taxes means that he didn't play his role in ensuring national security and that he didn't pay a penny for the country's healthcare system. Although he has repeatedly said that he has done a lot for those who have returned from the war, he didn't agree to give a single penny from his own pocket. These are some of the issues Mr Trump will have to deal with.

Trump spoke against The New York Times report last Monday by claiming: "This is fake news, I have paid a lot of taxes." Is this just another untrue statement by him? Or are there any chances that questions might arise about the Times report? What is your observation?

It cannot be denied that Mr. Trump sometimes paid taxes. He paid USD 750 in federal income taxes in the year he took office

as president and also the year before. But he did not pay any taxes in 10 years of the 15 years from 2000 till 2015. Mr. Trump claimed that he paid USD 95 million in taxes in 18 years. But he took back USD 72.9 million from the federal government. Although he has taken various tax credits through various loopholes in the system, he did not pay the taxes he was supposed to.

So he has taken tax credits according to the law. Can that be questioned?

It has not yet been proved that he did anything illegal. Maybe he did this within the purview of the law. However, when a politician takes advantage of the loopholes of the law, it becomes questionable. Here in the US, politicians, especially those who became presidents, have tried to show people that they did not try to take any advantage of the legal loopholes despite having the scope to do so. President Jimmy Carter once even said that he should pay more taxes than what he did then. He not only said that but also paid more taxes than what he was supposed to. You can also take an account of the taxes paid by other US presidents in the first fiscal year of their term. President Barack Obama paid more than a million dollar in taxes. So, the key issue here is the ethical aspect of taking advantage of the system.

What kind of a situation might the Times have to deal with under the circumstances?

The New York Times would not have to face much trouble because they have enough evidence and documents in support of their report. We know what Mr. Trump will do. He has waged a war against the media in the last three years and a half. He speaks or tweets



Ali Riaz

more or less every day against the media, especially against the liberal newspapers; he calls the media "the enemy of the people". He doesn't like The New York Times at all. Which is why he will continue to attack this newspaper through these statements. But I don't see any reason to worry that it will be under any legal pressure; there is no such law. If Mr. Trump's lawyers think that there is any gap anywhere, they can at best go to the court. In that case, the Times will be able to deal with the issue through the legal process.

Joe Biden, Trump's rival in the upcoming election, paid USD 37,42,974 in federal income taxes while Trump paid only USD 750. Trump is known to be richer than Biden. Don't you think it will have an impact on the election?

Electoral politics in the US has become so polarised that I don't think or hope that there will be a major crack in Trump's support base. But as is always the case, there are people who remain in the middle ground. Although the number of such people is very low this time, this issue can have an impact on their opinion. But that will depend on how well they understand all the information. Apart from Trump's tax evasion, The New York Times report also pointed out another important fact: the amount of Mr. Trump's debt, which will have to be paid in the next four years.

What measures will he take to repay this huge amount of loan? Is his personal debt becoming a threat to national security? The big question is, from where will this money come? Who will give Trump the money and in exchange for what? These questions are already being raised. If elected, he will be president for the next four years, in which case he will be financially liable to some quarters.

Any businessman can have debts, they can take loans. Trump's main identity is, he is a businessman. So why do you think this is such an important issue?

He can of course have debt as a businessman, but as a president, he cannot. The president owes USD 400 million to someone and he is supposed to pay this money within the next four years. How will he pay this money? Will national security be disrupted? We can't say for sure that it will disrupt national security but ethically, it is a big risk. Mr. Trump is a businessman but he is no longer just a businessman. As a businessman, he should have taken care of his debt long ago. The question of ethics comes when, even after taking charge as president, he is financially

liable to someone or some quarters. The question is, if a president goes to the White House with such financial liability, will it affect his work in any way? Trump has always said that he is a successful businessman. But as it turns out now, he is not. To take tax credits he now calls himself a failed businessman.

The unfortunate truth is that President Trump has paid less taxes than what I have in the last 15-16 years, and sometimes he didn't pay taxes at all. This should be a big issue for any ordinary middle-class American citizen. However, I am more concerned about whether or not his USD 400 million debt will become a threat to America's national security.

Speaking of ethics, how sensitive is the American society about this ethical issue? President Trump has been criticised for many of his statements and deeds before. However, do you think the present controversy has created the most critical situation for him?

Not only on ethical grounds, but strategically too, the situation in which he is going to the polls has really become challenging for him. The things that he has said in his years as president and some of his actions even before that were always considered ethically unacceptable to people. But that may not be the case now. That does not mean that people have accepted everything. The question of ethics is still important in American society. But are those who care about ethics the majority in society? We will know that in November or maybe even before that.

The interview has been translated from Bangla by Naznin Tithi, a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

# We must confront organised violence with organised love



OF MAGIC & MADNESS

BADRUZZAMAN BAY

WHAT does it mean to be nonviolent in a world full of horror and chaos, not to mention weapons and instruments of every kind created to inflict pain? Is nonviolence simply the absence of violence, a preference for order and lawfulness? If

its purpose, as Martin Luther King Jr. once said, is to "develop a sense of shame in the opponent, and thereby bring about a transformation and change of heart" in them, how tactically correct is it when you face opponents who have no inhibitions about using force and no desire whatsoever to learn or sympathise? How long can you remain nonviolent, physically or internally, in the face of such overwhelming odds?

As we observe the International Day of Non-Violence today, these are questions that haunt nonviolent activists and strategists struggling to find an effective antidote to the injustices that abound in the world. Violence today is more structural and lawful, cloaked in the discourse of national interests. You get branded "unpatriotic" for peaceful protests against state action and policy. You get vilified for challenging the status quo, or not accepting the dominant narratives in blind faith. You get arrested or worse even for speaking up. This is a far cry from when the luminaries of the nonviolence movement put it at the centre of political action, asking followers to offer their body as a crucible for their oppressor's change of heart. Done it still work when you, for example, confront not just individuals but also a carefully crafted system of abuse built on the collective interest of its beneficiaries—which is unlikely to change regardless of what transformation individual oppressors go through?

Even Gandhi, whose legacy of nonviolence

this day honours, was aware of the questions of practicality associated with this approach. But he was driven more by its spiritual possibilities (he called it "the first article of my faith") and less by what it offers in terms of dramatic solutions. To unpack his idea of nonviolence, one needs to understand what nonviolence is and is not. It is not passive acceptance of oppression, nor a mere rejection of violence. It is not for the fainthearted either. The Gandhian philosophy of nonviolence or civil disobedience as a driver of social change involves active and

wise strategies. But with the change of time and growing disillusionment with people's capability for revolutionary change, activists had to move the goalposts too. Changing hearts through a display of suffering is no longer a key objective. Meaningful change can come through targeting the system for which creative and compelling forms of nonviolent action are needed. American political scientist Gene Sharp likened this process to one of a combat situation that demands of its "soldiers" courage, discipline and sacrifice. "This view of nonviolent action as



PHOTO: JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Peaceful anti-racism protesters lie on the pavement near the White House with the names of people killed by police written on their shirts on June 6, 2020.

sustained participation in diverse peaceful methods that require both faith and patience on the part of the activists. "Nonviolence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our being," he said.

What this means in practical terms is that we must be patient, have faith in the humanity of ourselves and others and pursue

a technique of active combat is diametrically opposed to the popular assumption that, at its strongest, nonviolent action relies on rational persuasion of the opponent, and more commonly it consists simply of passive submission," he said.

As repressive regimes and pseudo-democracies around the world get more violent and resistant to change, nonviolent

activists must also be equally persistent, defiant and combative. We need to "wage peace" harder than they wage war. But how?

The Covid-19 pandemic, among other things, has brought to a halt the unprecedented levels of mass mobilisation seen in recent years. Since the pandemic struck, there has been a near-cessation of mass demonstrations, rallies, protests, sit-ins and other such forms of street mobilisation. But this, according to a report by The Guardian in late April, does not mean that "people power" has dissipated. The writers of the report identified about 100 distinct methods of nonviolent action that include physical, virtual and hybrid responses that people are using to voice concerns, express solidarity and press for change.

The report described how people—many without leaving their homes—are adapting to remote organising, building their bases, sharpening their messaging, and planning strategies for what comes next. Among the various methods used are car caravans, *vaccerolazos* (collectively banging pots and pans inside the home), walkouts from workplaces with health and safety challenges, free online medical-consultation clinics, mass donations of protective gear and sanitiser, pop-up food banks, community mutual aid pods and crowdsourced emergency funds, live-streamed readings, musical performance from balconies and rooftops, toolkits developed for civic action, drones adapted to deliver supplies, disinfect common areas, check individual temperatures and monitor high-risk areas, etc. "Many movements are moving their activities online, with digital rallies, teach-ins and information-sharing," it added.

And of course, there is then the Black Lives Matter movement which has been largely inspired by the peaceful civil resistance led by Martin Luther King, whose famous saying—"nonviolence demands that the means we use must be as pure as the ends we seek"—remains an important lesson for all followers in the tradition of nonviolent resistance. It's

true that the Black Lives Matter movement has been undermined to some extent by isolated incidents of violence and rioting but it remains by and large peaceful to this day, despite many provocations.

It is impossible to predict the long-term effects of these initiatives but these are important reminders of flourishing people power in the midst of this global crisis. We have seen many of these new tools and forms of nonviolent action used in Bangladesh too. We have seen crowd-funded and volunteer rapid response led by individuals and social organisations to support disadvantaged groups. We have seen activists organising webinars and Facebook Live sessions to highlight critical issues that need to be changed. Many have launched initiatives against domestic violence by coordinating caring duties and mutual support. Many are also organising peaceful street protests for various causes, braving risks of infection as well as brutalities by police and elements associated with the ruling party. Private-sector actors have also come up with various measures to reduce sufferings. These are all different forms of what some activists rightly called "organised love", geared to express solidarity and demand appropriate action by the state.

Nonviolence is not just a way of life, nor a means to quick fixes. You don't claim to be nonviolent by simply refraining from a violent response. It's a political strategy to harness innate people power, to persistently demand change and do your part as a socially responsible being while pursuing creative methods geared to that end. Those frustrated by its apparent lack of teeth should constantly remind themselves of the time-tested virtues of peace, love and reconciliation as well as the potential of nonviolent action for affecting greater change, if utilised properly. The pandemic has taught us to be creative in that regard. Let's stick to that.

Badruzzaman Bay is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star. Email: badruzzaman.bd@gmail.com

### QUOTABLE Quote



WALLACE STEVENS (1879-1955) American poet.

It is the unknown that excites the ardor of scholars, who, in the known alone, would shrivel up with boredom.

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

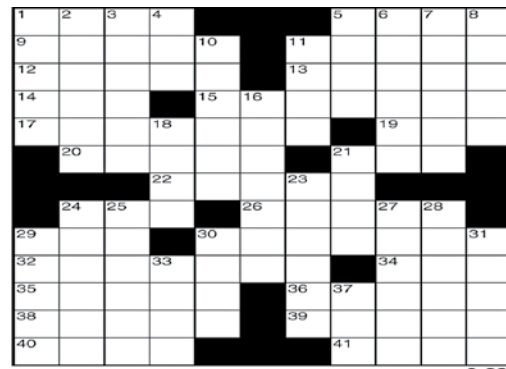
#### ACROSS

- 1 Racket
- 5 Muffin makeup
- 9 Inverted v
- 11 Move smoothly
- 12 Last letter
- 13 Head out
- 14 Decimal base
- 15 Joined a melee
- 17 Fished with a net
- 19 Attempt
- 20 Grate stuff
- 21 Corn core
- 22 Fall flower
- 24 Butter bit
- 26 Egg outlines
- 29 Vacuum's lack
- 30 Moved on all fours

#### DOWN

- 1 "Ivanhoe" author
- 2 Phone feature
- 3 Sports spots
- 4 One of the "Little Women"
- 5 Gusted
- 6 Theater district
- 7 Adjective

- 8 modifier
- 9 Poor
- 10 Cafe fixtures
- 11 Delighted
- 16 Do museum work
- 18 "Could you repeat that?"
- 21 Gullet
- 23 Steered clear of
- 24 Sea rover
- 25 Turkish peak
- 27 Andean carriers
- 28 Peaceful
- 29 Let in
- 30 Potter's stuff
- 31 More dreadful
- 33 Devious trick
- 37 Lucy of "Kill Bill"



### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

J O I N U P C L U B  
O N L I N E A E R O  
T E L E C A S T I N G  
C A R A T  
S T E P B L A B  
D Y E S F E E B L E  
A R M S I R B A Y  
D U P L E X D O M E  
P O O L S I T E  
V E S T S  
T E L E S C O P I N G  
O R A L A V E N U E  
W A X Y R E L A T E

### BETLE BAILEY



### BY MORT WALKER



### BABY BLUES



### BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



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

## Eskayef wins approval

FROM PAGE 12  
produce drugs to be injected and administered orally to treat cancer, maintaining the standard of the EU regulator. This recognition will help their drugs enter the EU and other countries.

Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Bangladesh Ltd Managing Director and CEO Simeen Rahman said people often lose hope when diagnosed with cancer.

However, the disease can be treated and a full recovery is possible with the right treatment, she said.

"But, most of the times treatment is quite expensive. We have seen that families fall upon hard times trying to ensure treatment for their loved ones. That is why we always wanted a situation that would allow a cancer patient to get world-class treatment at lower cost in Bangladesh," Simeen said.

She said Eskayef Oncology has always been working with an aim to produce anti-cancer drugs, believing that treating cancer is possible if world-class medicine is produced.

"We are committed to providing world-class anti-cancer drugs at affordable prices," Simeen said. "We have high-quality oncologists and haematologists. Besides, we are working to bring the latest technology for anti-cancer drugs to Bangladesh."

Medical scientists said Eskayef Pharmaceutical getting approval from the EU GMP is something that the country can be proud of. It will clear any doubts that people may have over cancer treatment in Bangladesh.

National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital Director Prof Qazi Mushatq Hussain said it is a matter of pride and joy for the country that a Bangladeshi company has received such recognition.

Congratulating Eskayef Pharmaceuticals, he said any confusion over the quality of drug and treatment

will now be cleared.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital Radiotherapy and Oncology Department Head Prof Swapan Bandyopadhyay said approval from the EU GMP is indeed a surprising news for the people of Bangladesh. People of the country will get its benefits. This achievement is a big milestone in Bangladesh's pharmaceutical history.

Congratulating Eskayef Pharmaceuticals, he said this will give doctors and people of Bangladesh a lot of confidence in the drug and cancer treatment. He said the use of foreign drugs in cancer treatment is more prevalent in Bangladesh, but those are quite expensive. But it can now be said that people of the country can get Eskayef's quality drugs at affordable prices.

Delta Medical College Hospital Oncology Department Head Prof Kazi Manzur Kader said approval from the EU GMP marks huge progress for the country's pharmaceutical industry. This will benefit the patients and the doctors immensely.

"We are proud that global standard anti-cancer drugs are being produced in Bangladesh. We need to sustain the quality, always," he said.

Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd Oncology Manufacturing Facility began its journey in 2018 with technological support of a European company. Eskayef Oncology is the country's first entity that is using isolator technology to ensure highest safety at every stage of production. It uses high-quality raw materials imported from Europe.

Eskayef Oncology has 31 service centres where patients and others concerned can get drugs and necessary information. It is now manufacturing drugs for different types of cancers, including breast cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, bladder cancer, blood cancer, renal cancer, hepatocellular cancer and head-neck cancer.

## Right-wing militias

FROM PAGE 12  
out to the male-only militia group by saying they should "stand back and stand by," and that the real problem is "far-left" extremists.

"My message to the Proud Boys and every other white supremacist group is: cease and desist," Biden said. "This is not who we are as Americans."

Trump, in an apparent attempt to tamp down outrage over his comments, called on the group to "stand down."

"I don't know who Proud Boys are but whoever they are they have to stand down," Trump told reporters. "Stand down, let law enforcement do their work."

'CORRECT' COMMENTS  
Trump's backpedaling came after multiple Republicans distanced themselves from the president's debate remark, with Senator Tim Scott, the only black Republican in the US Senate, saying Trump "needs to correct" his comments.

Several other Republicans reportedly offered similar reaction, including powerful Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Biden, who leads in election polling, knocked Trump for failing to speak directly to the US public about their plight during the Covid-19 crisis, which has killed more than 206,000

Americans.

And during a train stop in Pittsburgh he assailed the president for "planting seeds of doubt" about US election integrity by saying mail-in voting will be riddled with "fraud like you've never seen."

But Biden gnawed at the white supremacy issue throughout the day. At a stop in Greensburg, Pennsylvania -- where hundreds of people gathered in what was one of Biden's biggest crowds since the pandemic hit -- he pointed to how the Proud Boys were already treating Trump's words as a boost to their cause.

"They got a new emblem now, literally, it says 'Stand down and stand by,' implying that if he loses the election something may have to be done," Biden, 77, said, misquoting Trump's debate comment.

"I promise you, that won't happen," he added. "Nobody is going to get in the way of our democratic process going forward."

Biden was also pushing his blue-collar roots, as he accepted the endorsement from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, with 550,000 members.

"Donald Trump sees things from Park Avenue. I see them from where I grew up in Scranton," Biden said.

## EU launches legal action

FROM PAGE 12  
Johnson's government has described this bill as a "safety net" in case post-Brexit trade talks fail and the EU tries to impose a customs border between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

But EU capitals -- including Dublin -- see these provisions as key to preventing a return of a hard border with Ireland and preserving the good relations underpinned by the Good Friday peace deal in Northern Ireland.

"As you know, we had invited our British friends to remove the problematic parts of their draft internal market bill by the end of September," von der Leyen said.

"This draft bill is, by its very nature a breach of the obligation of good faith laid down in the withdrawal

agreement.

"Moreover, if adopted as is, it will be in full contradiction to the protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland."

'AN ADMINISTRATIVE STEP'  
The EU said the bill would breach Article 5 of the Withdrawal Agreement, which states that both sides must "cooperate in good faith" to implement the deal.

If Britain does not back down, the infringement procedure could go all the way to the European Court of Justice, which would be able to impose large fines.

But the case is a fairly standard EU procedure. Many member states face dozens of legal challenges under EU law and, for example, this is the 94th active action against the UK.

## Wait for flights to KSA keeps

FROM PAGE 12  
Kingdom via stopovers in their respective countries, said sources at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The airlines are Kuwait Airways, Etihad Airways, Emirates, Air Arabia and Gulf Air.

Recently, expatriate Bangladeshis rushed to sales offices of Biman and Saudi Arabian Airlines, also known as Saudia, in the capital to collect tickets following the Kingdom's announcement of the resumption of its international flights to and from different countries, including Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh government has also given the green light to operate regular Biman and Saudia flights.

Talking to reporters at the state guesthouse Padma, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Wednesday said about 5,500 to 6,000 expatriates were able to book their flights to Saudi Arabia in the past few days.

Mokabbir Hossain, managing director and chief executive officer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, yesterday told The Daily Star that since March 16 around 25,000 Bangladeshi expatriate workers have had return tickets with them to go to Saudi Arabia by the

national flag carrier.

Preferring anonymity, an official of Saudia yesterday said they have statistics with them that about 30,000 workers have been waiting to return to Saudi Arabia from Bangladesh.

Tarek Gazi, a migrant worker waiting to return to Saudi Arabia's Riyadh, yesterday said he came to Bangladesh on January 5 this year and was supposed to return on March 22.

He said his return ticket with Biman Bangladesh Airlines was cancelled because of flight suspension amid the pandemic.

Tarek, who is from Chandpur district, said some of the expatriates known to him have already returned to Saudi Arabia after the flight resumption, while their visas and work permits have also remained valid.

"On the other hand, I could not fly because my exit and re-entry visa had expired, while my work permit had also become invalid," he told this newspaper over phone.

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.

## Myanmar putting kind of pressure on us

FROM PAGE 1  
and Japan have invited Bangladesh to join their side.

Myanmar is creating a kind of pressure on the border from the thought that some kind of pressure may come on to them. Western countries are forging alliance on the Rohingya issue. There might pressure Myanmar through safe zone or a no-fly zone or any other way.

TDS: Like Bangladesh, Myanmar also knows the context you have mentioned. Knowing this, Myanmar is apprehending many things. Is that the reason Myanmar is deploying troops or creating tension at the border?

MSH: Myanmar is putting a kind of pressure on Bangladesh. The cantonment we have in Ramu is very close to the Myanmar border. Very close. The BGB is working all over the border of the country, there is the army in Chattogram Hill Tracts, and there is the cantonment which is very close to the Rakhine state. Our army is already there, whether for internal reasons or because of location. For these reasons, Myanmar may have deployed the troops to create pressure.

Another reason may be that the soldiers who were on duty earlier were being replaced. When this change occurs, they take some action for strategic reasons. I think Myanmar is doing this because of such reasons.

TDS: It is said that Myanmar is in a more advantageous position than Bangladesh regarding St Martin's Island. Is the small island always a source of concern for us strategically?

MSH: Our navy is there since 1992. I don't think there is any reason that Myanmar will come and occupy this

island. Doing so would be a complete declaration of war.

TDS: China is also active there. Myanmar is even involved in the Russian game.

MSH: China will not allow Myanmar to do that. Because, if that happens, the whole thing will go against China. China has not yet finished their work in the South Bay of Bengal which is called CMEC (China-Myanmar Economic Corridor). Work is underway of the \$7 billion project.

TDS: What is Bangladesh's situation in terms of naval, air, and land presence on Myanmar border? How is the balance of military power? Can it be perceived or analysed?

MSH: I will not give a qualified statement about how strong Bangladesh is. And, it is never understood who is the strongest from numbers.

Myanmar is ahead of Bangladesh in terms of the number of ground force. With the addition of two submarines, Bangladesh is ahead on the naval side. I have doubts about the air force, but Myanmar may be ahead. Their number is much bigger. Another thing to keep in mind here is that Myanmar soldiers are experienced in jungle war. Its military has been fighting for nearly 70 years.

Another big thing is the geographical location of Bangladesh. Suppose a war with Myanmar started. If our air force has to go inside Myanmar, it has to go a long way. But our refinery, industry and the biggest port are in Chittagong. It is very close to Myanmar. So, geographical advantages and disadvantages are very important factors.

## PMO to review plans and costs

FROM PAGE 1  
of dual-gauge double line between Joydebpur and Mymensingh and Jamalpur are the projects in question.

Of the three, Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) has approved the first two projects and Chinese companies have been selected and contract costs have also been negotiated.

However, final loan and commercial deals have not been signed.

The third project has not been approved by Ecneec yet. However, a Chinese company has already been selected and a tentative contract cost has been negotiated.

The Ecneec in April last year had approved the project to convert the metre-gauge railway line into dual-gauge from Akhaura to Sylhet for over Tk 16,104 crore.

The contract cost negotiated with China Railway Construction Bridge Engineering Bureau Group Co Ltd is Tk 12,079 crore.

But many questioned the "huge cost" while others asked as to why the government would convert the existing line when it was possible

to build new dual-gauge lines with some extra money.

The government took up a Tk 14,250 crore project in January last year to turn Joydebpur-Ishwardi section into a dual-gauge double line. It is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.

The negotiated contract cost for this project is Tk 9,839 crore and the selected company is China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation.

The tentative negotiated cost for constructing dual-gauge double line alongside the existing Joydebpur-Mymensingh-Jamalpur section is Tk 8,808 crore and the selected company is China Railway International Group.

A BR official said the committee was asked to examine why the cost of Akhaura-Sylhet and Joydebpur-Ishwardi project was "so high" compared to Joydebpur-Mymensingh-Jamalpur project.

The committee was also asked to examine whether the construction of a new dual-gauge double line on Akhaura-Sylhet section would be better than just converting the

However, now the war is not three but four-dimensional. Due to that, India has now gone after Rafale [French jetfighter], leaving everything out. Lately, they have been looking to buy F-35s from the US.

If we think from the side of Bangladesh and Myanmar, we have some advantages as well as some disadvantages. We need to address the geopolitical and strategic shortfalls as soon as possible.

TDS: Is the mobilisation of Myanmar troops on the border just about putting pressure on Bangladesh? Or Myanmar can really take it a little bit further?

MSH: Myanmar will not dare do that at the moment. The biggest reason is economic. Not only China, they are now trying to attract Western countries for investments. The city of Yangon in Myanmar is being rebuilt after the capital had been moved. Chinese companies took part in the bid. However, a Swedish company probably got the job. Among the big investors in Myanmar, Japan is far ahead. South Korea is also going to invest in Myanmar. Myanmar is not in a position to do anything that could adversely affect the foreign investments.

At the UN, our prime minister said that a safe zone must be created for the Rohingyas. If that is done, Myanmar will face a huge problem in the Rakhine region. I don't think Myanmar will get into a war with Bangladesh. And China will not let that happen.

Log on to [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) to read the full interview.

existing metre-gauge into dual gauge, the official said.

The committee would also review whether conversion of the existing metre-gauge line on Joydebpur-Mymensingh-Jamalpur section into dual-gauge would be enough or a dual-gauge double line was needed, he said.

The officials were asked to submit a report within seven to 10 days.

The fourth project, Padma Bridge Rail Link Project, was not discussed much during Wednesday's meeting, a BR official said.

Bangladesh Railway is implementing Padma Bridge Rail Link Project to connect the capital with Jashore with a 169km rail line for Tk 39,246 crore.

China Railway Group Ltd is the contractor and Exim Bank of China is providing Tk 21,036.70 as loan for the project.

BR Director General Md Shamsuzzaman declined to make any comments on the issue while railways ministry Secretary Salim Reza could not be reached over the phone despite repeated attempts.

## Release 370

FROM PAGE 12  
other European countries. They returned to Bangladesh on September 13 and were placed in quarantine for two weeks prior to their arrest, after the Syrian government commuted their jail terms.

They were jailed under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which allows for arrest on the basis of having "reasonable suspicion" that a person may have been involved in a criminal offence outside Bangladesh.

On July 5, 2020, 219 Bangladeshi workers, who had returned from Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain, were arrested and detained.

According to the police application to a Dhaka court, the returnees were in jails in those countries for committing "various offences" and all of them were deported to Bangladesh after their sentences were commuted.

The court has granted a police request to detain the 219 for as long as an investigation continued to determine their offence.

On July 21, 36 migrants workers who returned from Qatar were arrested and on September 1, another 81 workers who returned from Vietnam and two who returned from Qatar were arrested, after being exploited by traffickers.

"The arbitrary detention of the workers violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bangladesh is a state party," said David Griffiths, director of the Office of the Amnesty International Secretary General.

"Not only have the Bangladeshi authorities failed to present any credible evidence of these workers' supposed crimes, they have failed to specify any criminal charges. These men and women are being arbitrarily detained in clear violation of Bangladesh's human rights obligations," he said.

The rights body said with many now held in detention for several months, there is no time for further delay. The Bangladeshi authorities must either bring charges for internationally recognised criminal offences or release them immediately.

"The Bangladeshi police have effectively been given court permission to keep these workers in detention for as long as they like. There is no telling how long an investigation into hundreds of cases involving multiple countries may take. To keep people imprisoned without charge for such an indeterminate length of time is completely unacceptable," said Griffiths.

## India-Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12  
abroad for treatment, gave orders to the effect that families of officials stranded in Pakistan will be given a monthly allowance of Tk 100 to Tk 400 by the government of Bangladesh.

INDIA-BANGLADESH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

A meeting between the education ministers of Bangladesh and India held today agrees in principle to cooperate on holding joint seminars, arranging study tours on educational reforms and cooperation between educationists of the countries. The meeting calls for creation of joint committees on higher education, exchange in cultural fields, sports, scientific studies, research in atomic energy and space for peaceful use, social welfare and setting up of Kaviruga Museum at Shelaidah and Shahajpur with Indian assistance.

PM CONDOLES DEATH OF WIFE OF NE WIN

Bangabandhu today expresses heartfelt condolence to General Ne Win, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Burma, on the death of his wife.

CABINET MEETS

The cabinet meets at the Gono Bhaban today with the prime minister in the chair. The meeting continues for more than an hour.

SOURCES: October 3, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

## Let UN visit Bhashan Char

FROM PAGE 12  
fully informed," said the New York-based global rights watchdog.

A government committee formed late September to manage the relocation of refugees to Bhashan Char appears to be the latest effort to push through a relocation process in contravention of basic rights protections and despite repeated concerns raised by the UN and humanitarian experts, it said.

The statement comes weeks after a group of Rohingyas, including community leaders, were taken on a visit to the island where the government has built 120 cluster villages on the 40sqkm island under a Tk 2,312-crore housing project for one lakh out of the nearly 10 lakh Rohingyas sheltered in cramped camps in Cox's Bazar.

The purpose of the "go and see" visit arranged by the government

was to allow the Rohingyas to see for themselves the facilities. Officials say the houses have been built four feet above the ground with concrete blocks and are protected by a 13 km-long flood embankment.

Also, there are 120 cyclone shelters planned to be used as schools, medical centres and community centres. The officials say Rohingyas also could be involved in productive activities.

Some 300 Rohingyas who were rescued from the sea early this year were sheltered at Bhashan Char. HRW said Bangladesh authorities beat refugees protesting their "detention" on Bhashan Char in retribution for their hunger strike beginning on September 21, 2020 to demand reunification with their families in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps.

It said the arbitrary detention of

hundreds of refugees on a possibly uninhabitable remote island without access to humanitarian assistance or basic services violates Bangladesh's international human rights obligations to provide security, freedom of movement, access to medical care and education, and the right to a livelihood.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was rightly celebrated for welcoming refugees from Myanmar, but her government is now holding desperate men, women, and children on Bhashan Char," said Brad Adams, Asia director of HRW.

"If UN experts find the island to be safe and habitable, and refugees' rights are respected, then people may freely choose to relocate there. But beating people up for seeking to reunite with their families is completely unacceptable," he said.

## TIB report on JS

FROM PAGE 12  
power in parliamentary activities.

The scope for discussion in parliament on the implementation of SDGs and objectives was not yet satisfactory, it said.

The graft watchdog came up with the observation unveiling its report "Parliament Watch" through a virtual press conference on Wednesday.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said parliamentary activities were not effective in formulating budgets and laws.

Quader, also the Awami League general secretary, yesterday said although the number of lawmakers from opposition parties is low, they were being given enough time and that they were taking part in all parliament activities.

He said it was not the responsibility of parliament if the opposition parties fail to increase parliamentary seats with people's votes.

The AL general secretary said some of the MPs are lawyers, doctors and some are involved in business. They have come to parliament winning the trust

and support of the people and they are taking part in various development activities, which is not a crime, he added.

Quader said it is their regular allegation that the BNP candidates are being intimidated in the by-elections.

Welcoming the BNP's announcement that it would stay in the electoral field till the end of the by-elections, the minister said people do not believe that they would be in the field till the end.

He directed the authorities concerned to complete the work of the project within the stipulated time.

## German far-right terror suspect arrested in Poland

AFP, Warsaw

A German man suspected of belonging to a far-right terror group has been arrested in Poland with 1.2 kilogrammes of explosives in his possession, Poland's PAP news agency reported yesterday.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Barishal Sadar, Barishal  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.0694.000.07.028.20-583 Date: 28.09.2020

**Invitation for Tender (NOTM)**  
**Tender Notice No. 01/2020-21 (Off Line)**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited as per Public Procurement Regulations 2008 from eligible manufacturer/suppliers/contractor as defined in the tender documents for following package of work as per terms and conditions stated below:

Package No.	Name of works	Tender security (Tk)	Price of tender documents (Tk)	Time for completion (days)
INF-2018-19-100651-01	Supply & Distribution of Bench (High & Low) Different School Under Barishal Sadar Upazila.	1,00,000.00	1000.00	120 days
1	Name of Ministry	Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperative (Local Government Division).		
02	Procuring entity	Upazila Engineer, LGED, Barishal Sadar, Barishal.		
03	Invitation for	Goods.		
04	Invitation Ref. No. and date	46.600.002.00.00.035.2019-2103 Date: 26.04.2020		
05	Procurement method	National Open Tendering Method (NOTM).		
06	Name of project	Upazila Governance and Development Project (UGDP).		
07	Source of fund	GOB & JICA.		
08	Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting	11.10.2020, 11.00am, office of the undersigned.		
09	Last date, time, places of selling tender documents	28.10.2020, 5.00pm. a) The Executive Engineer, LGED, Barishal. b) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Babugong, Barishal. c) Office of the undersigned.		
10	Last date, time, places of receiving tender	29.10.2020, 01.00pm, office of the undersigned.		
11	Last date, time, places of opening tender	29.10.2020, 02.00pm, office of the undersigned.		
12	Tender shall be valid for a period of 120 days after tender opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified above. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject all the tenders without assigning and reason whatsoever. Interested tenderers may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender document in Cash/Treasury Chalan/Bank Draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders. Tender security must be submitted in favour of Upazila Engineer, LGED, Barishal Sadar, Barishal. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

**Md. Waliul Islam**  
Upazila Engineer  
Barishal Sadar, Barishal  
E-mail: [up\\_barishal-sa@lged.gov.bd](mailto:up_barishal-sa@lged.gov.bd)  
Phone: 043121-75573 Office

GD-1573



Joshua Kimmich celebrates scoring the winning goal with Robert Lewandowski as his incredible strike -- even if not as majestic as his vital strike in Dortmund in May this year (c) -- was enough to secure Bayern Munich their fifth piece of silverware in five months. The Bavarians lifted the DFL Supercup with a 3-2 win over a spirited Borussia Dortmund, who bounced back from 2-0 down. PHOTO: TWITTER

## Magical Kimmich and quintuple

There are important goals and there are beautiful goals. Sometimes they are both, as Joshua Kimmich proved against Borussia Dortmund again on Wednesday night in the DFL-Supercup. The German's incredible 82nd-minute winner saw Bayern Munich prevail 3-2 against a surging Dortmund, ensuring the Bavarians could boast about a quintuple.

It wasn't long ago that Kimmich had called his sumptuous winner in the 1-0 victory against the same opposition on May 26 this year the most beautiful goal of his life.

He spotted Roman Bürki a step too far off his line and went for an audacious lob from 20 yards and the ball sailed perfectly into the far top corner and turned out to be the only goal of the game, which was voted by fans as goal of the month



by an overwhelming majority. On Wednesday night, Kimmich lay on the floor in front of goalkeeper Marwin Hitz as the ball slowly rose. Surging into the box after a quick one-two, he was initially denied by Hitz, but in an incredible feat of defiance he flipped the ball over the keeper's

head and into the back of the net while going to ground.

"Actually, I passed the ball way too early, Levy played it back well and on the second try, I then put it in," Kimmich said.

"Joshua has a very special mentality, enormous quality", said Bayern coach Hansi Flick. "That's

why he's on a really good path to be one of those players who shape this club. Compliment!" Bayern captain Manuel Neuer also approved.

"We brought Dortmund back into the game. It's also not normal to always score three goals. Fortunately, Joshua scored in the end."

In 226 appearances for the Bavarians, Kimmich has 26 goals and 59 assists.

Filling the boots of the legendary Philipp Lahm, Kimmich is intelligent enough to play across defence and midfield.

His vision enables him to chip in passes from tight spaces, most notably in for his assist to Kingsley Coman in last season's Champions League final against PSG.

Kimmich joined Bayern after two seasons with RB Leipzig and was introduced to the team by then coach Pep Guardiola's last season, never looking back since.

## We were far from brilliant: Zidane

REUTERS

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said his side still have to make many strides after riding their luck to beat Real Valladolid 1-0 at home on Wednesday, although he is not worried about their rusty play so early into the new season.

Substitute Vinicius Jr. struck the winner soon after coming on, to the relief of Zidane. "The win tastes good because this was not a simple night for us," Zidane told a news conference. "We knew we would suffer and have a difficult game but at least we've got the points. We weren't brilliant but we've only just started the season, so we need to stay calm and be patient because we know little by little we're going to improve."

The French coach, who cut a frustrated figure on the sidelines, put their rusty form down to a short pre-season. "I always get annoyed about something during a match, today it was when we kept losing the ball in our own half which is something we need to be very careful about," he added. "But I'm choosing to focus on the positives, we've just started, this is not a normal season, we've had no friendly games and we'll take everything step by step."



Former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko played some of her best tennis since capturing her maiden major title in 2017, shocking No.2 seed Karolina Pliskova in straight sets to reach the third round. PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'We can bring change without a presidential candidate'

SPORTS REPORTER

Keeping the presidential post open, the Integrated Panel comprising members from districts and some Dhaka Clubs yesterday announced that they would compete in 19 posts out of 21 in the October 3 Bangladesh Football Federation polls.

They made the announcement while disclosing a 24-point manifesto at a city hotel.

The Integrated Panel has not extended their support to any of the two independent presidential candidates -- Badal Roy and Shafiqul Islam Manik -- but said the presidential post will remain open. Incumbent president Kazi Salahuddin is leading the Combined Panel.

"We don't have any candidates beyond 19 [one for senior vice-president, three for

Facebook page that he has been in the race of the president and expected a "silent revolution" from the delegates.

Before introducing the candidates, Ashiqur Rahman Miku, secretary general of Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organisers' Council and chairman of Integrated Panel's election organising committee, said, "There may be questions about why we are roaming around so much ahead of the BFF polls? The answer is simple: We want to give Bangladesh Football Federation a national shape by electing the representatives from the districts because the national federation is not a Dhaka-based organisation.

"It is not just a panel of district representatives but it is a panel of the representatives from clubs and it is high time to work together. I urge the delegates



vice-president and 15 for members] and the post of president will remain open for the delegates," vice-presidential candidate Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohi, who had been with Salahuddin for the last four years, told the reporters after reading out the 24-point manifesto.

Asked how they would lift the country's football from its low state without a presidential candidate, Brothers Union director-in-charge Mohi said, "If we win a majority of the posts, we will have the key roles to take the decision through the executive committee and the president won't have much to say because the president is not a man with supreme authority."

The announcement to not support the independent president candidates by Integrated Panel may apparently give Salahuddin an edge over Manik and Badal, but there is still a chance to change the scenario ahead of tomorrow's elections.

Manik was seen campaigning during the Integrated Panel candidates' introduction programme. Badal, whose withdrawal after the deadline means he is technically still a candidate, hinted strongly on his

to elect us because it is a question of survival, honour and establishing our rights. If you don't understand, I don't have anything to say. If we can't win, I will quit sports," said Miku, who has been involved with sports for more than four decades.

The manifesto promised to frame a realistic 12-year plan with the involvement of all stakeholders in the first point and introduction of some new tournaments such as U-13, U-15, U-17 across the country as well as a premier league on a home-and-away basis with the involvement of eight divisional teams.

The Integrated Panel also promised to revive some tournaments such as the national championship, youth championship, club championships, district leagues and women's football league regularly.

The manifesto also promised the introduction of a unique players' registration system, appoint BFF coaches in each district, increase international stadiums in eight divisions, investigate BFF's financial irregularities and reveal the financial statement each year by holding the annual general meeting.

### LIGUE 1'S BEST, BUT FOR HOW MUCH LONGER?

Kylian Mbappe posted a picture on Twitter on Wednesday after scooping the award for Ligue 1 2019-20 player of the season. He helped PSG finish the previous season with a quadruple, although there was heartbreak in the Champions League final. In the league, the 21-year-old netted 18 times and picked up seven assists. Mbappe has reportedly told Paris Saint-Germain he is to play his final season with the club, before seeking a move during next summer's transfer window. Mbappe is contracted to PSG until 2022, meaning next summer is the last opportunity for them to sell their star before running the risk of losing him as a free agent.

PHOTO: TWITTER

## Salma 'glad' after call-up in UAE T20 League

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's team stars Salma Khatun and Jahanara Alam are set to feature in the upcoming Women's T20 League in UAE, slated to take place between November 4 and 9.

While pacer Jahanara previously featured, Salma was glad to have the opportunity to represent her country in the tournament for the first time.

"It's a very good feeling. Before, only Jahanara had played there and this time my name is also there so definitely it's a good feeling. Since this is my first opportunity, I will try to give my best and that's my target," Salma, who had led Bangladesh during their Asia Cup triumph in 2018, said.

Currently ranked eighth in the T20 all-rounders' rankings, Salma added: "Wherever I get the chance, I will want to do something for the team. Since I am a representative of my country, I want to perform."

However, she reiterated that her off-spin will be her focus. "Actually, bowling will be prioritised and I want to put more focus on it."

"I started working at home during the lockdown before also getting the opportunity to start practicing in the field at Khulna Stadium."

## 'We want to return to competitive cricket'

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a three-day break, Bangladesh players returned to the second phase of their skill training camp at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The players underwent the coronavirus tests on Wednesday before returning to the bio-secure bubble following negative results yesterday.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had started the camp with the three-Test tour of Sri Lanka in mind, but focus will shift to domestic cricket after the planned tour of the island nation was postponed due to the boards disagreeing on quarantine protocols.

"We want to return to competitive cricket soon. We want to at least start a domestic league on a minimum scale so that the players can get back to playing competitive cricket," BCB

CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

National players involved in the camp are scheduled to play two two-day and a three-day intra-squad match, with the first two-day practice match starting at 9:30am today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The Tigers will play the second two-day practice match from October 5 and the three-day practice game will begin on October 13.

"We have a few informal intra-squad matches scheduled for the players. And I think these games will give us an idea about how the players are doing," hoped Nizamuddin.

Meanwhile, with no international fixtures in the near future, premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan returned to his family in the United States. The all-rounder was scheduled to board a flight at 3:45am today. Shakib's ban --

imposed by the ICC -- is set to end on October 28, making him eligible to return to cricket the day after.

The resumption process in Bangladesh has been on the somewhat slower side, but Nizamuddin said that the board was slowly gaining the confidence to go ahead and bring cricket back.

"There haven't been any critical conditions in the camp with the way the BCB has been handling and managing the camp till now. This is actually giving us some sort of confidence that we can start and manage other projects. Even though the resumption process has been slow, we are now gaining the confidence to start," said Nizamuddin.

Since the start of the training camp last month, only one of the 27 members -- right-arm pacer Abu Jayed -- tested positive for the virus on September 22.



## Australians set guidelines for trans athletes

REUTERS

Eight Australian sports federations, including peak bodies for tennis, rugby union and Australian Rules football, issued guidelines on Thursday aimed at encouraging the participation of transgender athletes.

The initiative is designed to break down the stigma faced by trans and gender-diverse people and offer pathways from community sport onwards, tackling an issue where sports have grappled to find a balance between fairness and inclusion.

"This is a world first to see so many national sporting organisations in Australia coming together to collectively show their support for a particular part of our community," Beau Newell, National Program Manager of Pride in Sport Australia, an NGO promoting inclusiveness, said at the launch of the guidelines.

Tennis Australia, Rugby Australia and national federations for Australian Rules football, hockey, netball, water polo, Touch Football and university sports issued guidelines governing inclusion at grassroots and community level.

Netball Australia and the Australian Football League (AFL), the Aussie Rules governing body, also issued fresh guidelines for the elite level.



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

## US ELECTION 2020 Right-wing militias must 'stand down'

Trump takes a U-turn after criticism; Biden blasts him as 'embarrassment'

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump scrambled to quell an uproar over his failure to explicitly denounce white supremacist groups during his debate debacle with Joe Biden, who branded his election rival a "national embarrassment."

The bitter adversaries returned to the campaign trail Wednesday, one day after their off-the-rails showdown in Cleveland made headlines less for the substance than for its unrestrained chaos.

The toxic shout fest -- with Trump constantly interrupting and Biden launching personal attacks -- even prompted the overseeing Commission on Presidential Debates to announce it would be imposing new measures to help moderators "maintain order" at the upcoming two debates.

After his assertive performance Biden launched a whistlestop train tour Wednesday through battleground states Ohio and Pennsylvania where he hammered away at Trump.

"The president of the United States conducted himself the way he did -- I think it was a national embarrassment," Biden said in Alliance, Ohio.

He fiercely attacked Trump's failure to clearly denounce white supremacist groups or the far-right Proud Boys, instead giving a shout-

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Sky lanterns being released in front of Chattogram city's Nandonkanon Buddhist temple on the occasion of Probarona Purnima, the second largest festival of the Buddhist community, yesterday. Even though the event was limited to an hour in the evening due to the pandemic, there was a huge gathering. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

### MAKING CANCER DRUG

## Eskayef wins approval from EU regulator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's leading drug manufacturer Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd has become one of a few Asian companies to secure approval from the prestigious regulatory body European Union Good Manufacturing Practice (EU GMP) to produce anti-cancer drugs.

Oncology Manufacturing Facility of Eskayef Pharmaceuticals is the country's first entity that has recently secured approval from the EU GMP, which is recognised by the 30 nations of the EU and considered a passport for entry to the global market.

Eskayef's Oncology Manufacturing Facility can now

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## TIB report on JS not based on reliable info

Says Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the report published by Transparency International, Bangladesh on parliamentary activities was not based on reliable information.

He said this in response to a question after the formal inauguration of upward extension of Setu Bhaban in the capital in the morning.

The TIB in its report observed that the absolute majority of the ruling Awami League ensured through parliamentary elections intensified their exercise of monopoly

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

### FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## India-Bangladesh cooperation in education

October 2, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

### EXPEDITE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCE

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a directive issued today at various government departments instructs them to make expeditious payment of allowances to the families and dependents of Bangalee officials stranded in Pakistan as per his mid-July order.

Bangabandhu also asks families and dependents who had applied to various departments for their allowance but did not get it yet to apply directly to the prime minister's secretariat quoting the date and number of their original applications. This directive is issued by the prime minister following receipt of complaints that many applicants are not getting their allowances. It may be recalled here that Bangabandhu in mid-July this year, before going

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



## Let UN visit Bhashan Char before moving Rohingyas there

HRW urges govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch has urged the Bangladesh government to allow a UN visit to Bhashan Char before any Rohingya relocation.

In a statement yesterday, it said the government has reneged on repeated promises to await clearance from UN agencies and independent technical experts on emergency preparedness, habitability, and safety of the island before relocating the Rohingyas there.

"Any decision to relocate Rohingyas to Bhashan Char, after the completion of technical assessments, needs to be voluntary and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Wait for flights to KSA keeps getting longer

55,000 returnees stuck since Covid halted air travel

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

At least 55,000 Bangladeshi expatriates have been waiting to board Saudi Arabia-bound flights with return tickets in hand since the Covid-19 pandemic halted their return to the Kingdom.

Of the passengers, about 25,000 have return tickets of Biman Bangladesh Airlines and about 30,000 have return tickets of Saudi Arabian Airlines, officials said

yesterday.

Biman is the state-owned and national flag carrier of Bangladesh, while Saudi Arabian Airlines is the Kingdom's state-owned and national flag carrier.

There were several other foreign airlines which, before the pandemic, would carry significant number of passengers from Dhaka to different destinations in the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



### PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 2

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-45 12-30 4-15 5-53 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A Chestnut-tailed Starling, also known as Kath Shalik, is sitting on a tree branch at the capital's Paltan Maidan. The bird, which is seen across the country, eats fruits, nectar, and insects.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Release 370 returnees immediately

Amnesty Int'l urges govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International has called for the Bangladesh authorities to immediately release at least 370 migrant workers, who were arbitrarily detained between July and September following their return to the country.

In a statement yesterday, it said in the fourth part of a series of mass arrests for alleged criminal activity abroad, 32 workers were detained in Dhaka on September 28 for "tarnishing the image of the country", due to their alleged imprisonment in Syria from where they had been deported.

The 32 workers were initially jailed in Syria while trying to reach Italy and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

### BREACHING OF BREXIT DEAL

## EU launches legal action against UK

AFP, Brussels

The European Union yesterday launched legal proceedings in response to the British government's attempt to overturn parts of the Brexit withdrawal agreement.

The infringement procedure, which could come before European courts, has not derailed post-Brexit trade talks, but reflects mounting tension in Brussels as time runs short for a deal.

"This morning, the Commission has decided to send a letter of formal notice to the UK Government. This is the first step in an infringement procedure," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said.

"The letter invites the UK Government to send its observations within a month," said von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission.

On Tuesday, British MPs backed a bill to regulate the UK's internal market from January 1, when Britain completes its post-Brexit transition period and leaves the EU single market and customs union.

The proposed text, by London's own admission, overwrites parts of the withdrawal treaty that Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed with EU leaders last year, a breach of international law.

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