

## Eskayef wins approval

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

## Let UN visit Bhashan Char

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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.

## Release 370

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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

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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.

## TIB report on JS

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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.			

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