



JUTE SHOES FOR EXPORT
Hundreds of women earn a living by making jute shoes, slippers in Jhenidah
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Your Right to Know

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"We can't avoid the responsibility for this. How'll the government avoid liability when it's in power."
ROAD TRANSPORT MINISTER OBAIDUL QUADER ABOUT THE GANG-RAPE IN NOAKHALI



"I learned a lot about Covid, I learned it by really going to school."
US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TWEETS FROM HOSPITAL



"What is our home minister doing? They are the people who promote people like OC Pradeep. He must step down ..."
FORMER DUCSU VP NURUL HAQUE NUR AT A PROTEST RALLY ON THE GANG-RAPE IN NOAKHALI

NOAKHALI GANG-RAPE VICTIM

Indifference drowned cries for justice

4 including key suspect arrested; HC asks govt to take action against negligent cops

STAR REPORT

On the day following the gang-rape on September 2, the Noakhali woman had gone to a member of Eklashpur Union Parishad seeking his help in taking the matter to the police, but to no avail.

This is what the survivor told our correspondent, yesterday morning, in an interview held inside the Begumganj Police Station.

"I went to the member and told him that I am poor and I do not have the power to go to the police myself and asked him to investigate the matter and seek justice on my behalf. I told him what the men did to me," she said.

When he did not do anything about it, she left the area and went into hiding, she said.

On Sunday night, when footage of the incident first went viral, the ward-9 member, Moazzem Hossain Sohag, told our correspondent that he did not know who the men in the video were.

"The woman came to me after the incident, but did not name anyone, so I could not do anything," he said.

A High Court bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim issued a suo moto (voluntary) rule yesterday, asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain in two weeks why they should not be directed to take appropriate legal and departmental

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Protesters block the Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday and chant slogans, inset, demanding justice for the gang-rape of a woman in Noakhali a month ago. The perpetrators filmed their crime and the clip went viral recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SHOCKED, ENRAGED

STAR REPORT

A wave of protests erupted in the capital and elsewhere over the horrific gang-rape incident in Noakhali's Begumganj with the agitators demanding justice for the heinous crime that has shaken the conscience of the nation.

Anger was already simmering across the country following a string of recent rape incidents. That anger turned to rage and people took to the streets yesterday, hours after a video footage of the gruesome incident was uploaded on social media on Sunday night.

Netizens too continued to express outrage on social media.

Many of the protesters alleged that the ruling party men were involved in most of the cases, including the ones at Sylhet's MC College and in Begumganj, and demanded that the home minister step down for failing to stop the gruesome crimes against women.

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PM for prompt action against child repression

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government was careful so that prompt action could be taken against any kind of oppression of children in the country.

"We are taking steps to ensure security of children...we are giving special attention to it so that prompt action can be taken against any kind of oppression of children," she said.

The premier was addressing a programme marking the inauguration of the World Children's Day and Child Rights Week 2020 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium. She joined the programme virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said the government wants the children to remain safe and secure, get a beautiful life and be brought up as good human beings.

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VISA RENEWAL FOR RETURNEES

Saudi sponsors now out to milk them

JAMIL MAHMUD and RASHIDUL HASAN

Many migrant workers, who got stuck after coming from Saudi Arabia on vacation, are having to ask their employers to get their visas and residence permits renewed.

They are paying additional money to the employers in many cases, the workers alleged.

Visas and residence permits of many migrant workers expired as international air travel remained suspended during the pandemic.

About a dozen migrant workers waiting in a queue to buy tickets from Saudi Arabian Airlines in the capital's Karwan Bazar told these to The Daily Star yesterday.

The Kingdom in July announced an automatic three-month extension of visas and residence permits for workers, according to media reports.

On September 23, Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said migrants could get their visas renewed at the Saudi embassy in Dhaka from September 27 and that their work permits (iqama) would

remain valid until October 17.

The validity may be extended further if needed, he said.

Abdur Rahman, a migrant worker from Dhaka's Keraniganj, yesterday said he contacted his sponsor in Riyadh after his visa expired on September 13.

He later paid 1,000 Saudi riyal to the sponsor via an acquaintance to get his visa renewed for a month.

"Normally, it should take about 200 Saudi riyal," said Rahman, who was in the queue in Karwan Bazar.

Rahman came home in January and his visa was valid until April 13. He got the automatic extensions a couple of times.

He also said his sponsor recently renewed his residence permit for a year.

Also waiting in the queue was Mahmudul Hasan, who came to the capital from Madaripur. He reached Bangladesh in January and was supposed to return to Jeddah in March.

"Now my employer is saying I must return within this month," Mahmudul said,

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Saudia to operate over 50 flights this month

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

The Saudi Arabian Airlines will operate 50 to 60 flights between Dhaka and Saudi Arabia this month in a bid to fly more workers waiting to go back to the Gulf country.

Of the flights, around 40 will be pre-scheduled and the rest will be chartered.

Officials are hoping to fly around 22,000 workers to Saudi Arabia on those flights, said Tarik A Alowaidi, country manager for Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Nepal of Saudi Arabian Airlines.

At least 55,000 Bangladeshis workers have been stranded since March 16 due to suspension of regular flights for the pandemic.

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EFFECTS OF PANDEMIC

Mental health toll 'devastating': WHO

AFP, Geneva

The Covid-19 pandemic is having a "devastating impact" on mental health services globally, the World Health Organization said yesterday, ahead of a large fundraising push.

It warned that mental health had been overlooked in the crisis, pointing to a survey conducted between June and August that revealed severe disruptions to services in 93 countries.

While 83 percent of the 130 countries surveyed had included mental health in their coronavirus pandemic response plans only 17 percent had actually set up the full funding required, it said.

"This is a forgotten aspect of Covid-19," WHO mental health director Devora Kestel told a virtual media briefing, stressing the urgent need for increased funding.

Before the pandemic, countries were spending less than two percent of their national health budget on mental health, and were struggling to meet demand, the WHO said.

That demand has now dramatically increased due to the pandemic.

"Bereavement, isolation, loss of income and fear are triggering mental health conditions or exacerbating existing ones," the agency said in a statement.

"Many people may be facing increased levels of alcohol and drug use, insomnia, and anxiety."

Though all regions of the world have been affected, high-income nations had been better able to maintain the provision of services.

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WASA WATER PRICE HIKE

Why isn't this illegal?

HC asks authorities to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned Dhaka Wasa's decision of hiking water prices by 25 percent from April 1.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government and the Wasa to explain in four weeks why the latter's decision should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam came up with the rule in response to a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Md Tanvir Ahmed seeking its order on the Wasa's decision.

The lawyer on June 15 had submitted the petition as a public interest litigation and prayed to the court to declare the Wasa's move to hike the prices illegal and unconstitutional.

Citing the petition, Tanvir told The Daily Star that Dhaka Wasa had increased the water prices by 5 percent on September 1 last year.

It again hiked the price by 25 percent on April 1 this year which was reported in different newspapers, he said.

The lawyer said most of the people of the country are now facing a serious financial crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic and hiking of water prices by 25 percent amid such a situation is "not only illegal but also a heartless action".

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Workers repaint a footbridge over Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Farmgate in the capital. None of them had any safety harnesses, head gear or anything to protect them from inhaling the toxic fumes of the paint. The photo was taken this week.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Decision on HSC tests likely this week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decision on holding the postponed Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations will likely be announced this week.

"We will announce the decision later this week. There is a possibility of declaring the decision on Thursday," Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

He said the education ministry was assessing the matter.

He made the comments after Education Minister Dipu Moni on September 30 said they would announce their specific plans regarding holding of the HSC exams on Monday or Tuesday.

HSC and its equivalent exams slated for April 1 were postponed on March 22 in fear of coronavirus transmission. More than 13 lakh students were expected to take part in the exams and are now passing their days in anxiety.

The government postponed the exams following the closure of all educational institutions since March 17. The government closed the schools to contain the spread of Covid-19, and the closure has been extended till October 30.

Officials of education ministry and Dhaka education board said they were working on how to hold the HSC exams, keeping different options in mind. They are

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BANGLADESH
UPDATE



1,442
New cases in 24hrs



3,70,132
Total cases



5,375
Deaths



2,83,182
Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE



1,043,205
Deaths



35,508,984
Total cases

Malaysian PM quarantines after minister tests Covid positive

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday said he will self quarantine for 14 days after a minister who attended a high-level government meeting to discuss coronavirus developments on Saturday tested positive for Covid-19.

The Southeast Asian country has seen a steady climb in cases in the past week in the aftermath of an election in the state of Sabah in Borneo on Sept 26.

Authorities in Malaysia have warned that coronavirus restrictions may have to be reimposed if the trend continues, amid popular anger towards politicians who have been blamed for the spike.

In a statement, Muhyiddin confirmed that Religious Affairs Minister Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri had tested positive, and that those identified as close contacts at Saturday's National Security Council meeting to discuss Covid-19 had been issued a 14-day home surveillance order starting October 3.

"Pursuant to that, I will undergo self-quarantine at my home for 14 days as advised by the health ministry," Muhyiddin said.

"However, this will not interrupt government business. I will continue to work from home and use video conferencing to conduct meetings as necessary."

Decision on HSC tests

FROM PAGE 1

also in touch with the advisory committee on Covid-19 and experts, they added.

On September 30, Dipu Moni said the government was working on different options regarding the HSC exams.

"We are working on a range of possibilities -- how the exams can be held within the shortest possible time, on how many subjects, and on how many marks," she said.

She added that preparing HSC result based on examinees' JSC and SSC results is another option in their consideration. "Some people want evaluation without any exams [HSC] ... the option remains open. We are keeping a range of options open."

Why isn't this illegal?

FROM PAGE 1

The Wasa can increase water tariff by only 5 percent in consultation with the government as per section 22 of the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act, 1996, the writ petitioner added.

Following the same writ petition, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim on June 22 had issued an injunction till August 10 on Dhaka Wasa's decision.

The Wasa then filed a petition with the Appellate Division of the SC seeking a stay order on the HC's injunction order.

Chamber Judge Justice Md Nuruzzaman of the Appellate Division stayed the HC order on June 30.

Yesterday, lawyer Tanvir moved the same writ petition before the HC.

Talking to this newspaper, he said

there was no legal bar on collection of bills by Dhaka Wasa as per the hiked water tariff as the SC's stay order was still in force.

"Dhaka Wasa was supposed to file a leave to appeal petition with the Supreme Court against the High Court's June 22 injunction order. But I don't know whether Wasa has filed the leave to appeal petition. If they move the leave to appeal petition before the Appellate Division, we will place arguments opposing it," Tanvir said.

He said the HC would deliver a verdict on the matter after holding hearing on the rule issued yesterday.

Deputy Attorney General Noor-Ur Sadik represented the state while lawyer Saifuzzaman Tuhin appeared for Dhaka Wasa.

PM for prompt action

FROM PAGE 1

Recalling the brutal attacks of August 15, 1975 when Sheikh Russel, along with other children, was also killed during the assassination of the Father of the Nation and his family members, she said death of any children shocks her seriously. "No matter whether it happens in our country or abroad, in the Bay of Bengal or on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea, every incident hurts me."

She said she wants this world to be a reliable, livable and peaceful place for the children where each of them will have a bright future.

Reiterating that children are the future of the nation, she said they need to be built as worthy citizens of the country.

"We have to give them the scope for flourishing their talent, knowledge and intelligence. And that's possible through creating an appropriate environment for their studies and good health. This will ensure a better life for them which will make a prosperous future for them."

Hasina said children are passing miserable days due to the Covid-19 pandemic as schools are closed. "This is very much painful for them. What will they do sitting at home?"

She urged the parents and guardians to take children outside of

their homes to any nearby park or any other place where they could play at least for an hour. "This is very much needed for their mental and physical health, and we all have to maintain their health hygiene and safety."

The PM said the government has arranged classes for the students on TV and online so that their academic activities could be continued during this pandemic.

Hasina said there may be some problems in leading life and all will have to move forward resolving those issues.

She also briefly described various government initiatives taken for the children, including distribution of free textbooks, stipends and different kinds of incentives during normal time and pandemic situation.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatun Nessa Indira presided over the programme.

The premier at the inaugural function unveiled the covers of a series of children's books -- "Amra Ekechi 100 Mujib", a book published with selected pictures drawn by children, and "Amra Likhechi 100 Mujib", another book published with writings of children, -- written on the life and works of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of the "Mujib Year".

Mental health

FROM PAGE 1

WHO's survey found that 30 percent of countries reported some disruption in emergency mental health provision and medication supplies for people with disorders.

Prevention services were sharply affected while travel restrictions hindered patient access to health facilities.

However, countries are learning to respond with innovative solutions such as telemedicine and teletherapy interventions.

The WHO also said more data was needed on Covid-19's effect on brain health, with fewer than one in 10 countries conducting research.

The WHO said that estimates before the coronavirus pandemic showed that nearly \$1.0 trillion in economic productivity was lost annually from

depression and anxiety alone.

However, studies showed that every dollar spent on evidence-based care for depression and anxiety returned \$5.00.

On Saturday, the WHO is hosting on social media "The Big Event for Mental Health", calling for increased investment.

Those taking part include Queen Mathilde of the Belgians; footballer Alisson Becker, the Brazil and Liverpool goalkeeper; and pop star Lady Gaga's mother Cynthia Germanotta.

Also involved are the widow of Chester Bennington, the Linkin Park singer who committed suicide in 2017, and Klas Bergling, the father of the Swedish superstar DJ Avicii, who was found dead two years ago aged 28.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Residents of Bhabadaha in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore form a human chain in the stagnant water to mark the Bhabadaha Day yesterday. People of the region have been suffering waterlogging for years with no end in sight.

Indifference drowned cries for justice

FROM PAGE 1

action against the officials of Begumganj Police Station, including its officer-in-charge, for their negligence in protecting the victim and taking more prompt action against the perpetrators.

The home secretary, deputy commissioner and superintendent of police in Noakhali, the upazila nirbahi officer of Begumganj and other officials concerned have been made respondents to the rule, Deputy Attorney General Nawroz MR Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

The HC bench issued the directives and rule after Supreme Court lawyers ZI Khan Panna and Abdullah Al Mamun placed newspaper reports on the incident before the bench for necessary directives.

The HC also formed a three-member committee led by the additional deputy commissioner of Noakhali to conduct an inquiry into whether there was any negligence on the part of police in recording statements from the victim over the incident.

The two other members of the committee are the social service officer of Noakhali and the principal of Chaumuhoni Government SA College. The committee has been asked to submit the probe report to this court in 15 days.

The HC bench also ordered the OC of Begumganj Police Station to submit a report on the update of the criminal cases filed by the victim in connection with the incident to this court on October 28, and ordered the superintendent of police of Noakhali to provide all protection to the victim and her family.

Meanwhile, law enforcers have arrested four people, including the

main accused amid widespread outrage.

"We did not even know the incident took place or we would have taken prompt action," said Harunur Rashid Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Begumganj Police Station.

The arrestees are: main accused Badal, "Delwar Bahini" chief Delwar, Rahmat Ullah and Abdur Rahim.

Rab arrested Badal in Dhaka and Delwar in Narayanganj, recovering weapons from his person, said Lt Col Khandakar Saiful Alam of Rab-11 yesterday.

Rahmat Ullah was arrested in Begumganj upazila yesterday, reports our Noakhali correspondent quoting Shajahan Sheikh, additional superintendent of police of Begumganj Circle.

Abdur Rahim was held on Sunday night soon after the video went viral, confirmed OC Chowdhury.

The survivor, who was in hiding, was sought out and brought to the police station to file cases against the perpetrators. She named nine people, and mentioned that seven or eight unknown people were also present. In addition to those arrested, the others named in the case are Abul Kalam, Israfil Hossain Miah, Shaju, Shamsuddin Sumon, Abdur Rob and Arif.

Two cases were filed, one under the Pornography Control Act and the other addressing her rape and torture under the Women and Children Repression (Prevention) Act, informed our correspondent.

The police, however, booked the men seen in the video under "attempt to rape" charges.

As per the video, the perpetrators did not engage in penile-vaginal intercourse, and instead used their

hands, as well as a large stick as a tool.

In addition, the survivor herself narrated in her first information report that the perpetrators used their hands as instruments in carrying out the act of insertion.

The charge of rape carries a life sentence, whereas "attempt to rape" commits perpetrators between 5 to 10 years.

Lawyers familiar with the incident opined that this was definitely rape. "There is video evidence of what happened. It does not matter if the rape was executed using tools like hands or sticks as long as the rape happened," said Salma Ali, eminent women's rights lawyer.

She said that the video evidence can be used to turn the charges into rape charges. Ali also advised that all stakeholders of the future trial need to be sensitised. "There is video evidence of the rape. This will be played over and over again and scrutinised by lawyers, policemen, judges. That this trial is not a further cause for trauma for the survivor must be ensured."

In its suo moto rule mentioned above, the High Court yesterday also directed the chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to immediately remove the video footage from social media. The HC also asked the BTRC chairman to record the copy of the video footage in a compact disk (CD) or USB drive before removing it from social media.

The court heard opinions from lawyers including Supreme Court Bar Association President AM Amin Uddin, its Secretary Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, Jyotirmoy Barua, Yadia Zaman, Jamiul Haque Faisal, Rashida Chowdhury Nilu and Tanjim Al Islam before passing the orders.

Shocked, enraged

FROM PAGE 1

As many as 975 women and children were raped in the first nine months of this year. Of them, 208 were gang-raped, according to Ain o Salish Kendra, a rights organisation.

In the capital, several hundred protesters staged demonstrations in Shahbagh and Uttara areas, carrying placards and shouting slogans.

Left-leaning activists under the banners of "Shahbagh Against Oppression" and "Bondi Somoyer Chitkar" started demonstrating in front of the National Museum around 11:15am. They staged a sit-in at the Shahbagh intersection at yesterday noon, slowing down vehicular movement in the area.

"Today, the entire Bangladesh has been raped... One rape after another is happening across the country from hill tracts to plain land," Liton Nandi, former general secretary of Chhatra Union, said at the sit-in.

Such incidents are recurring because of the culture of impunity, and the ruling party men are mostly involved in those, he said, calling for resignation of the home minister.

In the afternoon, the protesters brought out an anti-rape stick procession, chanting slogans on Dhaka streets. In slogans, the protesters said they want "Azadi" [freedom] from rape and abuse.

Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad under the banner of "Students- People Against Rape and Abuse" held a protest rally in front of the National Museum.

The Parishad leaders said the government was responsible for the rise in rape incidents across the country, and alleged that it is sheltering the ruling party men involved in such incidents.

"No one is safe... Isn't a wife being taken away from her husband and getting raped? Aren't innocent people

becoming victims in crossfire?" said Nurul Haque Nur, former vice president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), and joint convener of the Parishad.

Demanding resignation of the home minister, he said, "What is our home minister doing? They are the ones who promote people like OC Pradeep."

Several hundred people brought out a protest procession from the House Building area in the capital's Uttara, demanding exemplary punishment to the culprits.

ActionAid Bangladesh and the National Women's Violence Prevention Forum formed a human chain in front of Shyamoli Square.

In Narayanganj, Farhana Manik Muna, a final year student of the management department of the Tolaram College, staged a sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar in Chashara area from 9:00am to 7:00pm.

Similar protest programmes were held in at least 24 districts, including Noakhali, Kushtia, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Naogaon, Bagerhat, Nilphamari, Satkhira, Pirojpur, Meherpur, Jashore, Netrakona, Narasingdi, Natore, protesting the recent incidents of rape.

'SHOCKED, ANGRY, FRUSTRATED' Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), the ASK, Naripokkho, Breaking the Silence, Pragrosor, Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS) and WeCan expressed grave concern, shock and anger over the gang-rape incident in Begumganj.

In a statement yesterday, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, "We are shocked and deeply saddened by this incident. Such incidents are on the rise now because of the culture of impunity for the criminals. Women rarely get justice for oppression on them."

"Horrific incidents like rape and

said.

"Validity of my iqama was not extended. I had to contact my sponsor personally and had to pay Tk 45,000 [2,000 Saudi riyal] for the extension," he added.

Liaquat Hossainj, of Keraniganj, who came to the country on February 3, said, "I had to pay Tk 67,000 [3,000 Saudi riyal] for extending my iqama

until October 18 after it expired on September 30."

Asked, Borhan Uddin, director general (West Asia) of the foreign ministry, yesterday said very few migrant workers were facing difficulties regarding their return to Saudi Arabia.

This is happening because their sponsors do not want them to return, he said.

SC keeps trial of cases against Dr Yunus stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court orders that stayed trial proceedings of five separate cases filed against Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus over sacking five employees of Grameen Communications.

The Appellate Division of the SC, however, asked the HC to hear and dispose of the rules issued questioning the trial proceedings of the cases as early as possible.

A three-member apex court bench headed by Justice Muhammad Imman Ali issued the orders after disposing of five separate leave to appeal petitions filed by the state challenging the HC orders of stay.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Dasgupta moved the state's leave to appeal petitions, saying that the petitions upon which the HC has stayed the trial proceedings of the cases against Prof Muhammad are not acceptable.

Mustafizur Rahman Khan, a defence lawyer for Prof Muhammad Yunus, told The Daily Star that the five employees used to work for Grameen Communications on a contract basis.

"As their contracts were not renewed, they filed five separate cases with a lower court in July last year against the company's Chairman Prof Muhammad Yunus and a few others," he said, adding that the former employees claimed that they were terminated as they wanted to form a trade union.

Following five separate petitions filed by Dr Muhammad Yunus, the HC in March this year stayed the trial proceedings of the cases and issued rules asking the state to explain why the proceedings of the cases should not be scrapped.

The petitions filed with the HC said only the directorate of labour could file such cases under the labour act and no individual could file such cases against his client, Mustafizur Rahman said.

The lawyer said as the Appellate Division has not interfered in the HC's stay orders and the trial proceedings against Dr Yunus will remain halted.

Prof Muhammad Yunus is on bail in all cases against him, the lawyer added.

Couple killed in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A couple was found dead at their house in Gobindapur village of Chuadanga's Damurhuda on Sunday evening.

The victims are: Yar Ali and his wife Rozina Khatun. Their throats were slit, police said.

Quoting locals, Abdul Khalek, officer-in-charge of Damurhuda Police Station, said Yar and Rozina were last seen Saturday evening.

As nobody had seen then since Sunday morning, neighbours became worried.

Through a window, a neighbour saw the couple's bodies inside the house around 7:00pm on Sunday, the OC said.

On information, police recovered the bodies.

Police suspected that criminals killed the two on Saturday night.

They said Yar, who had two wives, had a feud with his second wife over property.

A case was filed against five unknown people with Damurhuda Police Station.

Police detained five people, including the second wife of Yar and her two brothers, for interrogation.

Turkey pledges 'full solidarity' with Libya unity govt

AFP, Istanbul

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday expressed "full solidarity" with Libya's UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) during a meeting in Istanbul, his office said.

Erdogan met with the head of the Tripoli-based government, Fayez al-Sarraj, who last month announced plans to step down within six weeks as part of efforts to broker a peace agreement.

Saudia to operate

FROM PAGE 1

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has permission to operate nine chartered flights to three cities in Saudi Arabia a week. The Bangladesh government has said it will allow Saudi to operate as many flights it wants.

Alowaidi said they are operating 10 weekly flights on an average and every day they are trying to increase the number of special flights to carry more passengers.

"We are likely to operate 50 to 60 flights including scheduled and special ones in October," he added.

"We are doing our best and I am sure you are aware of this. Our ticket-selling office is open even on Friday and Saturday until late hours.

"We are hopeful of carrying all the passengers to Saudi Arabia if they have visas. We are giving priority to the Bangladeshis who have a valid visa and return ticket."

‘Govt can’t avoid liability for rape’

Quader calls for united resistance

UNB, Dhaka

The government cannot avoid the liability for various incidents of violence against women, including rape, said Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

“Rape is undoubtedly a heinous crime and a social disorder...,” he said, adding that they will not spare anyone involved in such crimes.

The minister came up with the remarks at a press conference at his ministry, calling upon all to forge a united resistance against incidents of rape and violence against women.

Responding to a question, Quader, also the general secretary of ruling Awami League, said, “There have been reports of rape and violence against women in different parts of the country in recent times. We cannot avoid the responsibility for this. How can the government avoid responsibility when it’s in power?”

Mentioning that the government is bringing those involved in such crimes to justice and they are being punished, he said, “Yet, this crime is happening at some places. Recently, incidents like rape have grown in our neighbouring countries too.”

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Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday began a drive against illegal battery-run three-wheelers within its jurisdiction. A mobile court yesterday towed a number of vehicles on Satmasjid Road near Zigatala, and filed seven cases.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

93pc of healthcare, medical waste left unmanaged: Brac

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 93.4 percent of the generated medical and healthcare waste every day from households and healthcare units across the country is left unmanaged due to lack of a proper management system, causing severe environmental pollution as well as health problems, a study has found.

“Effective Management of Medical Waste amid Covid-19 Pandemic” was conducted by the Climate Change Programme of Brac from July 20 to August 10. Results of the study were shared in a webinar yesterday.

The total volume of waste amid the Covid-19 pandemic generated every day is 530.45 tonnes across the country, of which 282.45 tonnes is healthcare waste and 248 tonnes medical waste, said Dr Md Mostafizur Rahman, a professor of Jahangirnagar University, who presented the outcome of the study.

The study found that of the 530.45 tonnes per day of Covi-19 related waste is generated from households and healthcare establishments, only 6.6 percent is somehow managed formally, while 93.4 percent is not under the current hospital waste management procedure.

“The waste generated from hospitals and other healthcare facilities in Dhaka city has been managed at least partly by a third party (PRISM Bangladesh Foundation), a well-known medical waste manager in Bangladesh. But, the capacity of well-structured third party is very limited and their coverage is only five districts so far, which means about 93 percent area is not covered,” he said.

The 282.45 tonnes of healthcare waste generated every day from protective items used by general people to protect themselves against Covid-19, all of which are mixed with household waste before disposal, he said.

Most of the recommendations from the experts point towards the establishment of a comprehensive medical waste management policy and waste management system, and to ensure the implementation of legal

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An artisan sculpting a Durga idol at the city's Dharmashala Temple. They say the celebration is providing a boost to their livelihood.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Clay artisans in M’singh finally back in business

Orders coming in ahead of Durga Puja

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

After several months, the clay is being moulded, the paintbrushes are running, and idols of deities are on their way to mandaps for the big celebration.

After staying idle due to the pandemic, artisans in Mymensingh city and other districts are busy completing orders ahead of Durga Puja, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Hindu community.

“We were depressed ahead of the festival, but fortunately, we finally got orders and are working under immense pressure to deliver the idols on time,” said Joyonta Kumar Ghosh, a leading artisan in Mymensingh city.

“I got orders for 14 idols from Mymensingh city, and the rate is between Tk 15,000-50,000, which is less than that of last year,” said Joyonta, also proprietor of “Mritt O Mrittika”.

“Last year, seven workers were busy completing idols for over two months, but this year, I had to engage nine workers for timely delivery,” he said.

“There were also occasions for various pujas -- including Basanti, Ganga, Ganesh and Bipodnashini pujas -- that went away during the pandemic, and we could not work...These religious celebrations give us important financial support throughout the year,” he added.

Shambhu Das, proprietor of “Sajib

Mrittika Shilpalaya”, said he only got six orders, which are almost half that of last year. “But we are under huge pressure, as the orders came in a short time, that too amid worker shortage,” he said.

“Usually, we start getting orders three or four months earlier and work in a relaxed manner, but this year, we got them a month ago. But we’re happy to get them,” he added.

Joy Podder, another artisan at the city’s Daspara area, said he got orders for 11 idols, although it was 14 last year.

“As many of us had used up deposited money during the shutdown, we currently can’t invest money to take more orders,” he said.

“After a break for more than seven months, we’re busy supporting our families. Many workers have engaged themselves in other professions for survival,” said 55-year-old Dinesh Pal, an artisan hailing from Mymensingh’s Phulpur upazila.

“After struggling during the pandemic, we now have the opportunity to make idols, and we’ll go for painting and other related works within the second week of October,” said Nikhil Chandra Pal, the 80-year-old artisan from the city’s Dharmashala Temple.

“Clay artistes will see better days in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM

PM to chair global event tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh along with Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) will host the virtual Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) leaders’ event tomorrow.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the current president of the CVF will chair the event that will begin at 7pm, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The CVF leaders and other speakers will focus on the urgent need for all countries to strengthen climate action and adaptation efforts by enhancing the Paris Agreement national contributions in 2020 at the event.

UN Secretary General António Guterres, Chair of GCA Ban Ki-moon, heads of state and government of the CVF countries, the United Kingdom and Italy (host and co-host of COP26), the Netherlands, CVF thematic ambassadors and other international partners will join the event.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister ... will also join the event.

CVF is an international partnership of countries highly vulnerable to a warming planet.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

AKMA Awal, wife get HC bail in graft cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail for four weeks to former member of parliament from Pirojpur AKMA Awal and his wife Laila Parveen in two separate corruption cases.

The HC also asked Awal and Parveen to surrender to the trial court concerned after four weeks in connection with the cases.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel came up with the order after hearing two separate petitions recently filed by Awal and Parveen seeking anticipatory bail in the cases.

Awal and Parveen appeared before the HC bench during the hearing.

Anti-Corruption Commission’s lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that it can be said after going through the full text of HC order on which ground it granted bail to Awal and Parveen.

ACC will file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC order, Khurshid said.

The ACC filed a case with its Dhaka office on September 30 against Awal, who was elected lawmaker from Pirojpur-1 in 2008 and 2014, on charge of illegally amassing Tk 33 crore.

The same day, the commission filed another case against Laila over illegally amassing Tk 10.98 crore.

Teachers demand secondary education be nationalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers across the globe celebrated World Teacher’s Day yesterday with the theme “Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future”.

To mark the day, Bangladesh Shikhhak Samity and MPO Bhukto Shikhhak Protisthan Jatiyakoron Liaison Forum held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. At the rally, the teachers demanded nationalisation of secondary education to not only ensure quality education, but also end the hardships faced by non-MPO educators.

Many non-government teachers are passing their days in dire condition in the absence of adequate salaries and benefits, they said. They also expressed dissatisfaction over the fact that there was no official observance of the day in the country.

Nazrul Islam Rony, president of Bangladesh Shikhhak Samity, urged the government to nationalise the secondary education sector by December this year, saying, “Otherwise we will initiate stern

movements to press our demands,” he said.

Swadhinata Shikhhak Parishad organised a webinar to mark the day, where its general secretary Shahjahan Alam Shaju said Bangladesh still invests only 2.4 percent to 2.5 percent of its GDP for education, although it should be at least six percent.

Several speakers alleged that many teachers are living under miserable conditions in the absence of adequate salaries and benefits from the government.

Speaking there, Education Minister Dipu Moni said that although many are demanding the nationalisation of secondary schools, there are some financial and policy related issues connected with this, adding that the government has taken various measures so teachers can live a dignified life.

She said that government is now prioritising infrastructural development.

In another event at Jatiya Press Club, chairperson of Shikhhak Karmachary Oikya Jote Selim Bhuiyan demanded nationalisation of all teaching jobs by November.

Trial of Abrar Fahad murder underway

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case began at a Dhaka tribunal yesterday, with deposition of the complainant.

Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka recorded the statement of complainant Md Barkat Ullah, father of the victim, for over an hour.

Later, the defence for accused Anik Sarkar started cross-examination of the complainant. As the defence could not complete it, the judge set today for the next hearing.

In his statement, the complainant told the court that he came to know from people that some students of Buet’s Sher-e-Bangla Hall, in a pre-planned way, beat his son to death.

Later, he came to Dhaka and discussed with some students and teachers and came to know from CCTV footage that 19 students, including Anik Sarkar, beat up his son mercilessly with cricket stumps, sticks and skipping rope, sometime between 8:05pm on October 6 and 2:30am on October 7 last year, with an intent to kill him.

“After collecting CCTV footage, information from other students and teachers and consulting with my relatives, I filed the case against the accused with Chawkbazar Police Station,” the complainant said in his statement.

The witness also said the accused killed his son due to previous enmity and later, eight of the

accused narrated to magistrates how they tortured his son to death.

The complainant sought exemplary punishment for all the 25 accused.

Twenty-two of the accused -- now in jail -- were produced before the tribunal during yesterday’s hearing. Three other accused -- Mustaba Rafid, Muhammad Morshed-Uz-Zaman Mondol alias Jishan and Ehtashamul Rabbi Tanim -- have been absconding since the incident.

On October 7 last year, Abrar, a second-year student of Buet, was beaten to death by a group of Buet unit Chhatra League activists in a dormitory.

Later, Abrar’s father filed the murder case.

The incident triggered a firestorm of protests on campuses across the country. Many took to social media to demand justice for Abrar.

Amid protest, Buet authorities on October 11 banned all political activities on the campus and suspended 19 students, mostly leaders of the university’s BCL unit who have been made accused in the case.

Eight of the accused gave their confessional statements before separate magistrates narrating the horrifying torture during investigation on different dates last year.

Inspector Md Wahiduzaman of Detective Branch of police submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Dhaka against 25 Buet students on November 13 last year.

An unusual offering as a last-ditch effort

With hopes to appease it, villagers in Barishal pour khichuri into Arial Kha

SUSHANTA GHOSH

On Saturday afternoon, thousands of villagers gathered around the banks of the Arial Kha river with a resolve. Over the past few years, erosion caused by the river has intensified, submerging two mosques, a primary school, at least 50 houses, and hundreds of acres of agricultural land.

On the day, right after Zuhur prayers, villagers participated in a milad, went to the river bank adjacent to Aroji Kalikapur Primary School -- under Babuganj upazila of Barishal district --, and poured at least three decks of khichuri into the river.

“We organised the action with a hope to protect the village from erosion,” said Mizanur Rahman, a member of Chadpasha union. “Many villagers volunteered to provide 48 kilogrammes of rice, while someone donated money for the other ingredients.”

“We spent a little more than Tk 10,000 to buy 30kg lentil, around 40kg vegetable, 10kg hen meat and spices and cooked the khichuri,” he added.

Dulal Hawlader, a retired office assistant at Barishal Divisional Office and president of the organising committee, said, “The river is very angry here, eager to devour everything it comes across. We have poured the khichuri with the hope to appease it. If Allah wants, the erosion can be stopped.”

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Activists of left-leaning parties scuffle with police at Shahbagh yesterday as they try to break through barricades set up by law enforcers. They were heading towards PMO, demanding arrears and announcement of minimum wage for jute mill workers.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Left alliance’s march for jute mill workers obstructed in capital

UNB, Dhaka

Democratic Left Alliance (DLA) activists and police scuffled yesterday at Shahbagh during a procession demanding arrears and announcement of minimum wage for jute mill workers.

A procession of DLA, an alliance of eight left-leaning parties, was heading towards the Prime Minister’s Office but police obstructed it at Shahbagh.

The scuffle took place when protesters tried to break through barricades set up by police in front of hotel InterContinental Dhaka.

Left parties have been demanding the reopening of all state-owned jute mills and their modernisation. They also sought payment of workers’ arrears and the announcement of minimum wage for them.

DLA has been protesting since the closure of the 25 state-run jute mills under Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

The government’s plan was to bring in private sector players who would oversee the reopening of the chronically loss-making mills as viable commercial entities. But no investor has come forward yet.

BARISHAL CITY

Choupasha Bridge’s damaged slope stays unrepaired for 1yr

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

The slope of Choupasha Bridge over a branch of the river Kalijira is yet to be repaired even one year after it got damaged following an accident in Barishal.

Eventually, the entire part of this vulnerable section of Tiakhali Road may cave in into the river, snapping communication, said locals.

Bitumen is already falling into the waterbody, said Rubaiyat Hossein Khan from the city’s Tiakhali area.

“We have been submitting complaints about the situation to the Barishal City Corporation authorities and the ward councillor concerned for one year, but to no avail,” he said.

Rubaiyat said a goods-laden covered van hit the bridge’s railing and one of its front wheels fell onto the slope damaging it in November 2019. The vehicle, subsequently, overturned and plunged into the waterbody, he added.

Nahid Hossain, a local shopkeeper, said the accident had happened when the van attempted to go down the bridge.

“We informed the matter to Water Development Board that set up some bamboos at the slope edge as a means for temporary protection,” he said.

The Barishal City Corporation -- which

is entrusted with the bridge and road maintenance -- salvaged the covered van but did not fix the damaged portion, said Nahid.

Echoing them, Mozammel Mia, a trucker, said the battered part needs immediate repair to avoid further accident.

Humayun Kabir, councillor of ward-26, said BCC built the 70-foot long bridge over the branch river at Tk 60 lakh in 2011. Following the accident, a portion of its railing also got damaged. “To mend those, I repeatedly put a proposal on the emergency work list, but the BCC did not give much importance to it,” he added.

BCC Executive Engineer Anisuzzaman said they only supervise technical issues, do not approve any proposal.

Chief Executive Officer Israil Hossain told The Daily Star that the proposal will be included in June next year. “We have sent bags of sand to dump there. So, there is no possibility for the damaged part of going into the river,” he said.

When asked why the project proposal is not taken on emergency basis yet, the CEO said it is the mayor who knows about it better.

This correspondent could not reach BCC Mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah over the phone, despite repeated attempts.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

Locals of Arjikalikapur village pour food into the Arial Kha river in Barishal’s Babuganj upazila, with the belief of halting river erosion. Inset, the food was also distributed among locals before the offering.



An unusual

FROM PAGE 3

This may not make much sense to outsiders, but according to him, there’s precedence for this kind of rituals.

“Many years ago, our forefathers had appeased the Kirtankhola river at Barishal river port area this way,” he said.

Villagers said they had tried many different methods to calm the river down, but none worked. As a last ditch effort, they arranged for the ritual.

However, not all of the khichuri was poured into the river. Around half of it was given away to the

disadvantaged in the area.

UNO Amrurul Islam of Babuganj said, “I have not heard of the issue, but we’re aware of the river erosion problems in the area. The Water Development Board officials have already visited the area to initiate a river bank protection project immediately.”



The unrepaired slope of Choupasha Bridge that got damaged following an accident around a year ago creates a possibility of further accident. City authorities say it may be another eight months before even a proposal to repair it can be accepted. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Govt can’t

FROM PAGE 3

He said those involved in violence against women will not be spared. “Even if they belong to our party, they must be brought to justice. It’s not just in words, it is being done in reality,” he added.

“There is no need to politicise all issues.

To prevent such crimes, it’s necessary to build a social resistance,” he said.

The minister urged all to cooperate with the government in bringing criminals to book. He also said those who are involved in abetting such crimes will not be spared.

PM to chair

FROM PAGE 3

Founded in 2009, the forum serves as a South-South cooperation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change.

Bangladesh has assumed CVF presidency for 2020-22 for the second time after its

successful tenure as CVF president in 2011-13.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched Bangladesh regional office of Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) for South Asia in Dhaka, which will also be served as CVF Secretariat, according to the existing MoU between GCA and CVF Secretariat.

93pc of

FROM PAGE 3

codes through the government regulatory authority, said Mostafizur.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Chairperson of Brac, said four aspects need to be prioritised to tackle the crisis.

“Turning public awareness into a habit, coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, achieving waste management capabilities, and fixing a sustainable solution to the existing problem -- these four aspects are crucial to tackle the crisis. There should be a specific division in terms of who is doing what and the ministries of health, environment and local government should work together to this end,” he said.

Dr AKM Rafique Ahmed, director general of Department of Environment, said, “Currently, there is no specific infrastructure or initiative in the current system for medical waste management. This is crucial to public health and this can be implemented through public-private partnership.”

Brac’s extensive network across the country can be utilised to bring out a timely solution to this crisis, he said, adding that DoE would like to get Brac as a partner in this regard.

Air Commodore Md Badrul Amin, chief waste management officer of Dhaka South City Corporation, said, “Medical waste related to Covid-19 are getting mixed with regular waste and these remain unseparated.”

“Efforts are underway to make people aware so that they keep their medical waste separated. Even hospital waste is being mixed with regular waste which is hazardous for public health. Directorates concerned should be communicated to make sure that hospital waste is being handed separately to authorities concerned,” he added.

The study, conducted by Brac Climate Change Programme, reveals that 71 percent of the surveyed population use PPE, and a large portion of them live in cities. Almost all households dispose of their Covid-19-related waste mixed with their household waste due to a lack of proper management service, it found.

Waste collectors have also said they have found Covid-19 related waste among household waste during collection.

However, 81.4 percent of the participants think that the untreated waste may increase the risk of infection and 90.6 percent have expressed that these untreated waste are harmful to health and the environment.

Among others, Brac executive director Asif Saleh and senior advisor Md Abdul Karim also spoke at the programme.

Clay artisans

FROM PAGE 3

future,” hoped Nikhil, who has been in his ancestral profession for 60 years.

Shankar Saha, organising secretary of the district’s puja celebration committee, said 773 mandaps for Durga Puja were set up in the district last year.

The number would be similar this year, he said.

“We have already held a meeting with

Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner Md Mizanur Rahman, and he suggested us to maintain social distancing and health guidelines,” he said.

Puja mandap committees have already been asked to arrange facilities for hand sanitisation and not allow devotees inside mandaps without masks, informed Shankar.




Study Abroad

Global University Admission & Visa Processing Centre

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House # 15, Road # 17, Banani, C/A, Dhaka
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RING TOWER
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বাংলা একাডেমি

৩ কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, রমনা, ঢাকা ১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সাধারণ পরিষদের ৪৩তম বার্ষিক সভা ২০২০

বাংলা একাডেমির সম্মানিত ফেলো, জীবনসদস্য ও সাধারণসদস্যদের জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলা একাডেমির সাধারণ পরিষদের ৪৩তম বার্ষিক সভা আগামী ১১ই পৌষ ১৪২৭/২৬শে ডিসেম্বর ২০২০ তারিখ শনিবার স্বাস্থ্যবিধি মেনে একাডেমি প্রাঙ্গণে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।


বিদ্যমান যে সকল সাধারণসদস্য ২০১৯-২০২০ এবং ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থবছরের চাঁদা পরিশোধ করেননি তাদের আগামী ২০শে কার্তিক ১৪২৭/২৬ই নভেম্বর ২০২০ তারিখের মধ্যে চাঁদা পরিশোধ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে (বিকাশ নম্বর: ০১৭১৯০৯০২৭৬)।

সাধারণ পরিষদের বার্ষিক সভায় উত্থাপনের জন্য অনধিক দুটি প্রস্তাব আগামী ২০শে কার্তিক ১৪২৭/২৬ই নভেম্বর ২০২০ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নলিখিতকানায় প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। প্রস্তাব সুনির্দিষ্ট, তথ্যবহুল এবং সংক্ষিপ্ত হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়।

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বিস্তারিত: বাংলা একাডেমির ওয়েবসাইট
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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন একাডেমী (এনএপিডি)

পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়
নীলক্ষেত্র, ঢাকা-১২০৫
www.napd.gov.bd

প্রশিক্ষণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কোর্সের নাম	: Post Graduate Diploma in Development Planning (PGDDP)
ব্যাচ	: ৩৩তম ব্যাচ
মেয়াদ	: ০১ বছর (জানুয়ারি-ডিসেম্বর, ২০২১)
ক্রাসের সময়সূচি	: সন্ধ্যা ০৭:৩০-০৯:৩০ (রবি, মঙ্গল ও বুধবার)
প্রশিক্ষণ পদ্ধতি	: মিশ্র (৮০% অনলাইন + ২০% ক্যাম্পাস ভিত্তিক) ও স্বল্পধরনে বৈদেশিক শিক্ষাসফর
কোর্স ফি	: ভ্যাট ও আয়কর ব্যতিত ৬৫,০০০.০০ (১ম কিস্তি ৪০,০০০.০০ টাকা, ২য় কিস্তি ২৫,০০০.০০ টাকা)
প্রশিক্ষণার্থীর পর্যায়	: সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত এবং বেসরকারি
শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	: স্নাতক/সমমান
বিস্তারিত তথ্য	: জনাব মোঃ রমজান আলী
জানার জন্য	: প্রশিক্ষক ও কোর্স সমন্বয়কারী মোবাইল: ০১৮১৬-২৬৪০৪৬ ইমেইল: ramjan.napd@gmail.com
জিডি-১৫৮৫	

Lost

The Agent of USA, name KESCO, Bill of Lading No. KLI-0007007 has lost. In this regard a General Diary, No. 1171 Date: 27/08/20 has been filed under Teigaon Industrial Area Police Station.

D-121




ASSOCIATED OXYGEN LIMITED

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Notice for IPO Lottery Conduction Program


The Management & Staff of ASSOCIATED OXYGEN LIMITED express their profound gratitude to the Almighty and to the honorable investors for successful completion of subscription of the IPO of the company. The Company takes great pleasure to announce that the application for Share has been oversubscribed by **31.461** times against Public Offering of Tk. **15,00,00,000 (Fifteen Crore)**. The Management also gratefully acknowledges the co-operation and services rendered by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Bangladesh Bank, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE), Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited (CSE), CDBL, Underwriters, Banker to the Issue, Manager(s) to the Issues & Post Issue Manager. This is to inform the valued investors that the IPO lottery of our company will be held on **digital platform** at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 in accordance with the press release of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission dated July 16, 2020. The company cordially invites all the honorable investors to watch the live telecast of the event and participate in the seed collection process of the lottery through online by log in to **<http://aol.ipolotterybd.net>**.

-Company Secretary



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়
প্রধান কার্যালয়
ঢাকা



তারিখঃ ০৪/১০/২০২০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১০৯/২০২০

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড ও বাংলাদেশ হাউজ বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন-এ ‘সাব-এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (সিভিল)’ পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রার্থীদের MCQ Test গ্রহণের সময়সূচি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড ও বাংলাদেশ হাউজ বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন-এ ‘সাব-এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (সিভিল)’ পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে Online-এ প্রাপ্ত আবেদনসমূহ যাচাইয়াক্তে যোগ্য বিবেচিত প্রার্থীদের ১ ঘন্টা ব্যাপী ১০০ নম্বরের MCQ Test আগামী ১৭/১০/২০২০ তারিখ শনিবার সকাল ১০:০০টা থেকে ১১:০০টা পর্যন্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত কেন্দ্রসমূহে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

ক্রম নং	কেন্দ্রের নাম	ঠিকানা	রোল নম্বর
১।	সেন্ট্রাল উইমেন্স কলেজ	১৩/২, অভয় দাস লেন, টিকাটুলি, ঢাকা।	১০০১-৩১০০
২।	লালমাটিয়া উচ্চ বালিকা বিদ্যালয়	৯/১৫, ব্লক-ডি, লালমাটিয়া, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।	৩১০১-৪৫১৯

উক্ত পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট (<https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) এ ইতোমধ্যে আপলোড করা হয়েছে। প্রার্থীগণ পরীক্ষা শুরু অব্যবহিত পূর্ব পর্যন্ত তাদের প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করতে পারবে। উল্লেখ্য, পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশের পূর্বে প্রয়োজনীয় চেকিং কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য পরীক্ষা শুরুর কমপক্ষে ১ ঘন্টা পূর্বে পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হতে হবে এবং সামাজিক দূরত্ব মেনে সারিবদ্ধভাবে কেন্দ্রের অভ্যন্তরে প্রবেশ করতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতিরেকে কোনো প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না। পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষার হলে মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, স্মার্ট ওয়াচ বা অন্য কোন ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স ডিভাইজ, প্রবেশপত্রের একাধিক কপি নিয়ে প্রবেশ না করতে নির্দেশনা দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

উল্লেখ্য, মাস্ক পরিধান ব্যতিরেকে কোন প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

ডিসিপিং ৪৮/২০২০-২৬৪৯
তারিখঃ ০৫/১০/২০২০

স্বাক্ষরিত
আরিফ হোসেন খান
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ও
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়ারানির শিকার হলে কিংবা
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

জিডি-১৫৮৯



World Health Organization

Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids using “Two-envelope system” from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. RFP/BAN/2020/008: Costing, copy-editing and designing the ‘National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2020-2030’.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: 17:00hrs, 21 October 2020.

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from:
<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO– Country Office for Bangladesh, United House, 10 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

Erosion devours 10 Kurigram schools

More 20 educational institutions under threat of collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Erosion by the Brahmaputra, Teesta and Dharla rivers have devoured at least 10 government primary schools in different char areas under four upazilas of Kurigram in the last one month.

Four of the institutions are in Ulipur upazila, three in Chilmari, two in Rowmari, and one in Kurigram Sadar upazila.

According to Kurigram District Primary Education Office (DPEO), the schools that already went to the rivers womb are -- Char Krishnapur Government Primary School in Sadar upazila, Char Baladmari Government Primary School and Faluyar Char Government Primary School in Rowmari upazila, Uttar Khawriar Char Government Primary School, Char Mantola Government Primary School and Char Dighalkandi Government Primary School in Chilmari upazila, Char Juyan Satra Government Primary School, Char Nayadara Government Primary School, Char Khariza Latshala Government Primary

School and Char Bazra Government Primary School in Ulipur upazila.

Meanwhile, around 20 more educational institutions in different char areas of the district are in danger of being washed away as the erosion took a serious turn and the three rivers continued devouring fresh areas.

District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) Shahidul Islam said at least 10 educational institutions have already been washed away by the three rivers while another 20 schools in different Char areas are also under threat of collapse at any time.

"We have received an emergency budget to re-build two government primary schools, devoured by the Brahmaputra river in Rowmari upazila," the DPEO said, adding that he has already sent another letter, seeking allocation of more fund to rebuild the other educational institutions that already collapsed in the rivers.

If the erosion continues, they may not be able to save some more schools from devouring, the DPEO said.



The abandoned structure of Char Krishnapur Government Primary School in Kurigram Sadar upazila is only a few feet away from the Dharla river.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Local administration has recently removed illegal bamboo enclosures in Gaznar Beel of Pabna's Sujanagar upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Illegal bamboo enclosures block flow of Gaznar Beel

Local administration has removed 10 enclosures during a recent drive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Fishermen backed by local influential people have set up dozens of illegal bamboo enclosures at different points in Gaznar Beel, one of the largest water bodies in the district, blocking the natural flow of water, much to the worry of local farmers.

The local administration have recently demolished some bamboo enclosures.

A mobile court, led by Sujanagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Rawshan Ali, raided Horer Beel, Beel Gondohosti and Badai point, blocking the natural flow of the water body. During the drive, the mobile court demolished 10 big bamboo enclosures.

Locals said in the name of fishing, a group of influential people have set up a number of barriers blocking the natural flow of the water body. They set up bamboo enclosures with current nets, causing waterlogging.

Due to waterlogging, crop cultivation in the area is being badly hampered, said the UNO.

"Informed by locals, we have raided Horer Beel, Beel Gondohosti and Badai point and removed 10 bamboo enclosures. Nobody has the right to block the natural flow of the water body," he said.

Upazila agriculture officer Md Moynul Haque Sarkar said there are 17 thousand hectares of cultivated land in Gaznar Beel. Of them, around 10 thousand hectares are yet to be cultivated as floodwater remain stagnant in the water body due to the barriers.

He added that Gaznar Beel is filled up during flood. But later, the floodwater cannot be drained out timely as a group of people set up illegal bamboo enclosures there for fishing, much to the inconvenience of farmers.

The agriculture officer said about

eight to 10 thousand hectares of land are submerged for five to six months ever year. So the crop cultivation in Aman season and winter season is badly hampered here.

Md Habibur Rahman Habib, chairman of Bangladesh Rural Development Cooperative Foundation, said in 2012, Tk 413 core has been spent for the development of Gaznar Beel for the sake of cultivation but everything now seems meaningless because of the waterlogging.

He further added that some influential people have halted the flow of the water body by setting up illegal bamboo enclosures. It has happened due to the negligence of the local administration and the lack of timely action.

The drive will continue to remove the illegal bamboo enclosures in Gaznar Beel, said the UNO.



PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

Most of the roads and lanes in Rangpur city remain under stagnant rainwater for the last couple days. The district witnessed 433 millimetre rainfall, highest in the last 100 years, last week. The photo was taken on Saturday.


Man kills wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband over family feud in Jamalpur town on Sunday night.

The deceased, Fatema Begum, 35, third wife of Sayeed Ali of Kompapur area, was mother of four children.

Quoting locals, police said, following the death of one of their daughters a years ago, the couple often locked in altercation. Around 9:30pm, at one stage of altercation, Sayeed stabbed Fatema on the chest with a knife and fled the scene, leaving her dead on the spot, police said.



পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা সংস্থা

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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স্মারক নং: ৪২.০২.০০০০.০০৩.১৮.০১০.১৯ (খন্ড-১)- ২৩৭তারিখ: ২৯/০৯/২০২০

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা সংস্থার রাজস্ব খাতভুক্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত স্থায়ী পদসমূহে অস্থায়ীভিত্তিতে সরাসরি জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে পদের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত বয়সসীমা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	সর্বোচ্চ বয়স সীমা	জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল (২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা	পদের প্রকৃতি	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১।	মুখ্য বৈজ্ঞানিক কর্মকর্তা (অর্থনীতিবিদ)	৪০ বৎসর	৫০,০০০-৭১,২০০/-	০১টি	স্থায়ী	অর্থনীতি বিষয়ে প্রথম শ্রেণির স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রীসহ দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী এবং পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন কাজে ২ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ও পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন কাজে সর্বমোট ১৫ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।
২।	উর্ধ্বতন বৈজ্ঞানিক কর্মকর্তা (অর্থনীতিবিদ)	৩৫ বৎসর	৩৫,৫০০-৬৭,০১০/-	০১টি	স্থায়ী	অর্থনীতি বিষয়ে প্রথম শ্রেণির স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রীসহ দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী এবং পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন কাজে ২ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ও পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন কাজে সর্বমোট ৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।
৩।	উর্ধ্বতন বৈজ্ঞানিক কর্মকর্তা (সমাজ)	৩৫ বৎসর	৩৫,৫০০-৬৭,০১০/-	০১টি	স্থায়ী	সমাজ বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে প্রথম শ্রেণির স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রীসহ দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী এবং পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন কাজে ২ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ও পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন কাজে সর্বমোট ৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।
৪।	উর্ধ্বতন বৈজ্ঞানিক কর্মকর্তা/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (জনস্বাস্থ্য)	৩৫ বৎসর	৩৫,৫০০-৬৭,০১০/-	০১টি	স্থায়ী	পুরকৌশল বা পানি সম্পদ কৌশল বিষয়ে স্নাতক ডিগ্রী এবং পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন কাজের পানি সম্পদ প্রকৌশল ক্ষেত্রে ২ বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ও পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন কাজে সর্বমোট ৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা। বর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীধারীগণ অগ্রাধিকার পাইবেন।
৫।	বৈজ্ঞানিক কর্মকর্তা (সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, ভূ-পরিষ্ক পানি)	৩০ বৎসর	২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/-	০১ টি	স্থায়ী	পুরকৌশল বা পানি সম্পদ কৌশল বিষয়ে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতক ডিগ্রী। বর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীধারীগণ অগ্রাধিকার পাইবেন।
৬।	অফিস সহায়ক	৩০ বৎসর	৮২৫০-২০,০১০/-	০১টি	স্থায়ী	এস এস সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।


(খ) আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের নির্ধারিত ‘জীবন বৃত্তান্ত ছক’ পূরণপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য ও সংযুক্তিসহ স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত আবেদন পত্র ডাকযোগে অথবা সরাসরি আগামী ২৫-১০-২০২০ তারিখের মধ্যে সচিব, ওয়ারপো, “ওয়ারপো ভবন”, ৭২ গ্রীনরোড, ঢাকা-১২১৫ এই ঠিকানায় অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে অবশ্যই পৌঁছাতে হবে। জীবন বৃত্তান্ত ছক ওয়ারপো’র ওয়েবসাইটে (www.warpo.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে। উক্ত তারিখের পরে কোন আবেদন পত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

(গ) আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাগজপত্রসমূহ সংযোজন করতে হবেঃ

- ১। মহাপরিচালক ওয়ারপো এর অনুকূলে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে ক্রয়কৃত ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকার শুধুমাত্র MICR নম্বরযুক্ত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অথবা পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
- ২। সদ্য তোলা ৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি।
- ৩। এস. এস. সি/সমমান সনদপত্র সহ সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।
- ৪। উচ্চতর ডিগ্রী/ডিগ্রোমা (যদি থাকে) সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।
- ৫। জীবন বৃত্তান্ত ছকের ৯ ও ১২ নং অনুচ্ছেদে উল্লিখিত নিজ জেলা ও জাতীয়তার সমর্থনে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত নিজ জেলা উল্লেখ সম্বলিত জাতীয়তার সনদপত্রের মূল/সত্যায়িত কপি।
- ৬। জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।
- ৭। প্রথম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র।
- ৮। বিদেশী শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে প্রাপ্ত ডিগ্রীর ক্ষেত্রে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান নির্ধারণী সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি অবশ্যই দরখাস্তের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।

(ঘ) সাধারণ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ

- ১। মুখ বন্ধ খামের উপর পদের নাম উল্লেখপূর্বক আবেদন পত্র জমা দিতে হবে।
- ২। সকল সত্যায়ন/প্রত্যয়ন ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত হতে হবে।
- ৩। প্রাথমিকভাবে বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত সাপেক্ষে লিখিত, মৌখিক এবং প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অবতীর্ণ হতে হবে।
- ৪। প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা ২৫/১০/২০২০ তারিখে এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত পদের পার্শ্বে উল্লিখিত বয়সসীমার মধ্যে হতে হবে।
- ৫। চাকুরীকৃত প্রার্থীদেরকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে অনাপত্তিপত্রসহ নির্ধারিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে। এক্ষেত্রে আবেদন পত্রের কোন অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- ৬। অসম্পূর্ণ, ত্রুটিপূর্ণ ও ভুল তথ্য সম্বলিত আবেদন পত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ৭। শিক্ষা জীবনে কোন পরীক্ষায় তৃতীয় শ্রেণী বা সমমানের জিপিএ প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীর আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।
- ৮। কোন তথ্য গোপন করে বা ভুল তথ্য প্রদান করে চাকুরিতে নিয়োগ প্রাপ্ত হলে কিংবা কোন তথ্য মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়োগ আদেশ বাতিলসহ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করতে পারবে।
- ৯। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময়ে এ নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম স্থগিত, সময় পরিবর্তন বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- ১০। আবেদনকারীগণকে লিখিত/মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।



(এস এম শাহাব উদ্দিন মহিউদ) সচিব, ওয়ারপো।

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TRUMP'S HIGH-COURT NOMINEE

Pandemic sharpens Senate struggle

AFP, WASHINGTON

While Donald Trump is intent on getting his recent Supreme Court nominee confirmed before the November 3 presidential election, the eruption of Covid-19 into the Senate and the innermost circles of the White House has complicated the calendar.

A week ago, in the midst of his re-election campaign, the president summoned 150 invitees to a pomp-filled ceremony on the White House lawn -- with few masks in evidence -- to announce his nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to fill the now-vacant ninth seat on the US Supreme Court.

Trump is counting on his choice of the conservative judge, who opposes abortion rights, to galvanize voters on the religious right.

If confirmed as expected, Barrett will replace feminist and progressive icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died September 18.

But at least seven participants, including three Republicans, invited in the White House ceremony have since tested positive for the coronavirus, beginning with the president.

Barrett, who may have gained immunity from an earlier bout of Covid-19, has since tested negative.

Their illness complicates matters: the US Constitution charges the upper house of Congress with vetting and confirming a president's judicial appointees.

Republicans control 53 of the 100 seats in the Senate, but two of them -- Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski -- have said they oppose any vote before the election.

If the three ill senators were unable to return soon, their absence could deprive the party of its majority.

Meantime, Democrats are insisting on an in-person vote and demanding that the process be delayed.



US President Donald Trump rides by in the presidential motorcade in front of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he is being treated for the coronavirus disease in Bethesda, Maryland, US on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY

FIR against Nawaz, other leaders filed

DAWN ONLINE

A case was registered yesterday against Pakistan PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and other party leaders at the Shahdara Police Station in Lahore for 'conspiring' against the country and state institutions.

The case was registered by a citizen, Sadar Rasheed, under Section 10 (cyberterrorism) of the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (2016), and sections 120-A (definition of criminal conspiracy), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against Pakistan), 123-A (condemning the creation of the country and advocating the abolishment of its sovereignty), 124-A (sedition) and 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) of the Pakistan Penal Code.



The FIR also names party leaders Maryam Nawaz, Rana Sanaullah, Ahsan Iqbal, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Pervez Rashid, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Ataullah Tarar and others that participated in the PML-N's Central Executive Committee and Central Working Committee meetings held last week.

The complainant states that Nawaz has several corruption cases against him that are currently under trial in the courts. "Instead of availing medical treatment in London, Nawaz is carrying out a planned conspiracy to defame the country and its institutions by making inflammatory speeches," says the FIR, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com.

WHO believes 10pc of world has had Covid-19

Mulls speeding up internal reforms

AFP, GENEVA

The WHO estimated yesterday that 10 percent of the world has been infected by the new coronavirus -- way more than has been recorded -- as it mulled speeding up internal reforms.

To date, more than 35 million cases of Covid-19 have been registered worldwide, including some 1.04 million who have died, according to an AFP tally based on official sources.

But the World Health Organization now estimates that around a tenth of the planet's 7.8 billion or so people have already been infected since the virus first surfaced in China late last year -- more than 20 times the official count.

"Our current best estimate tells us that about 10 percent of the global population may have been infected by this virus," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a special meeting of the agency's executive board.

He stressed that infection levels varied "from urban to rural, it varies between

different groups."

"But what it does mean is that the vast majority of the world remains at risk," he warned.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus meanwhile told yesterday's meeting that the pandemic should serve as a "wake-up call for all of us."

"We must all look in the mirror and ask what we can do better," he said.

Tedros pushed back at criticism of the UN agency's handling of the pandemic, insisting it from the start had "worked around the clock to support countries to prepare and respond to this new virus."

Tedros, wearing a black face mask with a colourful pattern on the sides, also vigorously defended the reform process at the organisation over the past three years, but acknowledged it should be sped up.

"We're not on the wrong path. We're on the right path, but we need to go faster," he said. The executive board is meeting for two days this week for only its fifth-ever special session.

Biden campaign aims to keep focus on Covid-19 response

REUTERS, WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's campaign strove on Sunday to keep its focus on the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic, as President Donald Trump received treatment for Covid-19 at a military hospital.

Biden, who shared a debate stage with Trump last Tuesday, tested negative for the coronavirus again on Sunday, following two negative tests on Friday, the day Trump disclosed his Covid-19 infection.

Biden and his wife, Jill, were due to resume in-person campaigning yesterday in Florida, where opinion polls show a tight race for the state's crucial 29 electoral college votes less than a month before the November 3 election.

Biden has repeatedly wished the president a speedy recovery. But the former vice president and his aides have used his Republican rival's positive test to underline a consistent

US PRESIDENTIAL POLLS



campaign message: Biden would handle the pandemic better than Trump.

In a video posted on Twitter, Trump said he had "learned a lot about COVID" during his stay at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center outside Washington.

"I learned it by really going to school -- this is the real school, this isn't the let's read the book school -- and I get it. And I understand it."

Tony Blinken, the Biden campaign's foreign policy adviser, shot back on Twitter that Trump's realizations about Covid-19 were "devastating" at this late stage.

"The time to do that was 200K deaths ago, not when it affected you. We all wish you well but also wish you had done your job. Please do it now," Blinken said.

Trump's campaign has begun describing the 74-year-old president as a "warrior" in messages to supporters that call for donations. On Sunday, Trump briefly rode in a motorcade outside his hospital to wave to supporters, igniting criticism he was putting others at risk.

Trump aides have continued to criticize Biden's cautious approach to the virus.

Jason Miller, a Trump campaign senior adviser, mocked Biden on Sunday for consistently wearing a face mask, telling "This Week" that the 77-year-old Democratic presidential nominee was using masks "as a prop."

W Bengal BJP leader shot dead; party blames TMC

BJP leader Manish Shukla was shot dead on Sunday evening, about 20 km from north Kolkata, when he was speaking with some locals and party workers near a local police station. The BJP had called for a 12-hour bandh (shutdown) in the Barrackpore area yesterday, blaming the ruling Trinamool Congress for the killing. The Trinamool Congress has denied the charge and blamed the incident on an internal feud within the BJP. Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, who condemned the incident in a late night tweet, has summoned the DGP (Director general of police) and home secretary to the Raj Bhavan at 10:00 am.

8 killed in attack targeting Afghan governor

A suicide attack targeting an Afghan provincial governor killed at least eight people yesterday, officials said, as the president travelled to Qatar where peace talks with the Taliban have stalled. Twenty eight people were wounded when the attacker rammed his explosives-filled vehicle into the convoy of Rahmatullah Yarmal, the governor of eastern Laghman province. "The governor was driving to his office when



Political activists hang effigies of rapists to condemn the gang-rape and murder of a 19-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh state, in Mumbai, India yesterday. India's federal investigators took over the probe into the alleged gang-rape and murder of the low-caste woman that has sparked nationwide outrage.

PHOTO: AFP

ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN FIGHTING

Civilian areas attacked, Nato seeks truce

REUTERS, YEREVAN

Armenia and Azerbaijan yesterday accused each other of attacking civilian areas on the ninth day of the deadliest fighting in the South Caucasus region for more than 25 years.

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg added his voice to calls for an immediate end to the clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountain enclave that belongs to Azerbaijan under international law but is populated and governed by ethnic Armenians.

But prospects for a ceasefire appeared remote after the fighting intensified over the weekend and following uncompromising comments by Azeri President Ilham Aliyev.

In an address to the nation on Sunday, Aliyev said Azeri forces were advancing and retaking lands that had been in the hands of ethnic Armenians since a war in the 1990s.

He said Armenia must set a timetable for withdrawing from Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding Azeri territories, and that Azerbaijan would not cease military action until that happened. "Azerbaijan has one condition, and that is the liberation of its territories," he said. Aliyev said in an interview with Turkish state broadcaster TRT Haber yesterday that Ankara must be involved in any moves to end the conflict.

Europe's pushback of migrants 'shameful': UN refugee chief

AFP, GENEVA

The UN refugee chief yesterday lambasted countries which close their doors to desperate migrants and Europe's "shameful" refusal to allow migrants stranded at sea to disembark quickly.

Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said migrants and refugees around the world were continuing to take dangerous routes towards safety and opportunity.

The solution for their destination countries, Grandi told the opening of the United Nations Refugee Agency's main annual meeting, "cannot be to close the door."

"We cannot allow xenophobic reactions, only meant to draw facile consensus and electoral votes, to shape responses to challenges that are complex, but manageable."

He warned of "the dangerous lines of thinking emerging in some of the world's richest countries -- 'externalising' asylum beyond a country's borders -- violate international law, put the lives of the most

vulnerable in jeopardy and constitute precedents which threaten asylum globally."

In particular, he highlighted the case of 27 migrants stranded in the Mediterranean Sea for nearly 40 days on a Danish freighter before it was finally permitted to dock in Italy earlier this month.

"States failed to live up to their responsibilities. As a European, I find it shameful that it took more than one month to disembark just 27 people."

The Italian stressed that "people will continue to flee unless the root causes of their flight are solved."

"Reducing search and rescue capacity, or impeding those who engage to save others, or pushing back people without due process, will not stop people from moving; it will only lead to more deaths and the further erosion of refugee protection."


Grandi meanwhile welcomed the European Commission's recent proposal for a new Pact on Migration and Asylum.



Wildfires raze dozens of homes in New Zealand

Wildfires have destroyed up to 50 homes in New Zealand, authorities announced yesterday, saying it was a miracle no one was hurt as "a wall of orange" razed most of a remote South Island village. The blaze began in a mountain forest early Sunday morning and, fanned by strong winds, swept through the village of Lake Ohau, forcing residents to flee for their lives. Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) said the unpredictable winds made fighting the fire "challenging" and by yesterday afternoon it had burned 4,600 hectares of land.

SOURCE: AFP, NDTV

বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন	
বিটিএমসি ভবন	
৭-৯, কাগরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫।	
সূত্রঃ ২৪.০৩.০০০০.১০১.১৫(৭).১০৬.২০-৮৪	
তারিখঃ ০৫.১০.২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ	
পুনঃদরপত্র আহ্বান	
১. মন্ত্রণালয়/ডিভিশন	বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয়।
২. সম্ভা	বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন (বিটিএমসি)।
৩. প্রকিউরিং এন্টিটির নাম	বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন (বিটিএমসি)।
৪. কাজের বিবরণ	বিটিএমসি ভবনের ২টি নতুন লিফট পরিচালনা, রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও মালিক সার্ভিসিং।
৫. দরপত্র সূত্র ও তারিখ	২৪.০৩.০০০০.১০১.১৫(৭).১০৬.২০-৮৪ তারিখঃ ০৫.১০.২০২০ খ্রিঃ।
৬. প্রকিউরমেন্ট মেথড	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
৭. অর্থের উৎস	নিজস্ব অর্থায়নে।
৮. দরপত্র সিডিউল মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফসেরতযোগ্য)।
৯. দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	হিসাব বিভাগ, বিটিএমসি, বিটিএমসি ভবন (৩য় তলা), ৭-৯ কাগরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১০. দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৫.১০.২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস লম্বাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১. দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১৮.১০.২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১১-৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২. দরপত্র দাখিলের যোগ্যতা নিরূপক	ইনচার্জ, উন্নয়ন বিভাগের অফিস কক্ষ, বিটিএমসি ভবন (৩য় তলা), ৭-৯ কাগরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১৩. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৮.১০.২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪. দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতা নিরূপক	ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র, আয়কর সনদপত্র ও ব্যাংক প্রত্যয়ন পত্র। এছাড়া সরকারী / আধা-সরকারী / স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থায় / প্রতিষ্ঠানে অনুরূপ লিফট পরিচালনা, রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ, সার্ভিসিং ও ট্রাবল স্যুটিং কাজকরণে কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের বাধার অভিজ্ঞতা। বিস্তারিত শর্ত সিডিউল মোতাবেক।
১৫. দরপত্র জামানত	৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা পে-অর্ডার আকারে 'বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন' এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। জামানত ছাড়া দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
১৬. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন অর্থবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
 (সাকির আহমেদ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (সম্পাদনায়িত্ব)	

LAW WATCH

Challenges of ensuring justice for rape victims

MOHSENA AKTER DRISHTY

Currently in Bangladesh, rape, as one of the most pervasive and gruesome violations of human rights, is alarmingly on the rise. Despite the existence of specific social and judicial framework for addressing the crime, in most cases the perpetrators get away with sexual pillage.

Rights Organisation *Odhikar* estimates approximately 14718 rape victims from 2001 to 2019; among them 7664 were children. As of 2020, between January and June, at least 1,387 children were subjected to different forms of violence and abuse – a report by *Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum* (BSAF) reveals. *Ain O Salish Kendro* (ASK), a human rights organisation, reveals, from January to August 2020, total 889 women were raped, 41 were killed after being rape, 192 instances of attempt to rape and 9 suicides, committed in connection with or in pursuance of rape.

rape and sexual violence. It was done by acknowledging the severity of the situation, and to introduce much needed measures to address the issue.

It is time Bangladesh Government takes lessons and ratchets up its efforts to bring a staggering halt to sexual violence. To address this scourge, sexual violence against women should be declared a national emergency. It will mean that state resources will more readily be diverted to tackle this issue. A comprehensive national framework to uproot this menace has to be put in place as part of this emergency while fixing the loopholes in existing laws and enacting necessary provisions to take a holistic approach.

In 2016 the national Bengali daily *Prothom Alo* published a comprehensive research report examining 7864 cases from 2002 to 2016 filed under the *Prevention of Oppression against Women and Children Act, 2000* from Dhaka district. The findings revealed that

justice system. In many cases, victims and the families prefer to take resort to extra-legal ways over getting the cases reported through proper channels. As part of national measures, all these issues need to be properly addressed.

The prevailing legislative inconsistencies dealing with violence against women

The prevailing legislative inconsistencies dealing with violence against women further drops the rate of accountability of perpetrators. This results in secondary victimisation of the aggrieved. The colonial definition of rape bars victims, other than women to access fair and speedy justice.

LAW NEWS

REDUCING AIR POLLUTION TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY



Air pollution is the single greatest environmental risk to human health and one of the main avoidable causes of death and disease globally, with some estimated 6.5 million premature deaths (2016) across the world attributed to indoor and outdoor air pollution. Particularly in developing countries, air pollution disproportionately affects women, children and the elderly, especially in low-income populations as they are often exposed to high levels of ambient air pollution and indoor air pollution from cooking and heating with wood fuel and kerosene. In the absence of aggressive intervention, the number of premature deaths resulting from ambient air pollution is estimated to be on track to increase by more than 50 per cent by 2050.

Poor air quality is a challenge in the context of sustainable development for all countries, in particular, in urban areas in developing countries, with levels of air pollution that are higher than the limits set out in the World Health Organisation air quality guidelines. Society bears a high cost of air pollution due to the negative impacts on the economy, work productivity, healthcare costs and tourism, among others.

Today, the international community acknowledges that improving air quality can enhance climate change mitigation and that climate change mitigation efforts can improve air quality. UN Member States recognise the need to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030, as well as to reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management by 2030.

Encouraged by the increasing interest of the international community in clean air, and emphasising the need to make further efforts to improve air quality, including reducing air pollution, to protect human health, the General Assembly decided to designate September 7 as the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want,” countries committed to promoting sustainable development policies that support healthy air quality in the context of sustainable cities and human settlements.

COMPILED BY LAW DESK (SOURCE: UN.ORG).



According to ASK, domestic violence, acid attacks and other forms of sexual violence are also on the rise at present times. A vast number of such crimes go unreported. Considering the fact that sexual violence is still treated as a taboo in Bangladesh and that the girl victims are held socially responsible for the violence they undergo; it is rational to infer that the actual number is far higher.

Following the spike in rape and other forms of sexual violence, Liberia in September 2020, Sierra Leone in February 2019, among several others, declared emergency over

conviction was awarded in only 3% of the cases.

Years of Research suggest that insufficiency of evidence, incompetency of the investigating officer, lack of coordination with prosecutors, inadequacy on part of the prosecution, delay in trial, reluctance of witnesses to testify, numerous adjournments, pending status of cases for a lengthy period, increase in frivolous and vexatious cases are some of the root causes that lead to low rate of conviction and miscarriage of justice. All these contribute to making the victims lose confidence in the

further drops the rate of accountability of perpetrators. This results in secondary victimisation of the aggrieved. The colonial definition of rape bars victims, other than women to access fair and speedy justice. Boys or men, members of transgender community or even women who fail to prove penetration, cannot seek justice under section 9 of the 2000 Act, read with section 375 of the Penal Code, 1860. This is particularly problematic considering how rape laws across the globe has received a much more comprehensive definition inclusive of other forms of sexual violence.

The anachronistic provision i.e. Section 155(4) of the Evidence Act 1872 permits questioning the character of rape victims to impeach her credibility. There is no rape shield law to protect her from this utter humiliation. Public disclosure of the identity of rape victims is harmful for the victims given the social settings in Bangladesh.

Additionally, absence of provisions criminalising marital rape is a reflection of the nation’s submission to patriarchy. Rise of domestic violence against women during the pandemic and State’s failure to respond in a manner commensurate to the crisis shows how unsuccessful it has been in protecting its women altogether. A dearth of emergency state action could set women back decades and reverse all the advancement made in the past.

Lastly, it is to be noted that law and order can at best award stringent punishments to the culprit in no time and ensure justice for the victims while ensuring proper administration of justice. However, law alone cannot communicate ethics, norms or erase the misogynistic societal order prevailing from centuries.

For prevention of sexual violence, every man, woman and every single person has to come forward to break the generational cycle of misogyny and be part of the solution.

THE WRITER IS A STUDENT OF LL.M, DEPARTMENT OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF CHITTAGONG.

YOUR ADVOCATE

ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF RESIGNATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES



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

Query
I have been working in an organisation as a senior executive. I have formally resigned from my employment after 4 years of my service and my resignation got accepted by the organisation on the next day. After that, my office email got deactivated within 8 days; but later I received a show cause letter from my organisation on my personal email with 10 points of allegations of which some are not true at all. I want to know if an organisation can issue a show cause after accepting my resignation letter when I request for my compensation and other benefits as per my contract.

Anonymous Response
Resignation is a right of the employee and the same cannot be restricted by any organisation. There may be formalities and notice period etc. but no one can be tantamount to forced labour. Once an employee serves a notice of resignation (or surrender salary in lieu of notice), it is deemed to have been communicated on that day (assuming you hand delivered/mailed, unless such is not customary). Accordingly, it does not matter whether your employer accepted your resignation or not, as your resignation letter has already been communicated with the employer.

This is also worth noting that, after an employee serves the notice of resignation, employers do not have any legal right to withhold the resignation. The only exception is where there is already a pending disciplinary process. They cannot serve any show cause notice and start disciplinary procedure after the resignation, as he/she is no longer an employee of the organisation. Hence, in your case your former employer cannot start a disciplinary



process after the resignation is effected.

As such, if the employer organisation have any allegation against any ex-employee, they can file a suit in an appropriate court based on the nature of the allegation. Therefore, there is a possibility that your ex-organisation may take such alternative action against you.

Moreover, I am giving you an overview regarding the laws related to resignation from the employment. Section 27 of Bangladesh Labour Act (BLA), 2006 states that a permanent employee may resign from his service by giving the employer 60 (sixty) days’ notice in writing. In case of temporary employee, he/she may resign from his service by giving the employer 30 (thirty) days’ notice, if he is a monthly rated employee and 14 (fourteen) days’ notice, in case of other employees, in writing.

On the other hand, where an employee intends to resign from his service without any notice, he may do so by paying the employer an amount equal to the wages for the period of notice, in lieu of notice. It is mentionable that if you are a managerial staff, you need to follow the terms of your employment for ascertaining the notice period etc. as the BLA may not apply to you.

Furthermore, an employee who resigns from the service, is entitled to all the payments of salaries, benefits, allowances, other lawful entitlements etc. applicable till the last day of work. So, here it is important to see when is the last day of your work which you have not mentioned to us, as, in accordance with that you shall be paid all the entitlements. It is to be noted here that, all final settlement payments must be made by employer to employee within a maximum period of 30 (thirty) working days following the date of cessation of the employment.

LAW REVIEW

Illegal fishing and laws of Bangladesh

MOHAMMAD RUBAIYAT RAHMAN

Fishing is one of the major livelihoods of the coastal populace of Bangladesh. To garner potentials of blue economy prospects, it is critical for Bangladesh to spearhead the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The incidents of IUU fishing activities are of significant concern to the littoral states of the Bay of Bengal. Among coastal states of the Bay of Bengal, no countries are better poised to address challenges of IUU fishing than Bangladesh. Unfortunately, IUU fishing activities in the maritime zones of Bangladesh have been persisted due to lack of legal and administrative monitoring, and surveillance mechanisms.

As of now, there is no reliable estimated record of IUU fishing activities in the Bay of Bengal ocean realm. However, the news outlets’ frequent citations of incidents about IUU fishing activities in the Bay of Bengal are particularly alarming. Apart from that, the problem of the IUU fishing activities is also veering into bulwark towards achieving Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

All these concerns are menacingly interweaved together, when we look into the existing legal regime of Bangladesh regarding protection of living marine resources. The ‘Protection and Conservation of Fish Act, 1950’ as well as the ‘Marine Fisheries Ordinance of 1983’ address the necessity of conservation of inland and marine fish. However, both laws lack comprehensive mechanisms to prevent and deter unauthorised fishing activity. These laws also do not contain any provision that would either define or recognise IUU fishing activity as an offence.

Although section 10 of the Coast Guard Act of 2016 mentions about the constabulary function of law enforcement agencies to tackle IUU fishing, several issues have remained unaddressed, such as: inspection of alleged foreign flagged IUU vessel and the prevention of IUU-catch product to enter into the port. All of these have made it harder to effectively pin down



the challenge of illegal and unreported fishing activities.

However, recently drafted Maritime Zones Act of 2019 has provided acquiesce to the significance of regulatory mechanism to tackle IUU fishing activities.

Nevertheless, what perhaps most conspicuously is absent in the draft Maritime Zones Act of 2019 is a specific definition regarding IUU fishing. This has thrown an unexpected spanner into the regulation of illegal fishing activities. At first cut, it is very likely to presume that only foreign fishing vessels are involved in the IUU fishing activities. In reality, along the way of IUU fishing activities, the involvement of domestic licensed fishing vessels cannot be discounted. Due to this omission, the evasive violations of the provisions relating to IUU fishing would obviously loom large.

Sections 47 and 48 of the draft Maritime Zones Act of 2019 specify enforcement measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing activities. Section 47 authorises the port authority to carry out inspections of equipment, paperwork, catches, and records of alleged fishing vessels that authority believes to be engaged in IUU fishing. As authorised by provisions of section 47, the port authority would take requisite measures to ensure that ‘IUU-catch products’ are not entering national and international market and to do so, port authority may act in accordance with the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Internationally, the PSMA is the

first binding international treaty that specifically aims to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. It is pertinent to mention here that, on December of 2019, Bangladesh ratified the PSMA. However, there is no relevant provision in the draft Act of 2019 that would enumerate coordination mechanisms among the law enforcement agencies, maritime administrations, and port authorities. This would evidently create enforcement and administrative stalemate in implementing sections 47 and 48 of the draft Act of 2019.

Section 48 metes out provisions to punish individuals associated with IUU fishing. Any person involved in or involved in helping anyone in either illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, or destructive fishing practices, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may, in currency of Bangladesh, extend up to Taka Eight Million (US \$100,000), or with both.

To garner the benefits of blue economy, ensuring ocean governance is prerequisite for Bangladesh. However, IUU fishing is veering into an obstacle to garner such goal. To sum up the existing legal regime of Bangladesh against IUU fishing, it stands at odds with the existing international law, principles, and obligations. The situation is unlikely to change quickly due to ineffective fisheries management policies and inadequate reflection of precautionary principle.

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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

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Gangrape in Noakhali: A result of continued impunity

It must stop now

WE have no words to describe the disgust and outrage we feel at the video of a woman stripped, gang-raped, beaten and tortured in Noakhali, shared by the perpetrators themselves on social media, to humiliate and further dehumanise a person begging for mercy. We will not delve into sensationalist details of the video here; suffice to say, it brought to the fore not only the brutality of the perpetrators, but also their audacity in making this act public, confident that they would get away with it, no matter who saw the video. It speaks volumes about the impunity enjoyed by rapists in the country, and the encouragement such impunity provides to would-be rapists.

Rapists in this country get away with such viciousness and violence every day of the year, while victims and survivors are left to deal with the trauma on their own, fighting deeply entrenched patriarchal norms and institutions every step of the way. The long, protracted legal battles, if and when women make the difficult decision to go through with them, end in more cruelty—with only three percent of perpetrators being convicted for rape. Men, in particular those associated with gangs and political parties, seem to consider sexual violence against women and marginalised communities as a sport or as their birthright, and in an overwhelming majority of incidents, are protected by those in positions of power, an inefficient law enforcement mechanism and/or antiquated laws. Even when they are arrested, most get out on bail after a few months.

With 975 reported instances of rapes between January and September 2020—one can only imagine how much higher the real numbers are—the question that we really need to ask, not just of the state but of all of us, is: for how long are we going to continue to let this happen? It is evident that these rapes, each gorier than the last, are not isolated incidents, but part of the broader rape and patriarchal culture which legitimises systemic violence against women and girls through numerous social and political institutions, including the media.

Arrests of the perpetrators is a first and crucial step, but it is certainly not enough. If we are to stop such rapes from happening, and end impunity for sexual violence, we need to overhaul the existing structures in place through a coordinated and sustained movement of all stakeholders—not just women’s rights activists, but also all other civil society allies, students, political parties, journalists, writers and workers. We must weed out the rapists in our midst—in our families, communities and parties. We urge our parliamentarians, and our Prime Minister in particular, to join, albeit lead, this movement for change, from the family to the state level.

All of us have been silent for too long. Impunity for rape must stop, and it must stop now.

Teachers struggling to make ends meet amidst pandemic

Such a crisis can severely harm our education system

LIKE many other sectors bearing the brunt of the pandemic, our education system has been hit in an unprecedented manner. With schools shut for indefinite periods, educators and students alike have been left in a dilemma. Yesterday, we observed World Teachers’ Day, with this year’s theme being “Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future”. Yet many of our teachers, especially from private schools from outside the city, including kindergarten and other primary level schools and non-MPO secondary schools, are in a crisis of their own—struggling with no financial assistance from the government. While the profession of teaching always reserved a sense of dignity in our society, the onslaught of Covid-19 has made it all the more miserable for the teachers who are now grappling to make ends meet.

The pandemic has already forced many schools to shut down, with the infrastructures of around 500 schools reportedly being put on sale. All of the teachers employed in these institutions are now left without a source of income. Other schools that are struggling to make ends meet are only paying partial salaries to teachers, many of whom have already lost the private tuition fees that they used to supplement their existing low pay. A recent report in this daily revealed the hardships of such teachers, many of whom have taken up professions they never thought they would—working as mason’s helpers, boatmen, labourers, vendors, auto-rickshaw and three-wheeler drivers—in order to put food on the table. If such is the plight of those who are meant to educate our younger generations, what does the future hold? The report states there are about 40,000 kindergarten schools in the country with around six lakh teachers, and 20 percent of the teachers have switched professions already. More than two lakh teachers of non-MPO secondary schools and colleges are also facing hardships.

The plight of our educators must be addressed with urgency. More research needs to be done to collect accurate data regarding this crisis, and the authorities must do everything they can to provide financial assistance to teachers as well as the schools that employ them, to prevent them from shutting down. While the government has already given comprehensive stimulus packages to support different sectors during the economic downturn created by the pandemic, our school teachers must not be left behind and forgotten, especially when most of them are still continuing the noble task of imparting knowledge to the future generations, despite the pressures of the pandemic.



BY now, many people have already watched the video. Others could only stomach the transcript, also shared on social media. For most normal people, the details of the gang rape of a woman in Noakhali by nine men, who used a stick to sexually assault her while laughing and jeering, are enough to make them feel sick at the depravity of these men, and from the sheer anger and pain at the thought of the victim’s ordeal. The woman’s helpless appeal to her attackers to let her go, calling them *Baba* (father) and *Bhai* (brother), will haunt us forever. Or will it? Will we forget this when another equally horrendous story or video or transcript makes the rounds?

Gang rape has become yet another way to flaunt power. There is something uniquely despicable about gang rape. As the name implies, it reflects the herd mentality of a group of individuals who have a shared predilection to sexual perversion and cruelty, each member becoming an enabler and instigator of the crime. Committing the crime in a group provides justification for it and becomes a way of “having fun”, no matter how reprehensible the act.

Would we, for example, have been so outraged if we hadn’t seen the videotape or read the transcript? Why does it take the public humiliation of a rape victim to wake society up, for the police to take action, for a case to be filed?

Has the Noakhali gang rape shaken us enough?

In the Noakhali gang rape case, the rapists are members of the Delwar Bahini—the main accused Badal, the gang’s leader Delwar, and two others have been arrested. The gang’s power is evident from the audacity with which they went to the woman’s house, tied up her husband in a room and then raped her, videotaping the incident and leaving the scene with no one daring to stop them or reporting them to the police. The incident happened around a month ago, after

weapon for these gangs, whether they are yaba traders, affiliated with the ruling political party (as in the case of the Chhatra League members accused in the gang rape of a woman in a college hostel in Sylhet) or just neighbourhood thugs who stick together and have convenient connections with law enforcers or influential individuals.

There are so many disturbing revelations in the Noakhali case. Would we, for example, have been so outraged if

on their faces or what trauma they go through afterwards. It is only when something so horrifying as a video of a gang rape is shoved in our faces that the enormity of the crime becomes real.

Now that it is clear what a victim of rape and gang rape goes through, will we wake up and put a stop to it? Every single one of us has a responsibility to end this curse by addressing all the factors that contribute to the impunity of rapists. It is the predominant ways women are perceived by the majority—as sex objects, reproductive machines and servers of men. It is the easy access to pornography that promotes the idea of sexual violence as “pleasurable” and “fun”. It is the contempt and disrespect rape survivors are treated with by loopholes in the law and the law enforcers, by the medical staff who examine them, inside the courtrooms and within the community. As if justice for rape is only possible if the rape victim is dead, so that society does not have to see her or somehow accept her. It is the irrational shame that sticks to the rape victim for life while being erased or absent from the rapist. It is male entitlement in the vilest form, enabled by patriarchy and toxic materialism, where greed motivates law enforcers to look the other way as horrific acts of sexual violence are committed.

There are many layers of hypocrisy and double standards that will have to be unraveled before we can get to a point where we will not have to read a report of a rape or gang rape on such a regular basis. Of course, this will take time and enormous effort, but at this point we can no longer sit passively while our daughters, sisters, wives, mothers and we ourselves, are under constant threat of sexual violence.

The rape survivor in Noakhali, who not only went through the worst kind of physical and mental trauma imaginable, but also the humiliation of having that trauma exposed in public, deserves our unstinting support and protection, as well as justice from our legal system. Whether they work in diabolical packs or as individuals, rapists must be stripped of the impunity they enjoy from godfathers, corrupt law enforcers and a society that implicitly condones male aggression.

Aasha Mehreen Amin is Senior Deputy Editor, Editorial and Opinion, The Daily Star.



Protesters demanding justice for rape survivors in the capital's Shahbag yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

which the gang started making indecent proposals to the woman and when she refused, they threatened to release the video, which they did on October 4. If they hadn’t released it, the woman would probably not have filed the two cases that she did at the thana, nor would the police have arrested them, although many people in the victim’s locality knew of the incident. Obviously the woman, her family and the locals were too terrified to report this horrific crime and that is why Delwar and his co-rapists were so confident about getting away with their crime that they flaunted it on Facebook. After the release of the video, the woman and her family left the village because the rapists had threatened to kill her if she reported the incident. Terror is, of course, the most potent

we hadn’t seen the videotape or read the transcript? Why does it take the public humiliation of a rape victim to wake society up, for the police to take action, for a case to be filed? The gory details that we wish we could un-see would be similar to many other rape or gang rape cases that have reached unprecedented levels in recent times. The mercilessness of the attackers, the helplessness of the victims, are the same. So why do we not act as passionately when we read about those reports?

The normalisation of rape has something to do with these blunted sensibilities. Everyday there is news of rape – of minors, schoolgirls, homemakers, university students, working women, elderly women. We seldom dwell on the fear and anguish

China-Bangladesh relations stronger than ever before

NAFEEZ SAKHAWAT

OVER the past 45 years, the relationship between China and Bangladesh has been developing, with mutual cooperation and friendship on both sides. In the international arena, Bangladesh has, to the best of its capacity, maintained unwavering support for the “One China Policy” and China’s peaceful rise.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was associated with China during his political life. He travelled to China in 1952 for an international conference. During the visit, he met Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai, the heroes of the Chinese Revolution. He was impressed by New China. After the independence of Bangladesh, the work of establishing diplomatic relations with China under the leadership of Bangabandhu began after overcoming many adversities.

Sadly, Bangabandhu was killed before formal diplomatic relations were initiated, but undoubtedly, it was in his hands that the work of establishing diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China began. Last year, the present Chinese Ambassador Li Jiming and all diplomats from the Chinese Embassy visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum. At that time, they paid homage to Bangabandhu. The curator of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum said that the Chinese embassy was the first foreign mission of Bangladesh, whose diplomats had visited the historic building together.

Chinese Ambassador Li Jiming said, “China will show the highest respect to the greatest Bengali of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his birth centenary this year, which also corresponds with the celebration of the 45th anniversary of Dhaka-Beijing diplomatic ties. While all of Bangladesh is celebrating ‘Mujib Borsho’, the Chinese embassy will also implement initiatives to celebrate this significant event with our Bangladeshi friends to show the Chinese people’s highest consideration and respect towards this great man.”

Following in the footsteps of Bangabandhu, his daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has proved her worth as a visionary leader by leading the unprecedented development of Bangladesh in recent years. Under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, Bangladesh is ready to move ahead alongside China as a reliable ally in the days to come. Already, relations

between the two countries have reached a unique height. In recent years, China has established itself as a major development partner of Bangladesh.

Proposed in 2013 by the Chinese President Xi Jinping, The Belt and Road Initiative has become a most popular platform for international cooperation, with very bright prospects in a world mired with protectionism and unilateralism. Bangladesh is a proud member of this initiative and can play a significant role in the advancement of this epic project.

On October 14, 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Bangladesh on a historic visit. During that visit, China announced huge investments in various sectors of Bangladesh. The

and garments sector is also due to the support of Chinese technology.

Moreover, a total of 8,256 Bangladeshi products will now be exempted from tariff when exporting to China. Bangladesh has described this as a success in economic diplomacy. This treatment is in addition to the preferential duties that we are already enjoying from China under the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement.

China has established itself as Bangladesh’s most trusted ally in the defence sector as well. China’s valuable involvement in water resource development and management also has enormous potential for Bangladesh. Recently, there have been reports of China’s cooperation in the overall development of the Teesta basin, which,

Dhaka city. Organising carnivals, fairs and exhibitions at the district level can be fruitful in this regard.

China has also established itself as Bangladesh’s only all-weather friend by extending a hand of sympathy and support to Bangladesh during ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. China’s well-planned and regulated strategies to dealing with the pandemic is an important part of learning for the world. China had earlier announced that if the Covid-19 vaccine was discovered, Bangladesh would be given priority in obtaining it.

In Bangladesh, a Chinese company has been allowed to run the third phase trial of the Sinovac coronavirus vaccine. Under the pragmatic initiative of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has sent medical accessories, including masks, gowns, caps and gloves, to China. The Prime Minister also wrote a letter to the Chinese President Xi Jinping. In return, the Chinese government sent 10 members of a medical expert team to support Bangladesh’s fight against Covid-19. The medical experts have provided consultations regarding pandemic control, patients’ treatment and laboratory tests, and guidance and training for Bangladeshi medical professionals.

China has also provided Bangladesh with over three million surgical and N-95 masks, over 110,000 sets of personal protective equipment and a large number of test kits, thermometers, ventilators, and sanitisers. Moreover, the Beijing-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said it would lend USD 100 million to Bangladesh to help the country deal with the pandemic.

The Chinese president has outlined the vision of the Chinese dream, which is to achieve the great renewal of the Chinese nation. The steady process of attaining the Chinese dream will not only benefit China, but also the world at large. As President Xi Jinping pointed out, the Chinese dream of national renewal is about the pursuit of happiness by every Chinese citizen, and it has much in common with the dreams of the people of Bangladesh, as we are on the way to achieving the goal of becoming a middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. We are hopeful that Bangladesh and China, with joint efforts, will be able to develop and maintain practices and policies that will make these dreams come true.

Nafeez Sakhawat is Research Associate at the Centre for East Asia (Foundation).

Apart from infrastructural development, China is doing commendable work in cultural exchanges with Bangladesh. The Confucius Institute has been set up in various institutions of higher learning in the country. To facilitate Chinese language education for Bangladeshis, Chinese language courses have been introduced in various educational institutions including the University of Dhaka and North South University.

implementation of those investment projects is now in full swing. Among the ongoing projects are the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project, Karnafuli Tunnel, Dhaka-Chittagong Highway Four Lane Upgradation, Payra Port Development, Chittagong-Cox’s Bazar Railway Project, Power Grid Network Strengthening Project, Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway, Dhaka-Sylhet Four Lane Highway etc. Mutual cooperation is not limited to the government level but is also at the private level. Cultural exchanges between the people of both countries underwent significant developments in 2019, as over 37,000 Bangladeshi tourists travelled to China and more than 5,000 Bangladeshi students are studying in China. It is undeniable that the unprecedented development of Bangladesh’s agriculture

if implemented, could radically change certain sectors, including agriculture and industry, in a large area of North Bengal.

Apart from infrastructural development, China is doing commendable work in cultural exchanges with Bangladesh. The Confucius Institute has been set up in various institutions of higher learning in the country. To facilitate Chinese language education for Bangladeshis, Chinese language courses have been introduced in various educational institutions including the University of Dhaka and North South University. Every year, a large number of Bangladeshi students are going to study in different universities of China with scholarships. Cultural groups are coming and going every year as part of cultural interactions. However, these activities should be allowed to spread outside

Coordination

FROM PAGE 12

the anti-smuggling operation. The home minister will be chairman of the council.

UNROD CHIEF, ITALIAN ENVOY CALL ON BANGABANDHU

Italian Charge d'affaires Pontecorvo calls on Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban today. It is his first official meeting with the prime minister. UNROD Chief Umbricht also calls on Bangabandhu at the Gono Bhaban today evening.

TOBACCO BOARD WILL BE SET UP

The Government of Bangladesh has decided to form a tobacco board to look after the cultivation, marketing and storage of tobacco in the country, discloses Agriculture Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz.

BANGALEES ALLOWED TO PERFORM HAJJ

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad today confirms that Saudi Arabia has agreed to allow Bengalee pilgrims to perform hajj with Bangladeshi passports. The Saudi Government made the confirmation in a message to Bangabandhu through India this week. The minister, however, says the Saudi Government had not consented to allowing a Bangladeshi mission to look after the hajis.

UN GROUP WILL EVALUATE FOOD GRAINS

In agreement with the government of Bangladesh, the United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and the Director-General of FAO H Boerma today announce the formation of a special agricultural group to evaluate future food grains in Bangladesh. The purpose of the special group will be to evaluate future harvests in Bangladesh, particularly the Aman crop, which yields approximately 60 percent of the total domestic production, as a means of estimating import requirements for 1973.

SOURCES: October 7, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Painter Monsur

FROM PAGE 12

at Chattogram University was known for his intricate work. His favourite medium was oil.

Karim was the recipient of many awards at home and abroad -- including the Grand Award at the 6th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh in 1993, the Grand Prize at 8th Indian Triennial International at New Delhi in 1994, and the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award in 1994. He also received the 2015 Sultan Padak for his contributions to Bangladeshi art.

Monsur came to prominence in the late '60s. As an experimental painter, he would delve into figures, themes, colours and textures.

His works zoom in on the struggles and yearnings of his subjects, employing bright and lively colours to denote the Padma river and its surroundings. His themes include sailing boats, fishing nets, clouds, monsoon, the changing tides, erosion of riverbanks and the displacement of people.

Monsur was born in Rajbari in 1950. He did his graduation from the Institute of Arts (now the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka).

The artist once displayed only one artwork at a solo show that showcased the natural beauty of Bandarban.

Later, he dedicated the painting to National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. In Rainagar, Rajbari, he had set up 'Bunon Art Space' for students and young artists.

Scientists make

FROM PAGE 12

PET takes hundreds of years to degrade in the environment. PETase can break it down into its building blocks in a few days.

John McGeehan, lead co-author and director of the Centre for Enzyme Innovation at the University of Portsmouth, told CNN that this latest development represents a huge stop towards using enzymes to recycle plastic and reduce plastic pollution.

"We were actually quite surprised it worked so well," said McGeehan, although he underlined that the process is "still way too slow" to be commercially viable.

He told CNN that researchers have received funding to carry out further experiments, and successful developments could mean existing PET could be recycled instead of using fossil fuels to create new plastic.

"We're looking at huge energy savings," said McGeehan.

The super enzyme combines PETase and MHEase. A mixture of the two breaks down PET twice as fast as PETase on its own, while connecting the two enzymes increased the speed by a further three times.

McGeehan used the Diamond Light Source, a device that uses X-rays 10 billion times brighter than the Sun to be able to see individual atoms, to map the molecular structure of MHEase.

The full study was published yesterday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.



Palestinians, wearing protective face masks, take part in a demonstration to show their support to prisoners held in Israeli jails, in Gaza City yesterday.

I'll work to strengthen partnership

FROM PAGE 12

High Commission in Dhaka welcomed him in Akhaura, reports our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

"Bangladesh and India are friendly countries. I will work to strengthen partnership between the two friends. I am happy to have the scope of working here," he told reporters at the zero point of Bangladesh-India border.

The new envoy reached Dhaka by road from Brahmanbaria shortly after noon, an official of the Indian High Commission told this correspondent. He is likely to present his credentials to President Abdul Hamid on October 8.

His arrival in Dhaka takes place at a time when regional geopolitical scenario is changing, with India-China rivalry intensifying following Indian Army's bitter border standoff with the Chinese military in eastern Ladakh where at least 20 Indian soldiers were killed in June.

It is also the time when Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Indian Army Chief Gen

MM Naravane handed over 3,000 vials of Remdesivir to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi as part of India's contribution to help Myanmar in its fight against Covid-19.

Myanmar is a close ally of both China and India. Both the Asian giants have major investments in Myanmar. However, Bangladesh faces a serious burden of sheltering some one million Rohingyas, most of them fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state in 2017.

Bangladesh has been seeking India's cooperation in terms of Rohingya repatriation, which could not begin despite two attempts as Rohingyas refuse to return saying there is no guarantee of safety, citizenship and movement in Rakhine state of Myanmar.

During the visit, officials from India and Myanmar noted the "considerable progress" made under the Rakhine State Development Programme and proposed finalising projects under Phase-III of the Programme, including setting up of a skills training centre.

During the visit, Shringla conveyed

India's support for ensuring safe, sustainable and speedy return of displaced persons (Rohingya) to Rakhine state.

News agency PTI reported that Shringla and MM Naravane went to Naypyidaw on Sunday on a two-day visit with an aim to further expand ties in a range of areas, including connectivity, defence and security.

Myanmar is one of the India's strategic neighbours and shares a 1,640-km-long border with a number of northeastern states, including militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.

The visit came four days after the two countries held foreign office consultations virtually where Shringla said India and Myanmar are working towards operationalising the Sittwe Port by the first quarter of next year and that the tendering process for 69 bridges proposed under the ambitious India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway will begin soon.

Sittwe Port is part of the Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project which is being viewed as India's

gateway to Southeast Asia. The port will connect India's landlocked northeastern region with the Bay of Bengal through Mizoram.

Shringla deeply appreciated Myanmar for its handing over of 22 Indian insurgents, which sends a strong message of "deterrence to inimical elements on both sides".

India and Myanmar have significantly ramped up defence and security cooperation in the last few years, including in the maritime security sphere.

India has been assisting Myanmar in developing border areas under an agreement inked in 2012 that provided for granting USD 5 million each year over a period of five years. This MoU has already been extended till 2022.

India's development cooperation in Myanmar is estimated at USD 1.4 billion. The two countries are also expanding partnership in the area of energy cooperation. Recently, India approved an investment of over USD 120 million in the Shwe Oil and Gas project.

US-British trio wins Nobel prize

FROM PAGE 12

many parts of the world, greatly improving global health", the Nobel committee said.

Their discoveries allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at Hepatitis C.

"For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating Hepatitis C virus from the world population," the jury said.

Alter, 85, told Swedish Radio he was stunned to receive an early-morning call from the committee, saying it was "mind-boggling".

"I didn't even realise this was the day the Nobel Prizes were going to be given out," he added.

"To see so many people get cured is astounding," he told the Nobel Foundation.

Prior to the trio's work, the discovery of the Hepatitis A and B viruses had been critical steps forward -- the discovery of Hepatitis B won the Nobel Medicine Prize in 1976 -- but the majority of blood-borne hepatitis cases remained unexplained.

The discovery of Hepatitis C virus revealed the cause of the remaining cases of chronic hepatitis, and "made possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives", the Nobel committee said.

Alter was credited for his pioneering work studying the occurrence of hepatitis in patients who had received

blood transfusions, determining that their illness was neither Hepatitis A or B.

Houghton built on Alter's work to isolate the genetic sequence of the new virus.

Rice, 68, subsequently completed the puzzle by using genetic engineering to prove that it was the new strain alone -- Hepatitis C -- that was causing patients to get sick.

The trio will share the prize sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.1 million, 950,000 euros).

In 2013, Houghton reportedly declined Canada's Gairdner International Award because two of his key collaborators who worked with him at pharmaceutical group

Chiron Corp were not included.

Houghton, Alter and Rice would normally receive their prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his will.

But the in-person ceremony has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic and replaced with a televised ceremony showing the laureates receiving their awards in their home countries.

PANDEMIC EFFECT ON PRIZES?

The award for work on a virus comes as the world battles the new coronavirus pandemic, which has put the global spotlight on science and research.

Trump awaits release, fires tweetstorm

FROM PAGE 12

vehicle during the short trip outside Walter Reed military medical center near Washington on Sunday evening.

Trump, who has been repeatedly rebuked for flouting public health advice and spreading misinformation on the pandemic, said in a video on Twitter just before his outing that he had "learned a lot about Covid" by undergoing treatment.

"I learned a lot about Covid, I

learned it by really going to school," Trump said.

But experts complained he had broken his own government's guidelines requiring patients to isolate while they are in treatment and still shedding virus -- and had also endangered his Secret Service protection.

'THIS IS INSANITY'

"Every single person in the vehicle during that completely unnecessary

Presidential 'drive-by' just now has to be quarantined for 14 days," said James Phillips, chief of disaster medicine at George Washington University.

"They might get sick. They may die. For political theater. Commanded by Trump to put their lives at risk for theater. This is insanity."

White House spokesman Judd Deere said "appropriate" precautions had been taken to protect Trump and his

support staff, including protective gear.

The president was flown to Walter Reed with a high fever on Friday after a "rapid progression" of his illness, with his oxygen levels dropping worryingly low, White House doctor Sean Conley said in a Sunday briefing.

Conley admitted that he had kept from the public the fact that the president had been given extra oxygen, in a bid to reflect an "upbeat attitude."

8 arrested over 5 rapes

FROM PAGE 12

over the gang-rape of a housewife in Madarganj upazila.

The arrestees include Sujan Miah, 35, husband of the victim. Other two arrestees are Sujan's relatives Nurnabi, 40, and Razia Begum, 35, said Rab officials.

The Rab said the woman is the second wife of Sujan. On September 22, Sujan took her to his brother-in-law's house and forced her to sign a divorce paper.

As the woman refused to comply, Sujan along with a few others gang-raped her, said MM Sabuj Rana, company commander of Jamalpur Rab, at a press briefing yesterday.

On Sunday, the woman filed a gang-rape case against five people, including Sujan. Later, Rab members arrested the three, while a few other accused were on the run.

In Rangamati, police on Sunday arrested a 85-year-old man on charges of raping a mentally-challenged minor girl.

The arrestee is Harunur Rashid, a

resident of an area under Naniarchar upazila. The victim and the accused are neighbours, said police.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said the girl was staying alone on Sunday morning as other family members were out of home. Taking the chance, Harun entered the house and raped her.

When the victim's mother returned home, she caught the accused red-handed. The mother filed a complaint with the local police station. Hours later, police arrested the accused, said Mohammad Alamgir, duty officer of Naniarchar Police Station.

In Sylhet, police early yesterday arrested two people in connection with raping a housewife, who is mother of five children.

The arrestees are Delwar Hossain and Harun Miah, both from Shamimabad Residential Area in the city.

Police said the accused on Saturday evening entered the victim's home. Then the prime accused Delwar raped her with the help of others, said Jyotirmoy Sarker, additional deputy

commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

A day after the incident, a case was filed against three named and few other unnamed accused. Police were trying to arrest the other accused, the police officer said.

In Gopalganj, a case was filed yesterday with Kotlipara Police Station against two youths on charges of raping a ninth grader on Saturday.

The accused, Ali Hossain, 22, and Masud Hawladar, 23, are from Purnaborti village in Kotlipara upazila.

The victim, a resident of a neighbouring village, went to a local market to buy some daily essentials around 9:00am on Saturday. On her way back, the accused intercepted her and forcibly picked her up on a motorbike.

They then took her to a remote place where Ali Hossain raped her and Masud filmed the incident, said police quoting the victim's family members. After returning home, the victim shared the incident with her

family members, who later filed the rape case.

Meanwhile in Habiganj, two youths, who were arrested earlier on charges of raping a widow and her daughter on Friday night in Chunarughat upazila, gave confessional statements before a court yesterday.

The district's Senior Judicial Magistrate Sultan Uddin Pradhan recorded their statements, said Champak Dham, OC of Chunarughat Police Station.

The accused are Shakil Ahmed and Harun Mia. Later, they were sent to jail.

On Friday night, a group of youths forcibly entered the house of the victims and gang-raped the mother and her daughter. They also looted ornaments and other valuables from the house.

After the incident, a case was filed against six unnamed accused. Later, police arrested the duo.

[Our correspondents from Dinajpur, Rangamati, Savar, Faridpur, Jamalpur, Sylhet and Moulvibazar contributed to this story.]

2m tests

FROM PAGE 12

are men and 1,220 women. The mortality rate is 1.45 percent, according to a handout of the Directorate General of Health Services.

Meanwhile, 1,526 patients have recovered during the same 24-hour period, taking the number of recoveries to 2,81,182. The recovery rate rose to 76.5 percent.

Currently, Bangladesh has 83,575 active cases. A total of 14,189 people are now in isolation and 41,957 in quarantine.

The government has recently approved antigen tests. However, RT-PCR method is more reliable and considered the gold standard of novel coronavirus testing.

In Bangladesh, the first Covid-19 cases were reported on March 8 and the first death was recorded on March 18.

The number of cases reached the 3,00,000-mark on August 26 and the death toll crossed 5,000-mark on September 22.

Globe Biotech

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we hope to supply the vaccine in the market by next December-January," Nag claimed.

The pre-clinical trial results were pre-published in the international platform, biorxiv.org -- an archive for unpublished pre-prints in life sciences.

The result, however, has not been published in any peer-reviewed journals yet.

Peer-review involves subjecting the author's scholarly work and research to the scrutiny of other experts in the same field to check its validity and evaluate its suitability for publication.

Peer-reviewed means the article is more likely to be scientifically valid and reach reasonable conclusions.

"We have submitted our findings to multiple journals. Those will take three to four months to be published. But we do not want to sit idle for that," Nag said.

Asked why BANCOCVID was not in the draft Covid-19 candidate vaccines list of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Nag alleged, "We have submitted all necessary documents to them [WHO] [two months ago]. But they are delaying the process unnecessarily."

Asked about, Bardan Jung Rana, country representative of WHO said, "There is no delay. There are lots of people who have been applying. So I think they [officials at headquarters] will look on all the papers and things like that... These things are not with us; these things are at the headquarters."

"We will continue following especially [since] they have finished the preclinical [stage]," he added.

HOW MUCH POTENTIAL?

According to the Globe Biotech researchers, the BANCOCVID is a mRNA (messenger RNA) vaccine. This is a new type of vaccine for providing acquired immunity through an RNA containing vector, such as lipid nanoparticles.

Speaking at the occasion, experts also lauded the efforts of Globe Biotech Ltd, but said there was a long way to go.

"Just the pre-clinical stage of BANCOCVID has ended. The issue whether the vaccine will be proved effective will come later. But we appreciate Globe Biotech Ltd for it," Prof Mamun Al Mahtab, chairman of hematology department at BSMMU, said at the event.

The researchers of the company said they have not fixed any contract research organisation (CRO) to start the first phase of human trials yet, but they hope to "sign a MoU soon".

The next level trials will be conducted in supervision of the CRO.

"The BNCOCVID vaccine is developed with our own technology and is the only and the first vaccine against the D614G variant," Nag said.

On July 2, Globe Biotech announced that they were developing a Covid-19 vaccine.

According to the US Centre for Disease Control (US-CDC), the general stages of the development cycle of a vaccine are: exploratory stage, pre-clinical stage, clinical development, regulatory review and approval, manufacturing and quality control.

The final stage trial or Phase-III clinical trial means the vaccine is at its final stage of major trials in which the vaccine is given to thousands of people and tested for efficacy and safety.

"Globally, many vaccines have been failing even at the final stage of trials. And BANCOCVID has just passed the first stage. It does not authenticate the vaccine is effective. We could be sure about the efficacy after the mass scale human trial," Muniuruddin Ahmed, a professor of pharmacy at Dhaka University told The Daily Star yesterday.

"If a vaccine become successful in the long run, it will shake the entire world. We are optimistic, but we should not make any exaggeration; because drug is a very sophisticated thing," he added.



Sunday was a night like no other in top-flight English football. Twenty-five goals were scored across five venues, but not by the teams fans would have expected. The most astonishing result was a 7-2 defeat for defending champions Liverpool against last season's relegation survivors Aston Villa. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United suffered a chastening 6-1 defeat at home against a rampant Tottenham Hotspur, marshalled by former United manager Jose Mourinho while high-flying Leicester City were brought down to earth with a 3-0 defeat at home by West Ham United.

PHOTO: TWITTER

A night like no other

AGENCIES



On a night when Serie A saw as bizarre an event as the Napoli-Juventus fixture being abandoned as Napoli players weren't allowed by their local health authority to travel to Turin due to coronavirus fears, La Liga meted out a tensed 1-1 draw between Barcelona and Sevilla and the Bundesliga witnessed yet another one-man show from Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski who scored all four goals including a stoppage-time penalty to give the German champions a 4-3 home win over Hertha Berlin, the focus still turned to the Premier League.

Champions Liverpool suffered a humiliating 7-2 defeat at Aston Villa and Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho savoured a 6-1 win over his former club Manchester United in one of the most astonishing days in Premier League history.

Bitter rivals Liverpool and United were joined in misery on Sunday after chastening defeats that rank among the worst that English football's two most successful clubs have ever suffered. Historians were reaching for the record books

as the goals flowed, first at Old Trafford as United conceded six goals in a match for only the third time in the Premier League era, then at Villa Park as Liverpool surrendered seven goals for the first time since 1963.

For the first time since 1986, United have lost their opening two home league games of the season and manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer labelled their heaviest home defeat since 2011 as "my worst day ever". "It's very embarrassing, it hurt all

HIGHLIGHTS

Liverpool became the first reigning English champions to concede seven goals in a league match since 1953.

Manchester United's 6-1 defeat at home against Tottenham Hotspur was the joint worst defeat for them in the Premier League era.

Manchester United and Liverpool, two of the giants of the English game, had never conceded so many goals together on a single day before.

Aston Villa have won first three games of the league for the first time since 1963.

Liverpool, strangely, enjoyed a staggering 70 percent of possession and enjoyed almost three-time as much pass accuracy as their opponents.



European footballer of the year Robert Lewandowski scored four goals to salvage three points for Bayern Munich, who beat Hertha Berlin 4-3 in a thrilling Bundesliga clash on Sunday.

PHOTO: TWITTER

the players. It hurts me as the manager," Solskjaer said.

"I'll hold my hands up, I'm responsible for this. I promise we'll do everything we can to turn this around."

We lost the plot, says Klopp

Stunned Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said his side did "all the things you should not do in a football match" as they "lost the plot" to play into Aston Villa's hands in their 7-2 humbling at Villa Park.

Ollie Watkins' first-half hat-trick set Villa en route to an astonishing victory, as Liverpool

slipped to a first defeat of the season thanks to a woeful showing at the back in the Midlands. "We played into their hands, with all the goals," Klopp said. "Then the game has a specific direction. Mourinho bites back

Tottenham Hotspur's Jose Mourinho delivered a sharp riposte to critics of his "defensive" style on Sunday, saying after their 6-1 Premier League win over Manchester United that they would have scored 10 if only they had a more attacking coach.

Mourinho came in for criticism last season due to some defensive

displays and disappointing results after he took over from the sacked Mauricio Pochettino in November. However, Sunday's victory, which followed a 7-2 win over Maccabi Haifa in Europe on Thursday, saw Spurs join Premier League top scorers Everton and Leicester City on 12 goals from four games.

"Imagine if they have an attacking coach," Mourinho told beIN Sports. "With a defensive coach, they scored ... six. With an attacking coach they'll score 10, 11, 12."

Rashford sorry, Shaw embarrassed

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford has apologised to the club's supporters for their 6-1 hammering by Tottenham Hotspur.

"First and foremost I'm a United fan. This is my club. I'm so proud to wear this shirt but there are no excuses, it's just not good enough and to every single fan around the world that tuned in today, I'm just so sorry," Rashford tweeted.

"I feel horrible but I promise you we will do better."

"A club like United shouldn't be losing, but losing in this way ... it really hurts and it is kind of embarrassing," defender Luke Shaw told Sky Sports.

Kvitova reaches quarter-final

REUTERS, PARIS

Petra Kvitova reached the French Open quarter-finals for the first time in eight years as she overpowered China's Zhang Shuai 6-2 6-4 on Monday.

On yet another chilly day, seventh seed Kvitova's superior firepower proved decisive as she posted her fourth successive straight-sets victory.

With so many big names already out, twice Wimbledon champion Kvitova will sense a golden title opportunity as she heads into a quarter-final against unseeded German Laura Siegemund.



(R) Pacer Saifuddin Ahmed kisses the ball – a habit of many cricketers but an absolute no-no in the Covid era – as he walks up to bowl. Meanwhile, (L) Tamim Iqbal keeps a close eye Mahmudullah Riyad negotiating a rising delivery during the first day of a two-day practice match among the national team players at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Having missed the first match, the ODI captain would be eager to have a go with the bat himself.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Best moment of Korda's life

AFP, PARIS

Sebastian Korda pocketed over \$200,000 from his run to the Roland Garros last 16 but was more pleased by convincing childhood idol Rafael Nadal to give him a signed shirt.

Korda, the world number 213 who came through qualifying in Paris, went down to 12-time champion Nadal on Sunday in the fourth round. But the son of 1998 Australian Open champion and 1992 Roland Garros runner-up Petr Korda was delighted by the opportunity to share the same court as the 19-time Grand Slam champion.

'Covid protocol' costs Napoli

AFP, Milan



Napoli risk a 3-0 forfeit for failing to turn up for their Serie A clash against Juventus amid a row over coronavirus protocol in Italy on Sunday.

Gennaro Gattuso's Napoli had been top of the league going into weekend's action with two wins in as many games as they target a third Serie A title and first in 30 years.

But Eljif Elmas and Piotr Zielinski's positive coronavirus tests forced the southerners into home isolation on the instructions of health authorities in the Campania region.

The Lega Serie A insisted all the health protocols were in place for the match to safely go ahead as scheduled for Turin at 1845 GMT.

"(Napoli president Aurelio) De Laurentiis asked me to postpone the match, I replied that there are regulations to be respected," Juve president Andrea Agnelli told Sky Sport Italia. "A 3-0 win? I always prefer to win on the field," Agnelli added whose side had four points after two games as they chase a 10th title in a row.

Amid the turmoil, Andrea Pirlo's champions prepared their game as usual, naming a starting list, despite solid indications of a Napoli no-show for the third game of the season. The Juventus bus pulled into the Allianz Stadium an hour beforehand, with the players remaining in their tracksuits on the pitch, along with referees and a handful of supporters under the rain.

The match was eventually abandoned 45 minutes after its scheduled start time, with Napoli's fate now depending on a meeting of Italian league officials.

Svitolina playing love match for France

AFP, Paris



Elina Svitolina knocked Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia out of Roland Garros on Sunday but insisted she was also playing for France due to her romance with national number one Gael Monfils.

Ukraine's Svitolina, the highest seed left in the tournament after the exit of Simona Halep and Karolina Pliskova, made the quarterfinals for a third time with her 6-1, 6-3 win.

Monfils, the world number nine, was a first round casualty.

"Right now I'm thinking I'm playing for both of us," said Svitolina.

"I know how much he loves to compete here in Paris and how much he loves to play in front of big crowds.

"Unfortunately this year it's a bit different. So it's really sad that he couldn't play his best."

Svitolina, 26, and 34-year-old Monfils started dating almost two years ago and have even given themselves a common identity which dots their frequent social media updates -- 'G.E.M.S.' which meshes 'Gael', 'Elina', 'Monfils' and 'Svitolina'.

"I always love the way that he pushes me to be better, and I also try to motivate

him to be better person, better tennis player," said Svitolina.

"I think this is the way that it has to be, and you have to really support each other and push for better results."

They share near-misses at the Grand Slams.

Both have twice reached semifinals -- Monfils at Roland Garros in 2008 and the US Open in 2016. Svitolina fell at last-four stage at Wimbledon and the US



Open in 2019.

Trevisan, Sinner flying the Italian flag

Martina Trevisan and Jannik Sinner, two names you might not have known too much about prior to this week.

Now, thanks to their exploits, Italy will have a player in the quarterfinals of both the men's and women's singles at a major for just the second time in the Open Era.

Trevisan, currently ranked world No.159, dispatched fifth seed Kiki Bertens



6-4, 6-4. The 26-year-old had never tasted victory at Grand Slam level before this week and had endured 16 straight defeats to top 100 opposition.

Now, having edged Coco Gauff and saved two match points against Maria Sakkari on Friday night, Trevisan is in dreamland.

As for Sinner, the 19-year-old is the most calm and composed guy you'll ever see, his tennis is so smooth and strategically sound.

The world No.75 teenage talent was in command 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 against sixth seed Alexander Zverev to become the first man to make the last eight on their Roland-Garros debut since Nadal in 2005.

Next up for Sinner, it's Rafael Nadal. Can Sinner strike on centre stage?



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SHAH CEMENT

8 arrested over 5 rapes

Two make confessional statements

STAR REPORT

At least eight people have been arrested since Sunday in connection with rape incidents in five districts, while two others were sued yesterday over the rape of a girl.

In a separate incident, two youths yesterday gave confessional statements before a Habiganj court over the gang-rape of a widow and her daughter.

In Joypurhat, police arrested a man on Sunday evening over raping a minor girl -- one of his neighbours -- in Hajipara area of the district town.

The arrestee is Faruk Hossain, 45, a resident of the area.

Police said the 12-year-old girl was alone in her home on Sunday evening. Taking advantage of it, the accused lured her into going to a nearby jungle with the promise of buying her a gift and then raped her there.

As the girl was screaming, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her. Faruk, however, managed to flee.

On information, police raided the area and arrested the accused around 7:30pm, said Sahriar Khan, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station.

In Savar, police yesterday arrested a man on charge of raping a girl after promising her to give a job with a handsome salary.

The accused is Sadikur Rahman Selim, 45, of Wapda Road area in Savar.

Quoting the victim, police said Selim raped the 24-year-old girl multiple times in last three months. Yesterday, the girl filed a case against Selim, who was later arrested from his rented home, said Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of Savar Model Police Station.

In Jamalpur, Rab on Sunday night arrested three people

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Dumping sandbags, locals try to make a temporary embankment in Sholakura area of Natore's Singra upazila. The Atrai river has swelled up and already devoured several houses in the area. River erosion following floods have been devastating neighbourhoods on banks this year. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BULBUL AHMED

HOME-GROWN VACCINE Globe Biotech wants to start human trials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lone Bangladeshi coronavirus vaccine developer Globe Biotech Ltd said their coronavirus vaccine -- named BANCOCVID-- has shown high efficacy in pre-clinical trial on mice.

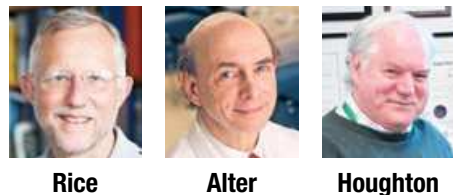
Officials of the Globe Biotech Ltd now wants to start clinical trial on human "as early as possible", and is seeking cooperation from the government regulatory bodies to accelerate the approval process.

"We have completed our basic task -- the development of the vaccine. Now we want to go for clinical trial on humans and we need approval from the regulatory bodies," Kakon Nag, CEO of the company, said during a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

He claimed that they were confident their vaccine candidate would prove to be one of the advanced coronavirus vaccines.

"If things go smoothly, SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

HEPATITIS C DISCOVERY US-British trio wins Nobel prize



AFP, Stockholm

Americans Harvey Alter and Charles Rice together with Briton Michael Houghton won the Nobel Medicine Prize yesterday for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus, paving the way for a cure, the Nobel jury said.

The three were honoured for their "decisive contribution to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis, a major global health problem that causes cirrhosis and liver cancer in people around the world," the jury said.

The World Health Organization estimates there are around 70 million Hepatitis C infections globally, causing around 400,000 deaths each year. It is characterized by poor appetite, vomiting, fatigue and jaundice.

Thanks to the trio's discoveries, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have "essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Coordination council for anti-smuggling operation



Italian Charge d'affaires Pontecorvo calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban on October 6, 1972.

October 6, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ALL AGENCIES PLACED UNDER ARMY

All the agencies working as part of the anti-smuggling machinery along the borders of the country have been placed under the unified command of the Bangladesh Army. This is decided at a high-level meeting held in Dhaka today for adopting anti-smuggling measures. The conference held with Home Minister Abdul Mannan in the chair also forms a coordination council to provide proper guidance and control to the Bangladesh Army for

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

I'll work to strengthen partnership

Says new Indian envoy after arrival

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner-designate to Bangladesh, Vikram Doraiswami, arrived in Dhaka through Tripura yesterday, three days after the former Indian envoy Riva Ganguly Das left for Delhi.

He came to Tripura from Delhi last Saturday and held meetings with Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, Governor Ramesh Bais, business leaders and visited a number of projects connecting Bangladesh and India, attaching importance of the development of India's northeast and its link to Bangladesh.

Doraiswami entered Bangladesh through Akhaura Immigration Check Post around 10:00am.

Officials of the Indian SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Scientists make 'super enzyme' that eats plastic



CNN ONLINE

Scientists have created a new "super enzyme" that can break down plastic up to six times faster than their previous enzyme.

A team of researchers that previously re-engineered a plastic-eating enzyme named PETase have now combined it with a second enzyme to speed up the process, according to a press release from the University of Portsmouth.

The super enzyme could have major implications for recycling polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which is the most common thermoplastic used in single-use drinks bottles, carpets, and clothing.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Painter Monsur ul Karim no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Padak winning painter Monsur ul Karim passed away around 11:30am yesterday after a cardiac arrest in the capital's United Hospital.

He was 70. He was admitted to the hospital 11 days ago, said his daughter Sadia Monsur.

The artist was buried at his village Rainagar in Rajbari after a Namaz-e-Janaza last night. He left behind two sons, a daughter, many students, fans and followers.

The former professor of the Institute of Fine Arts SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

2m tests conducted, 18.49pc positive

UNB, Dhaka

RT-PCR labs across the country conducted 20,01,431 coronavirus tests until yesterday morning and 3,70,132 of them (18.49 percent) produced positive results.

In 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the health authorities recorded 1,442 confirmed cases and 27 deaths, pushing the death toll to 5,375. Twenty-two of the deceased were aged above 50.

Of the total dead, 4,155 SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30
JAMAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Workers demolish two buildings of a private university built on the Hijra canal in Chattogram city. The buildings are being removed as part of a mega project taken to save canals and solve the waterlogging problem of the port city. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Trump awaits release, fires tweetstorm

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump's doctors were set to decide yesterday whether he is recovered enough to leave hospital and continue Covid-19 treatment at the White House, as the president signalled his determination to return to the election campaign with an early morning tweetstorm.

Conflicting official updates since Trump's hospitalization on Friday have created confusion over his health, but his chief of staff said the 74-year-old's condition had improved overnight, raising hopes he could be discharged during the day.

"We are still optimistic that based on his unbelievable progress and -- and how strong he has been in terms of his fight against this Covid-19 disease, that he will be released," Mark Meadows told Fox News.

"But that decision won't be made until later today."

Trump's Covid-19 diagnosis has upended the White House race less than a month from polling day -- and cast a harsh spotlight on the president's much criticised management of the pandemic which has claimed over 200,000 American lives.

Eager to portray himself as in charge despite his sickness, Trump sent 15 block-capital tweets in 30 minutes, appealing to voters by claiming a record of successes in his first term including tax cuts and stock market highs, and protecting gun rights and religious liberties.

The tweetstorm came after the president sparked an angry backlash with a protocol-breaking visit to supporters outside the hospital where he is being treated.

He was masked as he waved from inside his bulletproof

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2