

Singapore

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Despite a largely successful public health response to the pandemic, Singapore's economy has been thrown into a deep recession. GDP likely shrank 12.6% in the second quarter compared to the same time the previous year, marking "the steepest drop on record," according to economists.

Singapore has one of the lowest birth rates in the world, a statistic that successive governments have attempted unsuccessfully to reverse. The fertility rate now stands at just 1.14 births per woman, according to its national statistics body.

That places it level with Hong Kong, according to the World Bank. Only South Korea and the US territory of Puerto Rico have lower rates.

For a country to naturally repopulate itself, women must have 2.1 babies on average — though most developed countries are now below that level, as a decline in the proportion of couples and the lessening importance of traditional gender roles have seen fertility rates drop globally.

Singapore has struggled to reverse the trend since the 1980s, with public campaigns encouraging childbirth and a host of financial and tax incentives unable to stop its slump.

"Like many developed countries, Singapore's key population challenges are our low fertility and an ageing population," the government wrote in a 2011 report. "Our aim is to achieve a sustainable population that supports both economic growth and social cohesion, so that Singapore remains vibrant and liveable."

Social evil

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measures against 200 or 300 persons to save seven and a half crore people. Bangabandhu says, "I shall be with the suffering people." The white-collar gentlemen are interested only in promotion, he comments.

DRAFTING OF CONSTITUTION COMPLETED

The Constitution Drafting Committee completes its task today at its 70th meeting. The Committee held deliberations of over 280 hours. The draft constitution, which has been framed on the basis of the four state principles -- nationalism, socialism, secularism and democracy -- will be presented before the Constituent Assembly when it meets in Dhaka on October 12. It will be introduced before the House in the form of a Constitution Bill along with a report of the 34-member committee which drafted it.

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, president of the National Awami Party (Bhasani), renews today his suggestion to Bangabandhu to convene a 'national conference' to arrive at a consensus on the constitution of the country.

INDO-BANGLADESH TRADE IMBALANCE WILL BE REMOVED

The four-day Indo-Bangladesh talks end in Dhaka today with a decision to remove the impediment which "created imbalance in trade" between the two countries. The six-member Indian delegation is led by KS Raghupathi, joint secretary, Ministry of Foreign Trade while the Bangladesh team is headed by Manzur Murshed, joint secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

SOURCES: October 9, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.



Masked Israeli settlers attack Palestinian olive farmers from the village of Hawara, on fields near the settlement of Yitzhar, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Alter decision to halt fund

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pay custom duties and VAT to release the foreign funds, the money for which are not available now, this correspondent learnt from officials involved with some low-priority projects.

The Finance Division advised the road transport and bridges ministry that it would be halting 30 percent allocation from the ADP due to the pandemic. The allocation was to come from the government.

Following the advice, the road transport and bridges ministry divided all its ongoing projects into three categories -- high, medium and low priority projects -- and sent a list to the Finance Division.

Of the 196 ongoing projects, the ministry categorised 57 as low-priority projects, and the Finance Division halted the government funding of the projects.

All 57 projects were being implemented by RHD with government financing, sources said.

The work of the low-priority projects is going on at field level and dues of contractors are increasing. Besides, as land acquisition issues are related with the projects, there is a compulsion to pay the money, the road transport and bridges ministry said.

If the projects remain unimplemented, it could have a negative impact on people and there

is a possibility of cost escalations and time extensions, it added.

In this situation, instead of releasing fund for RHD projects on the basis of priority list, funds should be released for all projects, cutting 30 percent allocation from all the projects, it added.

The RHD suggested halting the ADP allocation of Tk 4,685 crore from all projects.

The Daily Star could not reach Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary Nazrul Islam for comments over phone.

On July 8, Budget Wing-2 of Finance Division issued a circular about allocation of ADP funds on the basis of project categories.

Contacted, an official of the wing said apart from the road transport and bridges ministry's proposal, they have received proposals from other ministries, including LGED, women and children affairs, and fisheries and livestock, to change the decision regarding the low-priority projects.

Some of them proposed upgrading some low-priority projects, while some others requested to reconsider and reduce the amount of fund cut, the official said, wishing not to be named.

"We are now scrutinising the proposals and yet to reach the final decision. However, we are going to change it," the official added.

Panic grips Rohingya camp

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in the vehicle. The four were hacked to death, locals said.

Hnila union parishad chairman in Teknaf confirmed the identities of two Bangladeshis who were from Rongi village of Hnila.

Following the clash, the two factions were exchanging bullets till yesterday morning, said a community leader of Kutupalong camp.

The feud began as Md Rafiq alias Munna left the gang, he said.

Members of law enforcement agencies were conducting raids in the camp to held the culprits. Additional law

enforcers have been deployed in the area to fend off further untoward incidents.

The situation is now under control, said Rafiqul Islam, additional superintendent of Cox's Bazar police.

Ahmed Sunjur Morshed, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station, told The Daily Star that no case was filed till filing of this report yesterday evening.

Police recovered the four bodies and sent them to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.

Shahin Md Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, resident medical officer of the hospital, said they handed over the bodies to police after autopsies.

Dhaka seeks

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told reporters at the foreign ministry, mentioning that it is a matter of worry for them, Myanmar and the entire region.

He said the countries like Japan, China, India and Korea which are investing in Myanmar may not get the desired returns on their investment if the Rohingya crisis remains unsettled, creating uncertainty in the whole region.

"See, you're investing in Myanmar. That's good. But if uncertainty appears you won't get the expected return. So, let's work together [to find a durable solution]," said the minister, adding that no countries did disagree with Bangladesh's call to find a solution to the Rohingya crisis.

Momen said the government wanted to install barbed wire surrounding camps and withdrew the 4G internet network in the camps in an effort to keep the camps safe.

The government has information that trafficking of girls and children was taking place and traffickers share images of girls and children through smartphones using high-speed internet as part of trafficking, he said.

The minister said the international NGOs opposed it and made it their main issue.

Responding to a question on his recent Kuwait visit, Momen said Kuwait from the day one is supporting Bangladesh for finding a solution to the Rohingya crisis. "They'll be supporting us."

In the last five days, seven Rohingyas were killed in clashes in camps over establishing dominance.

There are allegations that some residents of the camps are involved in criminal activities.

Bangladesh is currently hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar.

Factional clashes now occur more frequently at the camps.

Bangladesh has been urging Myanmar to take back its nationals and the two sides even signed an agreement, but there has been no progress.

US-French duo win Nobel

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The technique has been tipped for a Nobel nod several times in the past, but speaking to reporters in Stockholm via telephone link Charpentier said the call was still a surprise.

"Strangely enough I was told a number of times (it might happen) but when it happens you are very surprised and you feel that it's not real," she said.

"But obviously it is real so I have to get used to it now," she added.

Charpentier, 51, and Doudna, 56, are just the sixth and seventh women to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and this is the first time a Nobel science prize goes to a women-only team.

Charpentier told reporters she considered herself "a scientist" first, but hoped the prize would provide "a really strong message for young girls".

REWRITING 'THE CODE OF LIFE'
While researching a common harmful bacteria, Charpentier discovered a previously unknown molecule -- part of the bacteria's ancient immune system that disarms viruses by snipping off

parts of their DNA.

After publishing her research in 2011, Charpentier worked with Doudna to recreate the bacteria's genetic scissors, simplifying the tool so it was easier to use and apply to other genetic material.

They then reprogrammed the scissors to cut any DNA molecule at a predetermined site -- paving the way for scientists to rewrite the code of life where the DNA is snipped.

The CRISPR/Cas9 tool has already contributed to significant gains in crop resilience, altering their genetic code to better withstand drought and pests.

The technology has also led to innovative cancer treatments, and many experts hope it could one day make inherited diseases curable through gene manipulation.

"There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all. It has not only revolutionised basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to ground-breaking new medical treatments," Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said in a statement.

4 members of juvenile gang

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shared on social media," the victims' friend, who was also beaten up by the gang, told police.

Police were also investigating whether the footage was leaked on social media, said the OC.

In Barishal, police arrested a youth for allegedly raping a minor girl at Chandpura union in Sadar upazila on Tuesday night.

The arrestee -- Sheikh Monir Hossain Jibon, 29 -- was acquainted to the victim's family members. Taking the chance, he used to visit the victim's house, said police.

Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bandar Police Station, said Jibon raped the victim while she was staying alone at her home on Tuesday evening.

The victim's mother filed a case the same day, he added.

In Natore, police arrested a man on charges of raping his daughter on Tuesday.

Shariful Islam, a so-called saint, raped her 16-year-old daughter repeatedly, Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy inspector general (DIG) of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), told reporters at a press briefing at its headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

The accused raped his daughter repeatedly since last July confining her in their residence at a village in Baraigram upazila, he added.

On information, the victim's grandmother rescued her. Later, police arrested the accused.

In Habiganj, police on Tuesday night arrested a man on charge of gang-raping a 30-year-old housewife in Nabiganj upazila.

The arrestee is Saiful Islam, of Minhajpur village in the same upazila.

On Sunday evening, the victim was travelling through a CNG-run auto rickshaw. The driver took her to an abandoned building and gang-raped her along with few others alleged criminals, said Uttam Kumar Das, inspector

(investigation) of Nabiganj Police Station.

In Rangamati, a case was filed on Sunday against headmaster of a school in Langadu upazila allegedly for raping one of his students.

The accused is Abdur Rahim, headmaster of Karlyachhari High School.

He raped the girl on September 25 at a room of the school, said Syed Mohammad Noor, officer-in-charge of Langadu Police Station.

In Manikganj, a case was filed against a 45-year-old man for raping a neighboring 5-year-old girl.

Both the victims and the accused are residents of same village under Harirampur upazila.

The accused raped the girl on Saturday, said Murid Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Harirampur Police Station.

In Mymensingh, a case was filed against a youth for raping a neighboring three-year-old girl at Charia village in Tarakanda upazila.

The accused is Jahangir Alam, 20.

Police said the accused took the girl to his residence on Sunday to buy some snacks. Then he raped her, said Abul Khayer, officer-in-charge of Tarakanda Police Station.


In Lalmonirhat, a case was filed on Tuesday night against a youth allegedly for raping a housewife at Madhuram village in Sadar upazila.

The accused is Chandan Chandra Roy, 28, a resident of the same village.


Police said the housewife was staying alone at her residence on Monday noon. Taking the chance, Chandan entered into her room and raped her.

A day later, the victim's husband filed a case against Chandan, who is on the run, said Shaha Alam, officer-in-charge of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station.

Our correspondents from Savar, Barishal, Moulvibazar, Rangamati, Manikganj, Mymensingh and Lalmonirhat contributed to this report



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স্বাক্ষরিত
নব্বা

CORRIGENDUM
Invitation for supply of 25,000 LPG cylinders for domestic users.
Invitation Ref. No.: 28.27.0000.001.07.001.20-132, Dated: 02/09/2020.
Tender Closing & Opening dates for above Ref. Invitation have been changed as follows:
Closing: For 12/10/2020 by 14:30 Hr. (BST), Read 28/10/2020 by 14.30 Hr. (BST)
Opening: For 12/10/2020 by 14:35 Hr. (BST), Read 28/10/2020 by 14.35 Hr. (BST)
All other terms and conditions will remain same as published on 06 September 2020 in The Daily Star & The Dainik Kaler Kontha.

GD-1599

US urges peaceful solution in Kyrgyzstan

AFP, Washington

The United States on Tuesday urged a peaceful solution and restraint in Kyrgyzstan as it acknowledged concerns about election conduct that have set off major protests.

"We ask that all sides refrain from violence and resolve the election dispute through peaceful means," a State Department spokesperson said.

Harris, Pence

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Not only has the president tested positive; coronavirus has spread through his inner circle, infecting dozens of top advisors, administration staff, senior military officials and Republican lawmakers. Racial and political tensions are simmering, prompting Biden to issue a clarion call for national unity Tuesday and warn that "the forces of darkness" and division are "pulling us apart." Less than 4 weeks ahead of the election day, Trump keeps warning that mail-in ballots are somehow fraudulent which may put US in a post-polls crisis. And Senate Republicans are rushing to confirm Trump's Supreme Court nominee even as some in their caucus are in quarantine. Vice-presidential debates don't usually trouble presidential historians too much, but this year the drama of the election campaign could heighten interest in how the pair fare against each other.

Invitation to Bid (ITB)

Supply and Installation of Tools and Equipment



International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites bids from interested firms to **Supply and Installation of Tools and Equipment for TVET Institutions**. The bidding documents can be downloaded from ILO website at: https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/WCMS_367536/lang-en/index.htm

The bids must be submitted within **Wednesday, November 11, 2020, by 04:30 PM (BST time)**.



Microcredit Regulatory Authority

Gulfeshan Plaza (6th floor), 8 Shahid Sangbadik Selina Pervin Sarak
Baro Mogbazar, Ramna, Dhaka-1217
Web: www.mra.gov.bd

Ref No: 53.04.0000.002.07.002.20- 2154

Date:- 07 /10/2020

Invitation for e-Tender (Goods)

e-tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

SL No.	Tender/Proposal ID. No	Name of Tender	Tender Document last selling / downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
1.	498438	Procurement of Communication Equipment	21-Oct-2020 at 16.00 PM	22-Oct.-2020 at 12:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through any registered bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and e-GP help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sd/-
(Amalendu Mukherjee)
Executive Vice Chairman
Microcredit Regulatory Authority
Fax : 02-8333257
email: evc@mra.gov.bd

GD-1598



Dhaka South City Corporation, Dhaka
Zone-5 (Sayedabad)
www.dhakasouthcity.gov.bd



স্বাক্ষরিত
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Ref No. 46.207.000.21.16.01.2020

e-Tender Notice
e-Tenders are invited in e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Zone-5, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website from 08/10/2020, 5.00pm.

Sl No.	Tender ID, Ref No. & Package No.	Name of works	Last selling date and time	Tender closing date & time
3.	Tender ID-498464 Ref: 46.207.14.21.14.02.2020/1 Package No. egp/dscc/z05/20-21/01/P01	Improvement Work of Road Drain & Footpath at Shaympur Kodomtoli Area from Gazi Tank Factory to Nurany Textile Mills Ltd. Road No. 11	08/10/2020 5.00pm	02/11/2020 2.00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Mithun Chandra Shil
Executive Engineer
Zone-5 (Sayedabad)
Dhaka South City Corporation

DSCC/PRD/28/2020-21
GD-1600