

**INDIA-CHINA
BORDER TENSIONS**
Rivals hold fresh talks on
ending faceoff along LAC
SEE PAGE 6

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781 | Vol. XXX No. 261 | ASHWIN 28, 1427 BS | **Your Right to Know** | SAFAR 25, 1442 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE : Tk12.00



"Our expatriates are the problem. You know that they don't abide by the law in Italy."
FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL MOMEN WHILE TALKING TO REPORTERS



"I believe the country will become free from rape following the amendment of the act,"
STATE MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS FAZILATUNNESHA INDIRA



"In my nearly five decades of public service, I have never publicly endorsed any political candidate."
TOP US SCIENTIST ANTHONY FAUCI ON TRUMP
CAMPAIGN AD PAGE 6

Rapists to face death penalty

Cabinet okays proposal to amend law; president to issue ordinance today; govt moves to ensure speedy trial of rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid countrywide protests denouncing violence against women, the cabinet yesterday approved the draft of Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 2020, incorporating the provision of capital punishment for rape.

President Abdul Hamid is all set to promulgate an ordinance in this regard today.

The approval came at the weekly cabinet meeting held virtually with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. She joined the meeting from the Gono Bhaban, while her cabinet colleagues attended it from the Secretariat.

Later, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam told reporters that the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs proposed incorporating the provision of capital punishment in the Act, terming rape a heinous crime. "The matter was discussed in detail in the cabinet meeting. Everyone agreed to incorporate capital punishment in the Act," he said.

Following the amendment, "Lifetime Rigorous Imprisonment" mentioned in Section 9(1) of the Act would be replaced by "Death or Lifetime Rigorous Punishment". The same changes will be applicable to Section 9(4) of the Act, he said.

Pointing to another amendment, to Section 11(C) of the Act, the cabinet secretary said in case of simple injury -- caused not during rape -- the matter could be compoundable.

The section that deals with dowry has provisions for three years in

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A CNG-run-autorickshaw driver pushing his vehicle from behind, while a motorcyclist waits to get on the lane on a waterlogged Mirpur Road near Dhanmondi Road-27. The entire road remained flooded for four to five hours after torrential rain yesterday afternoon. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

FARIDPUR-4 MP Cabinet Division seeks actions over violation of election code

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Cabinet Division has sought actions over violations of the electoral code of conduct for local body polls by the Faridpur-4 lawmaker and a newly elected upazila chairman.

It yesterday wrote to the Prime Minister's Office, the Parliament Secretariat, the Election Commission Secretariat and other authorities concerned to that end.

Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, an independent lawmaker from Faridpur-4, issued threats in public to the deputy commissioner of Faridpur and the upazila nirbahi officer of Charbhadrasan for deploying an "excessive" number of magistrates in the upazila chairman by-polls held on October 10.

In its letter, the Cabinet Division said the activities

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RMG worker gang-raped in Gazipur

More rape incidents, arrests in other dists

STAR REPORT

A garment worker was gang-raped in Gazipur and four people were arrested in rape cases in three other districts over the last two days.

Yesterday, a Dhaka court placed four arrestees on three days' remand each over the rape of a 13-year-old girl in the capital's Pallabi area on Sunday.

Police said the 25-year-old RMG worker lives at a rented home in Chakpara area of Gazipur's Sreepur upazila.

Victim's neighbour Ashraful Alam, 22, and one of his associates, Jahangir Alam, 33, had been making unwanted advances towards her for a long time.

Around 12:30am yesterday, Ashraful broke into the victim's home through a ventilator in the toilet. Then he opened a door to let Jahangir in.

The two raped the girl and threatened to kill her if she disclosed the matter. The alleged rapists fled the scene around 3:30am, said police.

In the morning, the victim informed the landlord and some locals about the incident. Locals later caught Ashraful and handed him to police.

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Vital law reforms still not done

Death penalty won't resolve rape issue; amendment doesn't address much-needed reforms, say experts, rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers and women's rights activists all had one common reaction to the cabinet's decision to incorporate death penalty for rape in the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill.

This was their reaction: the amendment does nothing to address the actual reforms being demanded by gender experts.

The death penalty was demanded by a faction of general public, but legal experts say that it will not solve anything.

Veteran women's rights advocate Salma Ali said, "It is just a rushed act to calm some of the protesters.

"The decision-makers should have taken the time to consult with grassroots lawyers and law practitioners who deal with such cases first-hand," she said.

Just making the law will not achieve anything without a proper guideline and unless the implementation is ensured, she added.

The Rape Law Reform Coalition, a body comprised of 17 rights organisations including Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) and Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), have 10 demands from the law, and the death penalty is not one of them.

The demands include changing the definition of the law to include victims of all genders, defining "penetration" to include rape using objects, banning the use of character evidence against rape survivors during trial, allowing judges to hand out punishments proportionately and as per their discretion, ensuring that courts and systems are inclusive for survivors with disabilities and enacting the witness protection law.

Currently, "rape" is restrictively defined only as penile-vaginal

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Scrap puffed up power bills: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the electricity supply authorities to cancel inflated bills prepared between February and June this year, and prepare customised bills based on actual meter-reading for each consumer.

In response to a writ petition, the HC also ordered the authorities not to collect late payment surcharge from consumers against the inflated bills, and submit separate reports to the court after complying with the directives in two months.

Chairperson of Power Development Board and Rural Electrification Board and managing directors of Dhaka Power Development Company, Dhaka Electricity Supply Company, West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd and Northern Electricity Supply Company were asked to prepare the customised bills as per a directive issued by Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) on July 16 this year.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain as to why the inaction of BERC chairperson in taking punitive action against

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IEDCR SURVEY IN DHAKA 45pc carrying coronavirus antibody

People started developing herd immunity, researchers say after surveying 3,227 households

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 45 percent of the people, covered by a survey in the capital, were found to be carrying Covid-19 antibody, according to a study by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research.

The presence of such antibody among slum dwellers was much higher -- about 74 percent, mentions the study based on data collected between April 18 and July 5 this year.

A total of 3,227 households across the capital were surveyed under the study jointly conducted by the IEDCR and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the USAID supported the first-ever cross-sectional epidemiological survey in Bangladesh. A summary of the survey was published on August 10.

"The encouraging rate of seropositivity among the population surveyed in Dhaka city indicates that we have started developing herd immunity against the novel coronavirus," Dr Ferdousi Qadri, senior scientist at the icddr,b, said at the launch of the study report in the capital.

The findings come at a time when a number of countries have already been hit by the second wave of the novel coronavirus.

Researchers said this information will be helpful in transmission control, treatment of the infected people and also vaccination.

During the survey, samples of 12,699 individuals from 25 wards in Dhaka city were tested through the rt-PCR method, and 9.8 percent or nearly one in 10 people was found positive for Covid-19.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Papia, her husband get 27 years in arms case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Much-talked-about expelled Jubo Mohila League leader Shamima Nur Papia and her husband Mofizur Rahman Sumon have been sentenced to 27 years' rigorous imprisonment in an arms case.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka handed down the sentence in presence of the couple at the courtroom yesterday.

The couple were given 27 years in jail after considering that Papia is a woman. The charges were enough for life in jail, the judge said.

According to the judgement, Papia and her husband Sumon were given 20 years' imprisonment for possessing arms, and seven years' imprisonment for possessing bullets, but their punishment will run concurrently.

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THE POWER OF WILL

Thirty-year-old Sapna pulls a rickshaw to support her 8-year-old twins and her ailing mother. She toils away not only to feed her family, but also to make sure her children get the education they deserve. Her husband died five years ago from cancer and since then she has been struggling to make ends meet. The photo was taken recently at Mohammadpur Bus Stand.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

LIFEBUOY HAND SANITIZER
Does not contain harmful methanol

Manufactured by the world's no. 1 highest selling germ protection soap brand Lifebuoy, Lifebuoy Hand Sanitizer does not contain harmful Methanol and has been tested in recognized laboratory. World class Lifebuoy Hand Sanitizer is completely safe, and it is effective against virus and germs. This is why Lifebuoy Hand Sanitizer is trusted and appreciated worldwide when it comes to protecting ourselves in this pandemic.

*Unilever calculation based on Nielsen volume sales information for the total markets (latest 12 months). Details available on request.

Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 3
passengers who went to Italy in two consecutive flights," he said.
Momen said the Italian government urged mandatory Covid-19 tests for all 30,000 Bangladeshis in Rome, but many Bangladeshis left the city to avoid testing.
"Now, many are entering Italy, as the country has started regularising the situation... But due to previous behaviour of Bangladeshis and fear of a possible second wave of Covid-19, Italian authorities are very much concerned. That's why they are not allowing us to enter," he continued.
Pointing to Italy-bound Bangladeshi migrant workers' movement, the minister said it would be better if they demonstrate in front of the Italian mission in Dhaka.
"If they do that, authorities concerned will send information to Italy that Bangladeshis are trying to return," Momen said.
"What can we do apart from requesting them? We cannot send the expatriates forcibly," he also said.
Meanwhile, Italy Help Centre, a platform of Italy-bound expatriate workers, yesterday said the Italian ambassador has agreed to meet with a delegation of stranded Bangladeshi workers on October 19 to talk about their return.
Hridoy Ahmed, an Italy-bound expatriate, said there are at least 15,000 stranded Bangladeshis who are waiting to return to their workplaces in Italy.
They will wage movement in front of the foreign ministry office from October 20, if the Italian ambassador does not take any effective measures, he added.

Journo murdered in Narayanganj

Cops say he informed them about illegal gas connection

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A journalist was killed by some local people in Narayanganj on Sunday night as he used to inform law enforcers of their involvement in illegal gas connection, said police.
The victim -- Ilias Hossain (45) -- was a correspondent of the "Dainik Bijoy", a local daily.
In connection with the killing, police arrested three people -- Tusher, Millat Ali, and Misir Ali between Sunday night and yesterday morning, said Inspector Azgor Hossain of Bandar Police Station.
Some people hacked Ilias to death around 8:30pm at Adampur in Bandar area while he was on his way home in Jeodhora area, Officer-in-Charge Fakhrudin Bhuiyan quoted witnesses as saying.
A knife was seized from Tusher whose clothe was bloodstained during his arrest in the nearby area the same night, said the OC. Later, the other two were held, he added.
Victim's wife Julekha Begum filed a murder case with the police station yesterday, accusing eight persons including the three, said Inspector Azgar.
Police said they are trying to arrest the other accused.
In primary interrogation, Tusher admitted that he killed the journalist following previous enmity over illegal gas connection, said the police officer.
"We heard that Tusher sells contraband drugs in the area," said Inspector Azgar, adding that he was an accused in a case filed over a clash previously, he said.
Meanwhile, a Narayanganj court yesterday placed the arrestees on a three-day remand each, said police.

Shahabuddin Medical College MD gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faisal Al Islam, managing director of Shahabuddin Medical College Hospital, got bail in a case filed over using unauthorised Covid-19 test kits and forging test reports.
Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on Sunday granted Faisal bail, after his lawyer submitted a criminal appeal against the rejection order of the lower court.

In the appeal, the lawyer said his client has been suffering from different ailments, including heart disease, so he should be granted bail on medical grounds. Shahinur also said his client had an open-heart surgery before he was arrested.
The judge granted the bail on medical grounds after hearing arguments from both sides.
Rab arrested Faisal from the capital's Gulshan on July 20.

Accused beaten

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punishment of all involved.
It is worth mentioning that Moktar has already given his confessional statement before a magistrate after his arrest in the murder case. In the statement, he confessed that he took part in the killing where rival BCL men beat Sudipto to death, while also divulging information of others involved with the incident.
According to police and family members, in the early morning of October 6, 2017, some 20 people called out Sudipto, a master's student of Government City College and an assistant general secretary of the city unit of BCL, from his home in Sadarghat area and beat him to death.
On the same day, Sudipto's father Meghnath Biswas filed a case with Sadarghat Police Station accusing seven to eight unknown miscreants.
Later, the case was transferred to Police Bureau of Investigation, who are yet to submit a charge sheet.
Police so far arrested 18 people, mostly BCL activists, in connection with the case, of whom 16 are now out in bail.
Sources in police and BCL said intra-party rivalry was the reason behind the murder. Sudipto's peers and followers alleged that Didarul Alam Masum, a former BCL leader of Government City College and general secretary of Lalkhan Bazar ward unit Awami League, was the mastermind.
Masum, however, denied the allegations, claiming that it's a "conspiracy" against him by his political rivals.

ACI fined

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to be okay, the executive magistrate said.
A mobile court recently conducted a drive at ACI's hand sanitiser factory in Gazipur and found harmful chemical in the product. The court fined the company Tk 17 lakh and issued a warning so that they refrain from using the chemical in the sanitiser, Sarwoer Alam said.
After receiving information that the company has stored a huge quantity of sanitisers made of harmful chemical in its Mirpur depot, the court conducted the three-hour drive there, starting from 5pm on Sunday, he said.
They tested the product and found presence of methanol, the executive magistrate said.
Contacted, ACI Managing Director of Consumer Goods, Syed Alamgir said they would comment on the issue later.

Just 54mm

FROM PAGE 3

Traffic policemen, who were manning major intersections, seemed helpless.
The sufferings of people worsened due to road renovation and construction works of different projects in different parts of the city.
On the other hand, rickshaw-pullers charged high even for a very short distance, cashing in on the situation.
"I could not get a rickshaw from Asadgate [near Aarong] as the place went under knee-deep water," said Jamal Ahmed, a private job holder, who works at Farmgate.
Rashed Hasan, a resident of Jigatala, said he could not ride his bike to work due to waist-deep water. "I hired a

rickshaw, and had to pay Tk 110 to go to Farmgate, which usually takes Tk 70."
Many residents said as work for storm water drainage is going on in the area, rainwater mixed with mud and sewage worsened the situation.
Auto-rickshaw driver Monir Hossain said in many places, their vehicles broke down due to being stuck in water, which is why he decided to call it a day.
Waterlogging in Dhaka after rain is nothing new and experts have termed it a collective failure.
Of the total drainage lines in the capital, 385km are under Dhaka Wasa. This key utility service provider is also

responsible for the maintenance of 26 canals with a total length of 74km and box culverts of 10km.
Among the other government agencies that are also responsible include the two city corporations that manage some 2,500km of surface drains, the deputy commissioner's office that owns canals and many waterbodies, and Rajuk, which owns city lakes including Hatijheel and is the custodian of many flood flow zones and retention areas.
Besides, Bashundhara Residential Area authorities and Cantonment Board are two entities who have autonomy in water management in their respective areas.

Airline directed

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Dhaka and 53 from Chattogram airports to Dubai by two flights of Flydubai on October 9, said sources at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.
The Bangladeshi passengers were willing to travel by road from Dubai to Al Ain, a city in the eastern region of UAE, and Abu Dhabi.
Based on the complaints of the returning passengers, an investigation of the Magistrate Court at Shahjalal airport found that the negligence of Flydubai was responsible for deportation.
Passengers would not have been able to board the Dubai-bound flight if the airline authorities followed UAE's immigration policy properly.
Aviation Security, Airport APBN and expatriate welfare desk at the Dhaka airport assisted the magistrate court during the hearing.

Cycling for

FROM PAGE 3

constantly rebalanced to ensure vehicles are available where our users want them. Any bicycle that is unused for one hour will be taken to an area where it is more likely to be used," said Reza.
Earlier, in February 2020, right before the pandemic hit the country, Jobike had publicly announced the milestone of surpassing one million rides, with around 100,000 registered users. The startup reported that this is roughly equivalent to saving 52,300 litres of fuel.
Sayma Rahman gave an insight into their

target groups, "Some 6,500 women have learned to ride bicycles through Jobike, available in their respective campuses."
According to Jobike users and team members, the most important side to the initiative is that it leaves a breath of fresh air in the congested lifestyle of Dhaka, helping maintain a balance in the environment.
Considering the growing concerns surrounding climate change, the startup is highly determined to build a healthy ecosystem for city transportation and inspire people towards a healthy lifestyle, they added.

Focus more

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Farida Yeasmin, general secretary of Jatiya Press Club, said women are not focused as a centre point in disaster reporting, even though women manage everything of a family in a disaster, and for this, there must be more training for journalists.
Besides, the news reports on disaster are prepared based on how the central leaders direct the local journalists. The change of mindset and gender-sensitive training is important for central news leaders too so that they give proper direction to the district journalists for in-depth report about women's vulnerabilities in disaster, she added.
Angur Nahar Monty, coordinator of Bangladesh Women Journalist Network, said the number of female journalists is still less in Bangladesh, and so is the scope of capacity building since there is a lack of opportunity and disinterest in availing the opportunity.
According to Monty, from last March, the network has been working on capacity building and identifying the challenges and creating a network with different organisations. "We have worked with British High Commission, British Council for their English language development and ICRC on first aid training," she added.
Farzana Rupa, senior correspondent of Ekattor TV, said the policymakers must keep in mind the issues of women in infrastructure development, including buildings, roads and shelters. At the same time, there must be more focus on humanitarian development.
The event was co-chaired by Parveen Akhter, director-general, Department of Women Affairs, and moderated by Dilruba Haider of UN Women.

Career Opportunity at a Reputed National Development NGO

Position: Executive Director (reporting to the Board of Trustees)
Job Location: Dhaka (requiring frequent field visits in the rural area)
A reputed national development organization is seeking a proven, energetic leader as its Executive Director. The organization has been recognized nationally for creating innovative collaborations and partnerships empowering the community in areas of social services, good governance, sustainable livelihoods, health, quality education, food security & environmental resilience and Microfinance services. With support and input from members of the board and staff, the Executive Director ensures the ethical integrity of the organization in daily operations as well as through strategic alliance and in various communications.
Attractive Salary and Benefits package is negotiable for outstanding candidates. Interested candidates are required to send updated Curriculum Vitae with a cover letter to the following email address: career.executivedirector@gmail.com; please address to 'The Advertiser' and mention 'Executive Director' as the subject by 31 October 2020. Please visit www.bdjobs.com for more information.
Subject to fulfillment of requisite qualifications women are especially encouraged to apply.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Controller of Stores
Bangladesh Railway
Pahartali, Chattogram-4202


No. P6/Bearing/Source Enlistment/2020 11/10/2020

Corrigendum-3

The following amendment is being carried out in respect of the "Last Date of Selling, Closing Date & Date of Opening" of this office OTM (ICT) Tender No. P6/Bearing/Source Enlistment/2020 date: 01/07/2020:

Read	For
Last date of selling:	27/10/2020 12/12/2020
Tender closing date:	28/10/2020 13/10/2020
Date of opening:	28/10/2020 13/10/2020

All the other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unaltered.


Md. Rahid Hossain
District Controller of Stores/P-2
For Chief Controller of Stores
Phone: 01711692928

GD-1625

SALE OR TO-LET
A Compliance Garments Factory at Ashulia approved by Accord with 6th floor, Total 1,20,000 sqft of the building with Gas and Electricity to be sold or rented immediately. Pls contact : Samsul **01752380884**

Study Abroad
Global University Admission & Visa Processing Centre

BASHATI CONDOMINIUM
House # 15, Road # 17, Banani, C/A, Dhaka
M: 01406 252 275 / 70

RING TOWER
06/A, Ring Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka
M: 01406 252 221 / 33 / 20

Dhaka South City Corporation, Dhaka
Zone-5 (Sayedabad)
www.dhakasouthcity.gov.bd
Ref No. 46.207.000.21.16.02.2020



Corrigendum e-Tender Notice

The tender notice for Improvement Work of Road Drain & Footpath at Shaympur Kodomtoli area from Gazi Tank Factory to Nurany Textile Mills Ltd. Road No. 11 (Tender ID-498464, Ref: 46.207.14.21.14.02.2020/1, Package No. egp/dscc/z05/20-21/01/P01); Memo No. 46.207.000.21.16.01.2020, Date: 07/10/2020 has the following correction.
Last selling date will be 01/11/2020 instead of 08/10/2020. All other information will remain same.

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

DSCC/PRD/31/2020-21
GD-1621

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/2020/009: Implementation of Climate Resilient Water Safety Plan (CR-WSP) in two Urban Piped Water Supply Systems.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 29 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.

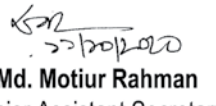
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
National Board of Revenue
Rajaswa Bhaban
Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
www.nbr.gov.bd

Ref. No. 08.01.0000.003.22.001.20.109 Date: 11 October 2020

e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 01/2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of 100 mbps Dedicated Internet Broadband Connection in NBR (01 Year). The Tender ID Number is 498095 and method of tender is OTM. Only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration is required in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd). The fee for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal has to be deposited online through any registered bank. **Tender documents publication date is 12th October 2020 at 12.00pm.**


Md. Motiur Rahman
Senior Assistant Secretary
Second Secretary (Board Administration-3)
Phone No. 9354324

GD-1620

34 school buildings inaugurated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Lawmaker of Thakurgaon-1 constituency Ramesh Chandra Sen yesterday inaugurated 34 newly-built academic buildings of different government primary and high schools in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

The lawmaker, also presidium member of Bangladesh Awami League (AL), attended the programme as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the newly constructed buildings through video conferencing at the upazila parishad conference room.

During the programme, the lawmaker also laid foundation of six more academic buildings for different high schools.

Of the buildings, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented the project for 22 different primary school building at a cost of Tk 18 crore, while Education Engineering Department constructed 12 high school buildings spending Tk 16 crore.

While addressing the inaugural session, the lawmaker said present government has taken initiative to bring all the children under primary education.

The government is also conscious about stopping the dropout rates from primary to high school level, he said.

PATUAKHALI TRIPLE MURDER

Prime accused arrested after 3yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police arrested the prime accused in connecting with a case for killing three of a family in Galachipa upazila of the district 3 years back.

The law enforcers detained Shahid, son of Idris Mollah, from Dhaka's Savar area on October 10 and produced him before a court the following day, seeking 10 days remanded, Patuakhali Superintendent of Police (SP) Moinul Hasan told the reporters at a briefing at his office yesterday.

On night of August 1 in 2017, unidentified criminals killed Delwar Mollah, 65, his wife Parveen Begum, 65, and their adopted daughter Kazoli Akhter, 15, at their house.

The following morning, police recovered their bodies and sent those to Patuakhali General Hospital for autopsy.

During primary interrogation, Shahid confessed his involvement in the murders.

Woman killed, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was killed by her husband and in-laws allegedly over family feud in Kaharol upazila of the district on Sunday. The deceased, Rupali Rani Roy, 30, was wife of Bishuram Roy of Chirakutipara village in the upazila.

Quoting locals and victim's family members, police said there had been a family feud between Rupali and her in-laws.

As a sequel, at one stage of altercation on Sunday, Rupali's in-laws beat her mercilessly and then strangled her to death. Being informed by locals, police went to the spot and detained Bishuram's parents Jiten Chandra Roy and Subola Rani Roy from their house.



With hopes higher than before, hundreds of senior citizen and widow aspirants throng the premises of Balipara Union Parishad, in Pirojpur's Indurkani upazila, to enlist their candidacy for social security allowances of the government. The photo was taken last month. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

GOVT SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE

Online verification shines hope on 30 thousand aspirants in 6 upazilas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Those days of eligible aspirants watching their much-needed social security allowances being pocketed by the rich and the powerful might be over soon.

Under a new initiative taken by the Ministry of Social Welfare, the national identity (NID) database of the Election Commission (EC) is now being used to verify identification of individuals seeking to receive government social security allowances in 112 poverty-stricken upazilas across the country.

Marred by irregularities and false claim, the old age, widow and differently abled (physically or mentally) allowances under social security programmes of the government are usually allocated only a fraction of funds required for a large number of recipients.

The new digital enrolment process is being undertaken by the ministry with the objective to ensure maximum coverage for eligible recipients in at least the 112 out of total 492 upazilas in the country.

In Pirojpur, the new enrolment process has been rolled out in six of its seven upazilas. Mathbaria upazila and Pirojpur municipality are being kept out of the process.

Field workers of Department of Social Services (DSS) in the six upazilas -- Nazirpur, Kaukhali, Indurkani, Bhandaria, Nesarabad and Sadar -- already made house visits to guide aspirants about documents and data required during the enlistment process.

The new process might help enrol around 30,000 genuine applicants in the six upazilas, said AKM Akteruzzaman Talukder, deputy director (DD) of DSS district office in Pirojpur.

But, like it has always been, individuals who are solvent or are already receiving at least one allowance from any ministry of the government will not be eligible to apply for any of the allowances, he added.

The digital verification process has come as a blessing for many allowance aspirants who so far failed to get any government allowance due to corruption and

favouritism by local public representatives, who had previously been tasked with the enrolment process of the allowances.

Abdul Aziz, a senior citizen in Balipara village of Indurkani upazila, said despite years of relentless communication with a member of the local union parishad, the public representative did not enlist him as a recipient of the government's old age allowance.

But finally, he was able to start the process of enlistment by turning in the photocopy of his NID card recently, the elderly man said with much enthusiasm.

The elderly population usually do not have any source of income and the government allowance would be an immense support for them, said Altaf Hossain, an old age allowance aspirant in the same village.

Kabir Hossain, chairman of Balipara union in Indurkani upazila, said local public representatives had to turn down many of the eligible candidates as the allowance allocation had been limited before.

Aside from all the advantages, the new digital verification process has its limitations too. A good number of eligible aspirants might get rejected due to erroneous information, such as date of birth, on their NID cards.

Octogenarian Abdur Rahman Miah, a boatman from Southkhali char in Indurkani, is among many of the old age allowance aspirants whose application was rejected during initial manual screening of documents by DSS workers.

"My real age is 82, but according to my NID card, I'm only 32 years old -- the same age as my grandson!" lamented the man.

When this correspondent drew attention of Akteruzzaman, the DD of Pirojpur DSS, on the problem being faced by Abdur Rahman, the DD said their enlistment is conducted only through online verification of the NID database and before applying for the allowances, erroneous information on any NID card has to be corrected at the EC only.

Traders happy as Shapla Beel abuzz with tourists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Lal Shapla Beel is abuzz with tourists, much to the happiness of local traders. The 15-km-long wetland, where thousands of water lilies of pink colour are in bloom for five months every year, is located in Satla union under Uzirpur upazila and Bagdha union under Agailjhara upazila of Barishal district.

Locals are very happy that tourism business in the scenic area has increased. They have demanded construction of a bungalow in the area and renovation of 10-km-long Ujirpur-Satla road.

The traders said the road has been lying in such awful state for the last three years. When the road was in good condition before 2017, around 2000 people from different parts of the country came to visit here every day during the tourist season but the number of visitors has now decreased by more than 50 percent due to awful condition of the road.

They added that apart from this, the tourists almost stopped visiting Lal Shapla Beel at the beginning of coronavirus. The tourism business in the area was hit hard by the pandemic then.

But their income has increased slightly for the last two months as tourists from Barishal and other adjoining districts started coming to visit the picturesque spot again, said some restaurant traders.

At present, around 1000 tourists come here every day, said boatmen in



Two women on a small boat pluck lilies in Shapla Beel at Satla of Barishal's Uzirpur upazila. PHOTO: TITU DAS

the area.

Taslim, a local college student, said the beautiful Shapla Beel is actually vast plain land that remains under rainwater from June to October every year. Locals cannot grow anything here during this period. At the time, they depend on the wetland for their livelihood. They actually work as boatmen during the season.

Boatman Enamul, 42, said every day around 100 people came to visit the wetland at the beginning of the tourist season due to coronavirus outbreak. But at present, a number of tourists on boats come here throughout the day to enjoy the beauty of water lilies. Lilies are now in bloom in the beel.

He now earns around Tk 500 daily by rowing boat, said Enamul.

A tourist has to spend about Tk 500 to enjoy the beauty of water lilies in the beel per day, said Bipul Das, chairman of Bagdha union parishad, adding that Tk 1.50 crore is spent here per month during the tourist season.

Local people have also urged for better infrastructures at the tourist spot. Deputy Commissioner (DC) SM Ajjar Rahman said various steps will be taken to make the scenic area more attractive for visitors.

They have already sent proposals to the tourism corporation to make Shapla Beel more attractive and tourist-friendly, said the DC.

Man held with fake currency

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police detained a man and seized huge Indian fake currency from Pukuria area in Shibganj upazila of the district early yesterday.

The arrestee, Abdul Basit, 28, son of Golam Nabi, is a resident of Kansat village.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team, intercepted a Sonamasjid bound auto-rickshaw around 4:30am and arrested Basit along with 21.3 lakh Indian fake currency.



Students, teachers and employees of Moulana Bhasani Science and Technology University bring out a procession at the university campus yesterday on the occasion of 21st founding anniversary of the institution. PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
1 Ministry/Division	Not applicable.			
2 Agency	Not applicable.			
3 Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bank.			
4 Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
5 Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
6 Invitation for	The Procurement of Warranty, Maintenance and Related Services of Storage and Tape Library for Bangladesh Bank.			
7 Invitation Ref. No.	ISDSD(SERVICES)-12(82)/2020			
8 Date	11 October 2020.			
KEY INFORMATION				
9 Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10 Budget and source of funds	Own source.			
11 Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12 Project/programme code (if applicable)				
13 Project/programme name (if applicable)				
14 Tender Package No.	ISDSD(SERVICES)-12(82)/2020			
15 Tender package name	Warranty, Maintenance and Related Services of Storage and Tape Library for Bangladesh Bank.			
16 Tender publication date	11 October 2020			
17 Tender last selling date	Not applicable.			
18 Tender closing date and time	01 November 2020 03:00pm			
19 Tender opening date and time	01 November 2020 03:15pm			
20 Name & address of the office(s)	Address			
No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents				
-Receiving tender document	BB eTender System (etender.bb.org.bd) and one hard copy document.			
-Opening tender document	Information Systems Development and Support Department (ISDSD), Bangladesh Bank, 28th Floor, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.			
21 Place/date/time of Pre-tender meeting (optional)	None. Date Time			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22 Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC)/Delivery of Goods with AMC of at least ONE active of running contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of five (5) years. Evidence of work order, support continuing certificate mentioning amount, item list, date etc. are required.			
23 Brief description of goods	Warranty, Maintenance and Related Services of Storage and Tape Library for Bangladesh Bank.			
24 Brief description of related services	Three years warranty service.			
25 Price of tender document (Tk)	Not applicable.			
Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
1	Information Technology Items	ISDSD	20,00,000/-	03 years from the start date of Warranty, Maintenance and Related Services upon contract.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
26 Name of official inviting tender	Md. Amir Hossain Pathan.			
27 Designation of official inviting tender	Systems Manager.			
28 Address of official inviting tender	Information Systems Development and Support Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.			
29 Contact details of official inviting tender	9530101	9530481	amir.pathan@bb.org.bd	
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			
DCP: 48/2020-2797 Date: 12/10/2020 GD-1624		ব্যাবহিক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।		sd/ Md. Amir Hossain Pathan Systems Manager Phone: 9530101, E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd



Trump campaign ad quote misleading

Says Fauci as president hits election trail again

AFP, Washington

Top government scientist Anthony Fauci said Sunday that an ad aired by Donald Trump's reelection campaign was edited to make him seem to endorse the president's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

"In my nearly five decades of public service, I have never publicly endorsed any political candidate," Fauci, the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, said in a statement sent to AFP.

The 30-second campaign ad cites Trump's personal experience with the virus -- "President Trump is recovering from the coronavirus, and so is America," it says -- before including a brief clip in which Fauci appears to praise the president's response to the pandemic.

"I can't imagine that anybody could be doing more," Fauci is shown as saying, creating the clear impression he is referring to Trump.

But a complete clip of Fauci's comments, made during an interview in March with Fox News, shows the doctor saying, "The comments attributed to me without my permission in the GOP campaign ad were taken out of context from a broad statement I made months ago about the efforts of federal public health officials."

Trump, who returned to the campaign trail yesterday, defended the clip, and his handling of pandemic, and rebutted the doctor's criticism.

"They are indeed Dr. Fauci's own words. We have done a 'phenomenal' job, according to certain governors," the president wrote in a tweet.



An aerial picture shows Hue city, submerged in floodwaters caused by heavy downpours, in central Vietnam yesterday. At least 18 people died and more than a dozen are missing after floods submerged homes in central Vietnam and rough seas capsized fishing boats, authorities said.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF



Sharp rise in natural disasters in last 20 yrs: UN

There has been a dramatic increase in extreme weather events in the past 20 years, which are taking a heavy human and economic toll worldwide and are on track to expand further, and Asia has been hardest-hit, the United Nations said yesterday. China (577) and the United States (467) recorded the highest number of disaster events from 2000 to 2019, followed by India (321), the Philippines (304) and Indonesia (278), the U.N. said in a report issued the day before the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. Eight of the top 10 countries are in Asia. Some 7,348 major disaster events were recorded globally, claiming 1.23 million lives, affecting 4.2 billion people and causing \$2.97 billion in economic losses during the two-decade period.

Trump's Supreme Court pick faces Senate hearings

The US Senate was set to start confirmation hearings yesterday for Judge Amy Coney Barrett, nominated to the Supreme Court by President Donald Trump despite opposition from the Democrats, who appear largely powerless to block the move before the November 3 election. The 48-year-old conservative law professor was named by

Truce strained by new attacks

EU expresses 'extreme concern' over intense shelling by rivals

REUTERS, Baku

Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces yesterday accused each other of launching new attacks in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, increasing strains on a two-day old humanitarian ceasefire intended to end heavy fighting over the mountain enclave.

Russia, which brokered the ceasefire, appealed for both sides to respect it and Luxembourg reiterated European Union calls for Turkey, an ally of Azerbaijan, to do more to secure an end to hostilities that have killed hundreds of people.

The fighting, the deadliest over Nagorno-Karabakh in over 25 years, is being watched closely abroad partly because of the proximity of the fighting to Azeri gas and oil pipelines and the risk of regional powers Turkey and Russia being dragged in.

Both Ankara and Moscow are under growing pressure to use their influence in the region to end the fighting.

The humanitarian ceasefire is meant to allow ethnic Armenian forces

NAGORNO-KARABAKH



and Azerbaijan to swap prisoners and bodies of people killed in two weeks of fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, which is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but governed and populated by ethnic Armenians.

But the ceasefire has frayed quickly. Azerbaijan said on Sunday it launched airstrikes against an Armenian regiment, following what it said was an Armenian rocket attack on an apartment building. Armenia denied carrying out such an attack. [nL8N2H105C].

Yesterday, Azerbaijan's defence

ministry said Armenian forces had tried to attack its positions around the Aghdere-Aghdam and Fizuli-Jabrail regions, and were shelling territories in the Goranboy, Terter and Aghdam regions inside Azerbaijan.

Nagorno-Karabakh said its forces had inflicted losses on Azeri forces and that large-scale military operations were continuing in the Hadrat area of the mountain enclave.

Reuters could not independently verify the reports.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia, which has a defence pact with Armenia, was monitoring the events and asked Azeri and ethnic Armenian forces to respect the ceasefire.

The EU's diplomatic chief expressed his deep concern over reports of violations of the ceasefire.

"We note with extreme concern the reports of continued military activities, including against civilian targets, as well as civilian casualties," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.

TENSIONS ALONG LAC

India, China hold fresh talks on ending faceoff

AP, Srinagar

Senior Indian and Chinese military commanders were holding fresh talks yesterday aimed at ending a months-long standoff along their disputed border in the remote Ladakh region.

The talks were being held on the Indian side of the frontier in the Chushul area. No details were immediately available.

The negotiations come as tens of thousands of rival soldiers on both sides backed by artillery, tanks and fighter jets brace for a harsh winter in the cold-desert region where temperatures can fall to minus 50 degrees Celsius (minus 58 Fahrenheit).

India and China have held several rounds of talks by military, diplomatic and political officials, including negotiations between their foreign ministers and defense ministers in Moscow last month. Although the standoff has persisted, the talks seem to have calmed the situation along the border as no new military aggression has been reported for a month.

Indian soldiers also are engaged in nearly daily fighting along the de facto frontier with Pakistan in disputed Kashmir, the Himalayan region divided between the two archrivals and claimed by both in its entirety.

Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh said yesterday that China and Pakistan were creating conditions that suggest "a border dispute is being created under a mission."

Singh made the remarks while virtually inaugurating 44 bridges in areas bordering with China and Pakistan that officials say will facilitate easier movement of the Indian troops.



the Republican president on September 26 to succeed women's rights champion and liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died of cancer eight days earlier at the age of 87. By law, the Republican-led Senate has to approve the nomination to the country's highest court, where conservatives currently occupy five of the nine seats.

Mumbai hit by massive power outage

A major grid failure caused a widespread power outage in India's financial capital Mumbai and surrounding areas yesterday, the first such blackout in more than two years that stranded thousands of train passengers and delayed college exams. The failure was caused by "technical problems" during maintenance work, the energy minister of Mumbai's home state of Maharashtra said in a video message. Power has now been restored to many areas of the city, officials and witnesses said. Mumbai's international airport and two main stock exchanges located in the city were operating normally.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



PHOTO: AFP

Farmers shout slogans as they chain their hands while blocking a railway track during a protest against the recent passing of agriculture reform bills in the Parliament, on the outskirts of Amritsar, India yesterday.

PUTIN CRITIC NAVALNY POISONING

EU agrees to sanctions on Russians: diplomats

AFP, Brussels

The EU yesterday lined up sanctions against Russian officials over the poisoning of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and against Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko over the crisis in his country.

Foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg agreed in principle to sanctions proposals made last week by France and Germany, which said Russia was responsible for the poisoning of Navalny with the Soviet-developed nerve agent Novichok, three diplomatic sources told AFP.

On Belarus, the ministers said they were ready to sanction strongman leader Lukashenko, as the bloc seeks to step up pressure over his regime's crackdown on protesters.

The EU has already imposed travel bans and asset freezes on 40 Lukashenko allies for rigging an election in August that returned him to power and then orchestrating a

crackdown on the mass protests that have rocked the country since the vote.

The bloc had held back from penalising Lukashenko, hoping to persuade him to open a dialogue with opposition forces to resolve the crisis.

But a fresh outbreak in Minsk on Sunday -- police using water cannon and stun grenades on protesters and making hundreds of arrests -- prompted ministers to give political approval to sanctioning the strongman leader.

In their formal conclusions on Belarus, the ministers said the list of sanctioned people and entities would be put "under constant review".

As he arrived for the meeting in Luxembourg, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas had urged his counterparts to expand the sanctions list. "The violence continues, perpetrated by the Lukashenko regime... so we have to consider how to proceed," said Maas.



COVID TREATMENT

Anti-microbe drug shows promise

AFP, Hong Kong

An affordable anti-microbial drug used to treat stomach ulcers and bacterial infections has shown promise in combating the coronavirus in animals, scientists in Hong Kong announced yesterday.

Researchers set out to explore whether metalloodrugs -- compounds containing metal that are more commonly used against bacteria -- might also have anti-viral properties that could fight the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

Using Syrian hamsters as test subjects, they found that one of the drugs, ranitidine bismuth citrate (RBC), was "a potent anti-SARS-CoV-2 agent".

'Arctic Ocean is dying'

Scientists warn of ice-free summers in just decades

AFP, Bremerhaven

Researchers on the world's biggest mission to the North Pole returned to Germany yesterday, bringing home devastating proof of a dying Arctic Ocean and warnings of ice-free summers in just decades.

The German Alfred Wegener Institute's Polarstern ship returned to the port of Bremerhaven after 389 days spent drifting through the Arctic trapped in ice, allowing scientists to gather vital information on the effects of global warming in the region.

Mission leader Markus Rex said he and his team of 300 scientists from 20 countries had witnessed "a place of truly fascinating and unique beauty".

"We should really make every effort to preserve this world... for future generations and to use the small chance we still have to do so," he told a press conference.

Ahead of their return, Rex told AFP the scientists had seen for themselves the dramatic effects of global warming on ice in the region considered "the epicentre of climate change".



"We witnessed how the Arctic ocean is dying," Rex said. "We saw this process right outside our windows, or when we walked on the brittle ice." Underlining how much of the sea ice has melted away, Rex said the mission was able to sail through large patches of open water, "sometimes stretching as far as the horizon".

"At the North Pole itself, we found badly eroded, melted, thin and brittle ice."

If the warming trend in the North Pole continues, in a few decades we will have "an ice-free Arctic in the summer", Rex said.

The Polarstern mission, dubbed MOSAIC,

spent more than a year collecting data on the atmosphere, ocean, sea ice and ecosystems to help assess the impact of climate change on the region and the world.

To carry out the research, four observational sites were set up on the sea ice in a radius of up to 40 kilometres around the ship.

The researchers collected water samples from beneath the ice during the polar night to study plant plankton and bacteria and better understand how the marine ecosystem functions. The 140-million-euro (\$165 million) expedition has also brought back 150 terabytes of data and more than 1,000 ice samples.

The team measured more than 100 parameters almost continuously throughout the year and are hoping the information will provide a "breakthrough in understanding the Arctic and climate system", Rex said.

Thomas Krumpen, sea ice physicist said: "For us the second phase is starting -- the analysis of data. A lot of data has returned with the ship and we will likely be busy with it over the next ten years."



Local firefighters respond to a house fire in the aftermath of Hurricane Delta in Lafayette, Louisiana, US, on Sunday. The fire was most likely caused by a damaged electrical line, firefighters on the scene said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

LAW INTERVIEW

Death penalty for rape: The severity of punishment has nothing to do with impunity



Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman is a Professor at the Department of Law, University of Dhaka. He received his Ph.D. in criminal law from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London in 2013. His research interests focus on criminal law, legal theories, human rights, and law and society. Muhammad Rahman is currently an elected member of the Executive Council of the Asian Society of International Law. He is the author of *Criminal Sentencing in Bangladesh: From Colonial Legacies to Modernity* (Leiden/Boston: Brill Nijhoff, 2017), and co-author of *Protection of Minorities: Regimes, Norms and Issues in South Asia* (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012), and *Protection of Children in Conflict with the Law in Bangladesh* (Dhaka: Save the Children UK, 2008). Keeping the alarming rise in the number of sexual offences, including rape in context, Law Desk talks to him on the following issues.

Law Desk (LD): What would be your general observations on the increasing number of rape and its relation with the culture of impunity?

Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman (MMR): Reported rapes have been on the rise for many years. And what is more alarming and disturbing is that the incidents of gang rape in peacetime, the number of which has significantly decreased in many countries, appear to have increased in our society. True, we do not have sufficient scientific data or studies to underscore the impact of the culture of impunity on the increasing number of sexual offences, including rape. However, the debilitating impact of a failed criminal justice system and lower rate of conviction on the increasing number of offences is quite easily perceivable and deducible. There indeed is a relationship although it is not the only reason.

LD: What are the challenges for the implementation of the existing laws? Do you think that the existing punishment for rape is inadequate?

MMR: The punishment for rape

is more important than its severity. The main problem is that most offenders in rape cases go unpunished and the severity of punishment has nothing to do with impunity. Without addressing the problem of low conviction rate, we cannot just assume that the existing punishment is inadequate and a more severe punishment would be the only answer to the problem. Our focus should be on why convictions are not being awarded. In my understanding, the reasons for this low conviction rate are well known to anyone having a minimum knowledge of our criminal justice system but unfortunately they are not addressed. Understanding the problems and addressing them in an honest way is the key.

LD: Should there be death penalty for rape?

MMR: The existing law prescribes the death penalty for rape leading to death and gang rape. Now the question is whether we should introduce it for all rapes. If we could maintain an acceptable conviction rate and punish

or in addition to life imprisonment. Since we are now miserably failing to ensure conviction, the question of increasing the punishment is irrelevant and cannot be an agenda. When an alarmingly low conviction rate has almost broken the sequence of crime and punishment, our first priority should be to establish this sequence. Introduction of the death penalty, without taking any meaningful step to that direction, is nothing but a hysterical response to a serious problem.

From a penal policy perspective, it is dangerous to put rapists on the same footing with murderers. The superiority of force which enables a man to commit rape can enable him to go further - to add murder to his guilt. The only restraining motive that can prevent murder in this situation is to inform him that the punishment of murder is more severe than the punishment of the crime which he has already committed. In this way, the differential treatment of rapists and murderers contributes to the security of life of rape victims. Even

run. It would contribute to an increase in number of rape followed by murder, encourage more false cases, unduly curtail liberty of accused in many cases

Since we are now miserably failing to ensure conviction, the question of increasing the punishment is irrelevant and cannot be an agenda. When an alarmingly low conviction rate has almost broken the sequence of crime and punishment, our first priority should be to establish this sequence.

progress in implementing the policy. If we have comprehensive witness and victim protection and management laws and policies, we can do a lot to ensure better criminal justice system. Additionally, we should focus more on countering false cases and appointing adequate number of judges. Reform in all these areas and not in respect of one only in exclusion of others, can bring positive changes in the truest sense. If we keep the entire criminal justice system in chaos and intervene only for sexual violence or rape, there will be very little improvements.

Furthermore, we need to focus on an underdiscussed area: the moral authority of law, of criminal justice system and the criminal justice agencies. The perception that criminal justice system works only through administration of punishment is a flawed perception. The moral authority of law emanates from the logical underpinnings and reasonableness underlying law. For instance, a criminal law may lose its moral authority if it is unjust in terms of ensuring the due process rights and maintaining a just sentencing calculus. Besides, the criminal justice agencies also need to have moral authority. When the moral authority erodes, the criminal justice system ultimately fails to command compliance. The said authority emanates, among others, from an impersonal rule of law. For instance, if a popular perception, even if wrong, is created that criminal justice responses are markedly different on the basis of political or social status or connection of offender or victims, then criminal justice agencies need to think in retrospect if they have an impersonal moral authority. The same thing happens when it appears that criminal justice responses in cases of "viral" incidents compared against other incidents are significantly different. Adhocism may be a good strategy to fool or appease the mass people but it ultimately diminishes the moral authority of criminal justice system and its agencies. In this connection, we should also look at how criminal justice agencies are exercising their coercive powers. If there is an arrogance of power, it not only affects their credibility but also contributes to growing criminality by those possessing different forms of power at the societal level. We should also address the crisis of credibility of these agencies.

LD: Thank you for your time.

MMR: You are welcome.



under the existing law is harsh. Nonetheless, there is a growing perception that increasing the punishment further will solve the problem. The effectiveness of punishment as deterrence depends on many factors. The certainty of

the offenders with life imprisonment (which is the only punishment for rape under the existing law) and still unable to deter rape, then the question could come as to whether we should consider increasing the existing punishment and introduce the death penalty instead of

the authors of the Penal Code of 1860 were well aware about this concept of marginal deterrence. That's why they did not accept the popular demand of death penalty for rape. If we now choose to surrender to this popular demand, it would be disastrous for us in the long

and possibly result in fewer convictions.

LD: What should reforms be directed at, then?

MMR: We should aim at a reform of the entire criminal justice system. No piecemeal intervention will bring about meaningful and sustainable changes. In reforming the system, there are several key areas of interventions. First, there is a strong need to reform the police. Many positive proposals on police reform are pending with relevant ministries for many years. We should generate more discussion on why our policy makers are hesitant in implementing these proposals. If we could reform the police, give them functional independence, ensure accountability and make the processes of investigation more transparent, we could ensure better and effective investigation leading to a significant increase in conviction rate. In many cases, we end up in unwarranted acquittals due to faulty investigations. Second, we should seriously rethink about the prosecution system which is heavily controlled by the executive. This arrangement is not conducive for an effective criminal justice system.

The third area of reform could be the management and protection of witnesses and victims. A law was drafted by the Law Commission long ago, but it is yet to be enacted. In 2017, the Supreme Court laid down a praiseworthy draft policy for witness management, but there is no noticeable

LAW REFORM

Redefining rape: A medico-legal call for justice

SUMAIYA ANJUM TROYEE

Rape is one of the most heinous crimes that can happen in a society. In ensuring justice for rape victims, an unbroken chain of medical evidence plays a significant role. However, in many cases, an inchoate legal conceptualisation of rape downplays sexual violence and its gruesomeness.

Section 375 of the Penal Code 1860 states that, a man is said to commit rape, if a sexual intercourse with a woman happens under certain statutory circumstances. An explanation to the section states that penetration is sufficient to prove sexual intercourse. This century old rape definition coupled with the explanation is silent as to what extent penetration is sufficient to constitute rape. This inchoate rape definition often puts medical officers in a serious dilemma. This is high time this archaic definition was changed. In this regard, the amended rape definition of Indian Penal Code is a good example to consider.

In a bid to prioritise rape justice, in the post-2012 gang rape context, India amended section 375. After amendment now the section is defined broadly as this "a man is said to commit rape if he (a) penetrates his penis, to any extent into the vagina, mouth, urethra or anus of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person or (b) inserts to any extent, any object or a part of the body, not being the penis, into the vagina, the urethra or anus of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person, or (c) manipulates any part of the body of a woman so as to cause penetration into the vagina, urethra, anus or any part of body of such woman makes her to do so with him or any other person or (d) applies his mouth to the vagina, anus, urethra of the woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person. This amended provision looks beyond the colonial conception of 'rape' and duly considers the needs of time

and the changing facets of rape violence in general.

Defining rape narrowly is particularly problematic and the same can keep numerous instances of sexual violence amounting to rape outside the perimeter of what is statutorily defined as 'rape'. Medically speaking, complete act of intercourse is not necessary for an act to constitute rape. Rape can be committed even when there is inability to produce a penile erection. Rape can occur without causing any injury and as such negative evidence does not exclude rape.



It is necessary therefore, for the aid of justice to amend section 375 of the Penal Code 1860. A comprehensive definition of rape can initiate fight against such a social evil like rape and can amply enable medical persons and anyone concerned with the medico-legal as well as legal process involving rape, to examine a situation claiming rape, in a proper way.

THE WRITER IS A MEDICAL STUDENT AT TAIRUNNESA MEMORIAL MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Need for accelerated action to end child marriage

A new report from UNICEF calls for accelerated action to end child marriage in Bangladesh by 2030. Despite significant progress in recent years, Bangladesh has the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia and ranks among 10 countries in the world with the highest levels. The report is a data brief laying down the trends in child marriage across the country since 1970. It also found that prevalence of child marriage in Bangladesh is less common than in previous generations, dropping from over 90 per cent around 1970 to just over 50 per cent today. Nonetheless, it is worth noting that, because of economic uncertainty, interruptions in schooling, disruptions of services and other factors, the pandemic has the potential to threaten progress made thus far against child marriage.

Following are some key facts that the report highlighted:

- Bangladesh is home to 38 million child brides, including currently married girls along with women who were first married in childhood. Of these, 13 million are married before age 15. Fifty-one percent of young women in Bangladesh were married before their 18th birthday.
- Bangladesh ranks among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest levels of child marriage and has the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia.
- A girl's risk of child marriage is influenced by certain background characteristics. For example, child brides are somewhat more likely to reside in rural areas and to live in poorer households, and are less likely to have more than a secondary education.
- Bangladesh has made less progress than its South Asian neighbours, but compared to other countries with the world's highest levels of child marriage,



- its progress is exceptionally strong.
- Married girls are over four times more likely to be out of school than unmarried girls. Declines in the practice have been observed across wealth groups, with more progress seen among the richest.
- Those with an education beyond secondary school are least likely to be child brides, even if they live in poorer households and reside in rural areas.
- Among districts most affected by child marriage, differences in prevalence are most evident by education levels, rather than wealth or place of residence.
- Nearly one in three child brides have a spouse who is at least 10 years older compared to one in four young women who married in adulthood. Nearly 5 in 10 child brides gave birth before age 18, and 8 in 10 gave birth before age 20. Early childbearing is much less common among those who married later.
- At least 2 in 10 women have family planning needs that are unmet by

modern methods; levels are similar among child brides and those who married in adulthood.

- Many women lack antenatal and delivery care in Bangladesh. In some divisions, child brides are even less likely to receive such services than other women. Married girls are over four times more likely to be out of school than unmarried girls.
- Child brides are more likely to say that wife-beating is justified than their peers who married later.
- Meeting the Sustainable Development Goal to end child marriage by 2030, or the national target to end child marriage by 2041, will require a major push. Progress must be at least 8 times faster than the rate observed over the past decade to meet the national target, or 17 times faster to meet the SDG target.

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

Ananta Jalil's dangerous tirade



ELITA KARIM

ONE of the proverbs that I have grown to dislike, especially in the last many years is—*ek haathe taali baaje na* (you need two hands to clap), roughly

translating to, a deed is done only if two or more people come together to do it. It is not possible for one sole person to accomplish something.

Although this proverb has been used to justify ideas of working together for better accomplishments or to admonish children over breaking window panes during cricket matches in the streets, over the last many years, it has also been used to explain why and how rape victims are at fault. It takes two to commit a crime, and in the case of rapes and gang rapes also, women are blamed for enticing the opposite sex—either by smiling too much, being friendly, talking to a man, or most popularly—wearing the “wrong” or “revealing” clothes.

Even though one usually hears these statements from individuals with limited exposure to reality outside of their little world, or from people with little or no education, it was baffling and hurtful to hear someone like Ananta Jalil, an actor and a filmmaker, move along the same lines of victim blaming.

At the time of writing this opinion, Ananta Jalil has released three videos to date—the first one where he spoke against rape and blamed women's attire, a second video where he edited out the part about women's clothing and a third talking about how people are focusing on the negative and not the positive elements of his video.

Jalil's six minute long video, the first one that rightly earned him all the backlash, was curiously posted from actor (also his wife) Barsha's verified page. He had started off normally—

calling out the perpetrators, trying to instill fear in them by urging them to think about their own family members in similar helpless positions. However, as the pathetic background music moved towards the crescendo, his voice too was raised as he began to advise women on how not to get raped. The actor was heard addressing women “as a brother,” saying “Women (in Bangladesh) wear indecent dresses inspired by women from other countries, cinemas, television and social media. People look at your figures instead of your faces because of the indecent dresses. They make indecent comments (about women) and think of rape,” he said. “Do you (women) consider yourselves modern? Is the dress you're wearing modern, or is it indecent? A modern dress means only showing your face and covering your body which will make you look good.” He went on to say that any dress that does not cover the whole body makes women look “very bad”. “You go out on the streets wearing a t-shirt like boys. And then you're dishonoured and return home... you either die by suicide or can't show your face in public.”

In the last month or so, reports have been rushing in about children under the age of six being brutally raped, of boys being raped by their teachers in madrasas, a married woman roaming the city with her husband raped by Chhatra League activists, and the one that shook the country to the core—a group of men stripping off a woman's clothes and raping her while she pleaded for mercy. Yet another video that was also shared on social media before being taken down was of a group of young men trying to take off a woman's burkha, molesting her and kissing her on the mouth while she pleaded for them to let her go. The woman was walking home when she encountered the group of molesters.

How is it that Ananta Jalil feels that women are to share the blame of this heinous crime? How does a commercially important person,

considered a highly respected position, especially in a developing economy, dare to speak to women, advising them not to get raped by wearing “decent” clothing? Is he oblivious to the previous cases of rape mentioned here? Or is he simply trying to move with the trend, making videos and disbursing weakly gathered information and ideas? Lastly, why does he not use his space to demand punishment for the rapists

films where women are not treated like sex objects but as equal beings capable enough to fight for love, family and friends? Why does Jalil not create opportunities for female (and male) technicians, actors, art directors, writers, directors to develop and grow in the industry?

It's unfortunate that he would rather choose to create videos with petty messages where women and rape

to the third group, has been making absurd storylines for films, gained fame because of his over the top appearances and the nonsensical statements he had been making over the years, giving breaks to many a genius meme maker. In a nutshell, Ananta Jalil is a joke and not to be taken seriously.

But this is where it gets problematic. What the minority group—comprising a small percentage of individuals exposed to global trends when it comes to films, literature, politics and much more—fails to realise is that to the majority of film lovers in Bangladesh, Ananta Jalil is no joke and his words are taken very seriously. Especially in smaller towns and villages, where young women are still blamed by family members and neighbours for being sexually harassed or “eve teased” on streets while going to school, Jalil's words on how women must share the blame of rape simply because of what they wear, have destroyed years worth of work done to empower women in Bangladesh, by policymakers, government bodies and human rights groups.

Art can change one's outlook towards life. Films change lives and stories of long lost lovers coming together have managed to fill people's hearts with inspiration for years. However, it is a shame that in a country where films, music, the arts and stories are still struggling and fighting to stay alive, a Pied Piper like Ananta Jalil pops up from the rubble of his own money, creating laughable content and making a comfortable space for himself. To make things worse, Jalil used this space to spread hate instead of love, as he claims to do.

It is high time to destroy these nooks and spaces built by big time influencers and focus on education, the arts, films and teaching compassion to people—instead of dwelling in the mediocrity that we are so used to.

Elita Karim is Editor, Arts & Entertainment and Star Youth. Twitter: @elitakarim



PHOTO: STAR

Ananta Jalil created controversy after suggesting women should dress decently to prevent rapes.

instead of advising women on decency?

One might also point out that the world of cinema over decades in Bangladesh has always portrayed women as objects of desire, as beings who are unable to think for themselves and, of course, the ones who end up destroying close family bonds. Female characters have rarely been showcased as heroes, courageous personalities, human beings ready to take on the world or simply take a stroll in the neighbourhood without being sexually harassed or cat called by the young men next door.

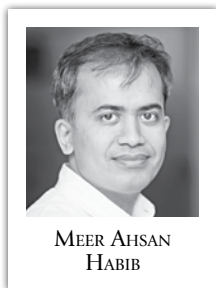
With all his resources and finances, why does Ananta Jalil not work towards changing the age-old narrative and make

victims are put down.

As Jalil's video went viral within hours of release, social media users were surprisingly divided into three groups, instead of the usual two. While one group of people, mostly men of all ages and individuals holding on to antiquated beliefs, agreed with him wholeheartedly, another group vehemently opposed this thought on platforms, speaking against the actor's illogical tirade about how to protect women from rape.

There was yet another group of people, smaller but influential, who spoke about why Jalil's words and thoughts should not be given any importance. He, after all, according

Why do we have to take to the streets for justice?



MEER AHSAN HABIB

ELEVEN people have so far been arrested in connection with the Noakhali gang rape. Most of the suspects were arrested within days after the video of the heinous crime

landed on social media. The graphic content rattled the nation as people of different quarters took to the streets across the country demanding justice. What would have happened had the video not gone online? After all, it happened more than a month ago and nobody knew anything. Now that we know she had been through this ordeal for many months at the hands of an organised gang led by a Delwar Hossain, we can genuinely raise the question, did the law enforcing agencies not know about Delwar and his unscrupulous gang?

This is not the first time that the people, and the youth in particular, have taken to the streets to demand justice. Whether we support them or not, there is a perception that justice is not always a straightforward process, even in a democracy that is built upon the principles of rule of law and protection of human rights of all the citizens.

The extrajudicial killing of Sinha Md Rashed Khan and subsequent incidents are blatant examples of abuse of power by state institutions and the people within them. Immediately after the killing, the local police made every effort to make it look like a usual case of drug peddling. Members of the local police frantically tried to kill the truth in a bid to conceal years of corrupt practices in the name of maintaining law and order. To divert peoples' attention, the police resorted to character assassination of Shipra

Debnath. Similar to Noakhali, people from all walks of society condemned the killing and demanded an impartial and transparent investigation into the incident. The media too reported on the corrupt practices of members of the local police. It will not be unjust to say that peoples' agitation and media reporting contributed to unearthing many facts that otherwise would never be known.

Jashim Uddin Manik and his gang. Over the years, the students witnessed how criminals rose to power under political blessings and how the institutions failed to check them. This led them to take to the streets to get justice.

In most cases, a criminal does not commit a crime on a mere whim. It is the result of abuse of power. Such a person gains and maintains power over an individual, group or community

power and institutions bestowed with the responsibility of protecting the victims turned a blind eye, until people started demanding justice.

Sadly, our political process is such that politicians always tend to shrug off their responsibilities and deny existing flaws. It immediately starts a blame game as if it is the cause and effect of the other party. The state institutions too, play a reactive role instead of a proactive one in protecting the human rights of the people. They act only after it turns into a sensational case. The National Human Rights Commission, for instance, have hardly conducted any investigations into extrajudicial killings, which constitute extreme abuse of power, although it enjoys the power of a civil court. Unfortunately, civil society organisations also do not always act beyond political ideology. Such inaction or reactive actions have created a vacuum that leads to people taking to the streets for justice.

Demanding justice on the streets is the last resort for people, but it is likely to happen every now and then when the institutions of society continue to fail. The question is, how did we get here? The answer is infuriating and disheartening—we have been here for quite some time. The culture of injustice against the vulnerable and powerless has been built and fortified over time. Over these years, we have failed to build a democratic and inclusive society. We have beautifully decorated our democratic institutions but without the desire and capacity of serving the vulnerable and marginalised people who comprise the major portion of the population.

Then what is the best way to fight and mitigate such violations of human rights and rule of law? We have to fight both the criminals and the background of the crime. It will be a mistake to judge the MC College and Noakhali gang rapes, and the brutal killing of

Sinha, merely through the lens of criminal laws. When the country speaks in the same language by demanding quick justice for the victim, the culprits are more likely to be punished under the existing laws of the country. To prevent a repetition of such crimes, we need to simply understand the criminology—what led to Delwar's uprising and how did OC Pradeep, being an officer of law and order, continue his wrongdoings for years?

Many human lives were saved in the month of September as it did not see any extrajudicial killing. The countrywide agitations and media reporting against extrajudicial killings contributed to this achievement, which otherwise might not have been the case. But it is an underlying fact that when a society is politically and economically strong, the crime rate will decrease and we will not need to take to the streets for justice. The renewed stance of the government in the backdrop of the Noakhali gang rape is encouraging. Amending the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000 may not be enough. Different provisions in the Evidence Act and Code of Criminal Procedure and prosecution of violence against women need to be revisited as well, but nothing can be achieved without a strong political system.

A strong political system and its institutions will stand ready to fight for its people irrespective of age, gender and economic status. Therefore, it would be far more effective to invest in criminology to analyse the main reasons behind the crime and eliminate them. A society without crime is perhaps impossible. The criminology here, in this case, is that we have a fair and transparent political process in place and that the institutions are not blindfolded and biased.

Meer Ahsan Habib is a communication of development professional. Email: meer.riyadh@gmail.com

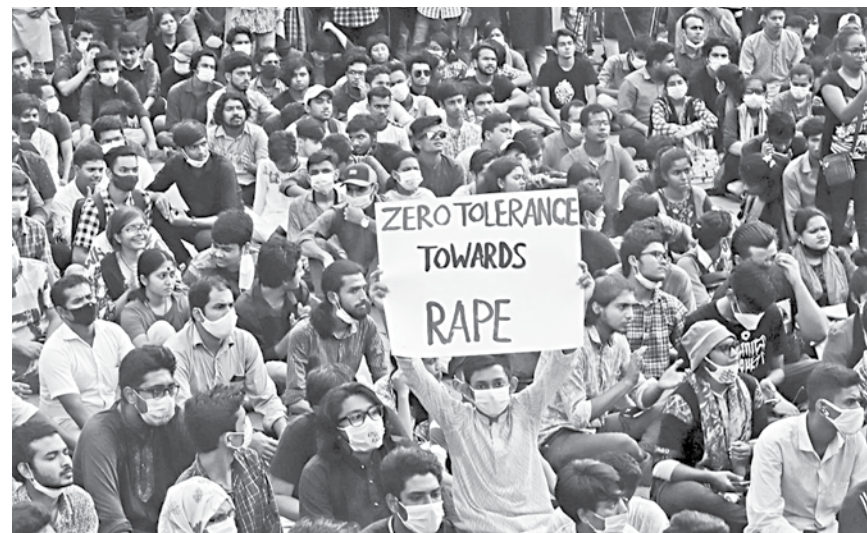


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQUE

Students of various educational institutions hold a mass rally at Shahbag intersection demanding justice against rape on October 9, 2020.

The rise of Delwar and his gang is not a lone example of political patronage. In the past, we have seen a similar uprising of criminals leading to a crime empire being built with political blessings and institutional patronage. Readers may recall that the most powerful students' movement after the 90s movement for democracy was against organised rape. Having lost faith in the political system and institutions, the students of Jahangirnagar university organised the anti-rape movement in 1998 against

within a society and subjects them to various forms of abuse, including but not limited to sexual, physical, financial and psychological abuse. The curious cases of exercise of power and control by Jashim Uddin Manik, Tufan Sarker, Rifat Farazi, OC Pradeep, Saifur Rahman and last but not least, Delwar Hossain, indicates their motivation toward psychological projection, greed and personal gratification with systematic political and institutional blessings—some politicians facilitated their rise to

QUOTABLE Quote

ECKHART TOLLE
(Born 1948)
German-born spiritual teacher and best-selling author.

If small things have the power to disturb you, then who you think you are is exactly that: small!

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Dance moves
- 6 Lawyer's workload
- 11 Irrational fear
- 12 Swiftly
- 13 Trité joke
- 15 Suit accessory
- 16 Future embryos
- 17 Smidgen
- 18 Riding needs
- 20 Comotion
- 21 Holm of "The Hobbit"
- 22 Skiing surface
- 23 Earthy pigment
- 26 Pine
- 27 Map line
- 28 Clinic cost
- 29 Sister, of sorts
- 30 Badly

DOWN

- 1 Leopard features
- 2 Shire of "Rocky"
- 3 Concluded
- 4 Snapshot
- 5 Learned one
- 6 Hacienda houses
- 7 Fitting
- 8 Guitar great
- 9 Carlos
- 9 Quito's nation
- 10 Land a helicopter
- 14 Flat
- 19 Went out, as a fire
- 22 Appear
- 23 Jazz great
- 24 Needed a lozenge
- 25 Emotional obstacles
- 26 Answer choice
- 28 Excellent
- 30 Runway worker
- 31 Left, on a liner
- 32 Search deeply
- 33 Diner patron
- 38 Maiden name label
- 39 Wager

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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

B	E	N	D	S	P	R	A	Y		
I	Q	U	I	T	A	N	D	E	S	
R	U	D	E	R	S	A	D	A	T	
D	I	G	U	P	S	E	R	A		
S	P	E	E	D	R	E	A	D	E	R
F	A	T	A	L	B	I	N	D	S	
A	S	I	S	F	O	G				
C	H	E	E	R	L	E	A	D	E	R
T	A	G	O	U	R	A	R	I		
O	M	A	H	A	W	A	R	E	S	
R	E	M	U	S	A	L	I	C	E	
D	E	B	T	R	E	N	T	S		

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Constituent

FROM PAGE 12
 Bangladesh has applied to become a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It is announced today.

\$62M IMF LOAN
 Bangladesh will receive a 62-million-dollar loan from Compensatory Credit Facilities Fund of IMF. Governor of the Bank of Bangladesh AN Hamidullah discloses today. A team of IMF is already in Dhaka to finalise the terms and conditions of the loan. The loan will be provided on 'soft terms' and at 'nominal interest'.

TK 1 CRORE FOR WOMEN'S REHABILITATION
 The government has sanctioned Tk 1 crore to the National Board for Rehabilitation of Women for implementation of its programme during the current financial year. The board was set up following a directive of Bangabandhu to establish a suitable organisation to ensure proper rehabilitation of the war-affected women of Bangladesh. The board has worked out a five-year plan involving an expenditure of Tk 10 crore.

SOURCES: October 14, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Bera mayor

FROM PAGE 12
 Speaking to The Daily Star, UNO Asif said the mayor's proposal did not comply with the government rules. "As I tried to explain the matter, the mayor pressed me to stop talking."

He said he would submit a written complain to the higher authorities in this regard.

Pabna Deputy Commissioner Kabir Mahmud said the mayor put pressure on the UNO to sign the resolution on the lease income.

"We have already informed to the higher authorities about the incident. Necessary steps will be taken in this regard," the DC told journalists.

Mayor Baten, also the brother of Pabna-1 lawmaker Samsul Haque Tuku, said Nagarbari and Kazirhat ghats are "properties of the local area".

"As the representatives of the people, we have responsibilities for the area. There are two large ghats in Bera upazila -- Nagarbari Ghat and Kazirhat ghat. The local administration has been leasing out the ghats for years, but the upazila parishad does not get any fund from the lease money," the mayor told this correspondent.

He said he as a representative of the upazila parishad at the meeting proposed that the administration should give the lease income to the upazila parishad for its development. "As they disagreed with my proposal, I boycotted the meeting."

The mayor, however, denied the allegation of misbehaving with the UNO and other officials.

More than half of French nurses approaching burn-out: survey

AFP, Paris

More than half of French nurses are close to burning out, according to a survey of nearly 60,000 of them published on Sunday, which found they were struggling with cancelled holidays and increased work due to coronavirus.

The survey carried out by the national French nursing union found that 57 percent of respondents reported being in a "state of professional exhaustion", up from 33 percent before the global Covid-19 pandemic struck France early in 2020.

The findings underline the strains being felt in the healthcare sector in Europe, which came under unprecedented pressure during the first wave of infections and now faces another surge in admissions.

Bad luck

FROM PAGE 12
 "I wanted to have a piece of history that nobody could have."

After 15 years of misfortune, however, Nicole decided the "cursed" pilfered artefacts were responsible. They had "so much negative energy", she said in her letter, "linked to that land of destruction."

The ancient city of Pompeii was buried in volcanic ash after the disastrous eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The city was rediscovered in the 16th century and excavations have been ongoing since.

It is now one of Italy's most popular tourist destinations, but this accolade comes with frequent problems of visitors acting disrespectfully, even to the point of pocketing illegal "souvenirs".

Nicole apologised for her actions in her letter, saying she was seeking "forgiveness from God". She also hopes to rid herself of the bad luck the stolen artefacts have apparently brought her.

"I am now 36 and had breast cancer twice," she wrote.

"The last time ending in a double mastectomy. My family and I also had financial problems. We're good people and I don't want to pass this curse on to my family or children."



Protesters stand over a toppled statue of president Theodore Roosevelt during an Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage protest in Portland, Oregon, US on Sunday night. Protesters tore down statues of two US presidents and broke windows out of downtown businesses before police intervened. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bangladesh-India flights

FROM PAGE 12
 making a courtesy call to Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at the minister's secretariat office yesterday. This is Doraiswami's first meeting with Quader, also the general secretary of the ruling Awami League, after he took charge of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka recently.

"We have already resumed visa processes. We encourage our Bangladeshi partners to resume their applications. Almost all visa categories are covered... I am pressing very hard to reopen all visa services," he said.

Asked about a bilateral air bubble pact, under which airlines of both countries can operate international flights with certain restrictions, he said, "We are waiting for final agreement from our partners here."

"We have given our response and we said yes to all the requests from

Bangladeshi partners for seats and everything. So, hopefully, with your support and blessing, we will also start flights very quickly," he added.

Asked whether India will take any initiative to expedite the projects being implemented under Indian lines of credit as most are running behind the schedule, he said: "Yes. Absolutely."

The high commissioner said he has discussed the issue with the minister. He said during the Indian foreign secretary's visit to Bangladesh in August this year, both countries had agreed to set up a new mechanism between the secretary of Economic Relations Division and the high commissioner regarding the LoC projects.

"We will meet as soon as possible to review the projects and progress of these," he said. "Nobody wants these projects to complete quickly [more] than our and your prime ministers."

Talking about bilateral relations,

the high commissioner said, "For India, as I have mentioned in my first press meet here, there is no more important partner than Bangladesh."

Talking to reporters, Obaidul Quader said, water sharing of interlinked rivers, including the Teesta, is an important issue and the high commissioner told him that the Indian prime minister is very much sincere about it and trying his level best.

Both countries are hopeful of a respectful solution of the issues and positive development has already been made in this regard, he said.

"Relationship between the two countries has reached a new level as a result of the sincere efforts of these two prime ministers. India considers Bangladesh an important partner. We want to move forward this friendly and warm relationship for the people of both countries," Quader said.

US Deputy Secy of State Biegun

FROM PAGE 12
 official's visit.

Biegun's visit to Bangladesh will be from October 14 to 16 after the first leg of his India visit. During the visit here, he is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Momen, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam.

The visit is part of the US's objective of advancing its Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) that aims for a free, secure and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Momen said the US will raise their issues and Bangladesh will raise theirs. Apart from the Rohingya repatriation issue, Dhaka will also seek to have a moratorium on tariffs for RMG exports to the US -- the largest market for Bangladeshi RMG -- for two to three years in light of the fallout from the pandemic.

"As the US is deepening its friendship [with Bangladesh], we would like it to invest in infrastructure.

The US has no investment in infrastructure development, which we need very much here," he said.

There are also issues about US visas for Bangladeshi students and it will also be raised during the meeting, Momen said.

Asked about Bangladesh's joining the IPS, the minister said Dhaka is ready to join it as long as it is about trade and economy. Dhaka, however, has reluctance on the defense aspects, if any, of the IPS.

Asked about a planned meeting of the US, UK, EU and Japan on the Rohingya issue towards the end of this month, Momen said Dhaka has not been informed of it yet, but heard that they will be discussing sustainable humanitarian support for the Rohingya refugees, their education and improvements in living standards.

"We don't want it. Let them [Rohingya] improve their life back in Rakhine," Momen said, stressing on the

quick repatriation of Rohingya refugees.

These countries will also discuss rescue and disembarkation issues of the Rohingya refugees when they undertake journeys on boats, he said.

"We don't buy such ideas. We have seen none of the regional countries accepting the Rohingyas."

He said the Bangladesh government needs to take control of the Rohingya camps and so is installing fences, without which he said crimes like drug trafficking are spiking.

Touching upon Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jimin's call on him on Sunday, the minister said China is also unhappy that the Rohingya repatriation has not started yet despite China having a role in convening a meeting of Bangladesh and Myanmar to advance Rohingya repatriation last year.

China is trying to convene another such meeting soon to discuss Rohingya repatriation, he said.

China to test city of 9m in five days

FROM PAGE 12
 277,000 people had already been tested in Qingdao, with nine positive results.

In June large areas of the capital Beijing were subject to mass tests after the city of more than 20 million detected virus cases linked to a food market.

China has bounced back since the virus emerged, closing the country down and hammering the world's

second largest economy.

Hundreds of millions travelled across the country for the "Golden Week" holiday last week as the country edges back to growth, while rapid tests and swift lockdowns have tamped down secondary waves of the virus.

The picture elsewhere in the world, however, is strikingly different as countries battle new waves and alarming spikes.

THREE-TIER SYSTEM
 Britain's leader Johnson was set to unveil his tiered system yesterday, with northwestern Liverpool expected to be the only city placed in the top category.

Like governments across Europe, Johnson's Conservative cabinet is seeking to balance bringing down the rate of new infections against frustration and concern about the economy.

Papia, her husband get 27 years

FROM PAGE 1
 Before pronouncing the verdict, the couple were produced before the court amid tight security.

In his observation, the judge said the accused were not honest political leaders as they kept arms, bullets and Tk 58.41 lakh illegally in their possession.

The accused were so-called political leaders who cannot bring any welfare for the masses. They are harmful to the people, the court also observed.

This judgment will send a clear message to other political leaders like Papia and her husband, the judge added.

Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu said the prosecution was satisfied with the verdict.

Defence lawyer Shakhawat Ullah Bhuiyan said it was a fabricated case and they were dissatisfied with the judgement.

They would challenge the verdict at a higher court, he added.

On September 27, the judge set yesterday for delivering the verdict in the case on completion of the trial within nine working days.

During their arguments, the prosecution told the tribunal that they have been able to prove the charges against the accused and

sought highest punishment -- life-term imprisonment.

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

A team of Rab arrested Papia and her husband Sumon, a former Chhatra League leader, and their two accomplices at Dhaka airport on February 22 when they were trying to leave the country.

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

On February 24, an arms case was filed against the couple with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Rab Sub-Inspector Arifuzzaman submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka against the couple on June 29.

Except this case, two more cases under the Special Powers Act and one graft case under the Money Laundering Prevention Act for amassing about Tk 6.24 crore illegally were lodged against the couple.

ISPs, cable operators

FROM PAGE 12
 They also demanded installation of "last mile cable" following the on-the-spot approval by a committee consisting representatives of the ISPAB, the COAB, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) and city corporations. They said the Dhaka South City Corporation started removing hanging cables from all roads, including main roads, from August to enhance the beauty of the city without serving any prior notice to internet service providers and cable TV operators. In the last two months, ISPAB and COAB members have faced an estimated loss of Tk 20 crore for the removal of the cables, they added.

ISPAB and COAB leaders also said they applauded the decision of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) to remove the hanging cable to enhance the beauty. However, it is not a logical

solution to remove the hanging cable worth crores of taka without prior notice.

And for removing the cables, lakhs of internet and cable TV subscribers will be deprived of internet and cable TV services. The subscribers include students who have online classes, they added.

Online health services, including services delivered by hospitals and clinics, are also being disrupted during the pandemic.

Their other demands are: fixing the prices of internet and cable TV services by the ministry concerned at every level, including for homes, offices, and banks; setting the prices of NTTN by the government to provide low cost internet and cable TV services; and measure to ensure that NTTNs have the capability for uninterrupted service delivery to customers.

They also sought the prime minister's intervention for resolving the issue.

Int'l observers worried

FROM PAGE 12
 His claims about the vulnerabilities in the US voting process have little grounding in reality, as CNN's fact checkers have repeatedly pointed out. But observers with experience in challenging elections abroad say the rhetoric itself is dangerous.

"I think that Trump is preparing us for the narrative of a rigged election. That has happened in other jurisdictions I have worked," said Dren Nupen, a South African election expert.

Nupen has organised national and party elections throughout Southern Africa for decades and worked with a team preparing South Africans for their historic 1994 ballot.

"(Trump) is planting the seed in the mind of voters that this thing is not going to be fair. His ammunition is basically the voters. If he loses, then he can say that he knew there were issues with the vote and can mobilize them," Nupen said.

"When you have armed citizens who now buy into this idea of an armed militia protecting the vote and when you have people on the other side saying they can't take this anymore, there are all the ingredients for a very volatile situation," said Ory Okolloh-Mwangi, a Kenyan political commentator and investment professional at the Omidyar network.

Okolloh-Mwangi has long pushed for greater transparency in election processes and her opinion about the US election is shared amongst several notable African political scientists.

Ken Opalo, a Georgetown University

political scientist, has also raised the specter of "armed post-election violence" after seeing clashes over policing protests in the US this year.

DEMOCRACY'S GOLD STANDARD?
 There is, perhaps, no small amount of schadenfreude from international observers who, for years, were told by US officials that their country represents democracy's gold standard.

"During elections I have run, African political analysts always thought that US observers had massive chutzpah to sit in judgment of our systems," said Nupen.

The sentiment was likely reinforced when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted on Thursday that the US would consider consequences for those that "undermine democracy" across Africa, a continent with more than 50 nations.

South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission has run six general elections including the historic 1994 vote with remarkably little fuss, given that many outsiders believed that the country would descend into anarchy ahead of its democratic transition.

The US electoral system, by comparison, is incredibly complex, with a highly decentralised election spread over more than 10,000 jurisdictions, making its success with elections notable. Despite the complexity, state and local officials in the US have succeeded in running highly contested elections since the country's inception. Still, the behavior of the incumbent is widely seen as a caveat.

US duo wins Nobel prize

FROM PAGE 12
 "a value which is uncertain beforehand but, in the end, is the same for everyone," according to the academy.

Wilson's work showed why rational bidders tend to bid under their own estimate of the worth due to worries over the "winner's curse," or winning the auction but paying too much.

Milgrom, also at Stanford, then came up with a more general theory of auctions, by analysing bidding strategies in different auction forms.

The academy noted that while "people have always sold things to the highest bidder," societies have also had to allocate "ever more complex objects... such as landing slots and radio frequencies."

"In response, Milgrom and Wilson invented new formats for auctioning off many interrelated objects simultaneously, on behalf of a seller motivated by broad societal benefit rather than maximal revenue," the academy said.

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

Speaking to reporters in Stockholm via a telephone link, Wilson said the announcement had been "very happy news," conceding that despite his research focus he himself had "never

participated in an auction."

However, he quickly had to retract his statement. "My wife is pointing out that we bought ski boots on eBay, I guess that was an auction," Wilson said.

Last year the honour went to French-American Esther Duflo, Indian-born Abhijit Banerjee of the US, and American Michael Kremer for their experimental work on alleviating poverty.

NOT CREATED BY ALFRED NOBEL
 Even if it might be the most prestigious prize an economist can hope to receive, the economics prize has not reached the same status as the awards originally chosen by Alfred Nobel in his 1895 will founding the awards, which included medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace.

It was instead created in 1968 through a donation from the Swedish central bank and detractors have thus dubbed it "a false Nobel."

The award closes the 2020 Nobel season, which saw the closely-watched peace prize awarded to the UN's World Food Programme.

Women have been more prevalent than usual this year, with American poet Louise Gluck winning the literature prize.

"চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন সম্পর্কিত যেকোন ধরনের
অভিযোগ/পরামর্শ জানাতে ১৬১০৪-এ কল করুন"

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Chattogram City Corporation
 Tigerpass, Batali Hill, Chattogram
www.ccc.org.bd

Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.03.20.100224 Dated: 11/10/2020

e-Tender Notice-Elect/2020-21/03

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-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 28-10-2020 at 12.00.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1.	EESPWR09001	Electrical Wiring work of City Corporation Madarbari Sebak Colony. (4th Floor)	501991	28.10.2020 12.00	28.10.2020 14.00

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Munirul Huda
Project Director
&
Superintending Engineer
Chattogram City Corporation

GD-1626



Roland Garros found a new queen as 19-year-old Iga Swiatek of Poland upset the applecart by beating favourite Sofia Kenin, but Rafael Nadal, the King of Clay, continued his awe-inspiring dominance with a record-extending 13th title in Paris following a straight-sets win over World No. 1 Novak Djokovic, thereby equalling Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slam titles.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Iga's coronation in Rafa's kingdom

WHO'S WINNING THE RACE?

Grand Slam Titles
Federer: 20
Nadal: 20
Djokovic: 17
Most Weeks as World Number One
Federer: 310
Djokovic: 290
Pete Sampras: 286
Ivan Lendl: 270
Jimmy Connors: 268
Nadal: 209
Most ATP Titles Won
Connors: 109
Federer: 103
Lendl: 94
Nadal: 86
Djokovic: 81
Most ATP Masters Titles Won
Djokovic: 36
Nadal: 35
Federer: 28

AGENCIES



Rafael Nadal tied Roger Federer for the men's all-time lead in Grand Slam titles on 20 -- not to mention collecting his 13th Roland-Garros crown and 100th victory in southwest Paris -- by downing Novak Djokovic in the men's final.

It was cooler than normal at Roland-Garros, he was playing with new balls and Court Philippe-Chatrier looked a little different, but it had little impact on Nadal -- judging by the final result.

Thirteen times he has made it past the quarter-finals and all 13 times the Spaniard has walked away with the Coupe des Mousquetaires.

Not only did he overcome the toughest rival of his career in the final but he downed the man who beat him at the Italian Open last month, Diego Schwartzman, in the semi-finals. "Rafa is Rafa," said Schwartzman. "I think he knows how to improve. He knows how to practice, how to do everything. After Rome, he goes straight to practice."

Beating Nadal at Roland-Garros, as Djokovic suggested on the eve of the final, continues to be the most daunting challenge in tennis.

"This is his house with all the titles he's won," the Serb said on court

Friday following his semi-final. No one can argue with that.

ALL HAIL QUEEN IGA

Iga Swiatek made history on Saturday as Poland's first-ever Grand Slam singles champion with victory over No.4 seed Sofia Kenin in the final.

The 19-year-old is the youngest Roland-Garros women's winner since Monica Seles triumphed in Paris as an 18-year-old in 1992 and is the first teenager to lift the women's singles trophy here since Iva Majoli in 1997.

Swiatek, ranked 54 in the world, is the lowest-ranked women's Roland-Garros champion since the rankings were introduced in 1975. She is the first woman since Justine Henin in 2007 to lift the Coupe Suzanne-Lenglen without dropping a set.

THE NEXT BATCH IS COMING

You've heard of the 'NextGen'? How about the 'BabyGen'? Okay that might be a stretch but a young quartet made their mark in Paris, led by 19-year-old Sinner. The calm, big-hitting Italian has been talked about for a while but it was still a remarkable achievement to become the first man to make the quarter-finals on his Roland-Garros debut since...Nadal in 2005.

He was also the youngest men's Grand Slam quarter-finalist since...Djokovic in Paris in 2006.

He was joined in the later stages by wild card Hugo Gaston and Sebastian Korda, both 20, and Daniel Altmaier.

Gaston was the last French man standing and pushed Thiem to five pulsating sets in the fourth round in only his second Slam main draw after topping Wawrinka in five.

Korda -- the son of Grand Slam champion Petr Korda -- qualified and ousted veterans John Isner and Andreas Seppi prior to exiting to his idol, Nadal, in the fourth round.

And Altmaier also reached the fourth round. At 22, he would normally be labelled 'NextGen' but the raw, flashy German has played far less than his contemporaries due to several significant injuries.

AN AUTUMNAL DROP SHOT HEAVEN

If you're a fan of the drop shot, this Roland-Garros was made for you.

Players seemingly used it more than ever before because of the lower bounces stemming from the chillier fall temperatures.

Gaston, a left-hander, and Djokovic may have been the duo who most frequently utilised the finesse shots.

Gaston hit a whopping 55 against Thiem, according to the New York Times, and Thiem subsequently offered up his fair share against Schwartzman.

STAGGERING NUMBERS RACKED UP BY NADAL

With a lifetime record of 100-2 in Paris, Nadal becomes the first player to achieve triple digit match victories at Roland-Garros.

Nadal joins Federer atop the all-time men's singles Grand Slam titles list with 20. Only Margaret Court (24), Serena Williams (23) and Steffi Graf (22) have won more major singles titles than Nadal.

With his 2020 title, Nadal clears Navratilova to become the only professional player -- male or female -- to win the same tour event 13 times.

Nadal is six titles clear of Evert (7) for the all-time lead in Roland-Garros singles titles won, and seven clear of the legendary Bjorn Borg (6) for the all-time lead in men's singles titles won in Paris.

At the Grand Slams, Nadal has now surpassed Margaret Court, who won 11 Australian Open titles, by two.

Nadal is now the only men's singles player in history to win a major without dropping a single set four different times.

By winning this title in Paris, Nadal now has won his sixth Grand Slam title since turning 30, which leaves him as the only man to have won more than five major singles titles beyond the age of 30.

Federer's praise, Nadal's reply

AGENCIES



Having seen the Spaniard draw level with his record 20 Grand Slam singles titles in Paris, Roger Federer chipped in with his own classy touch with this heartfelt post.

"I have always had the utmost respect for my friend Rafa as a person and as a champion," tweeted Federer. "As my greatest rival over many years, I believe we have pushed each other to become better players."

"Therefore, it is a true honour for me to congratulate him on his 20th Grand Slam victory. It is especially amazing that he has now won Roland-Garros an incredible 13 times, which is one of the greatest achievements in sport."

"I also congratulate his team, because nobody can do this alone. I hope 20 is just another step on the continuing journey for both of us. Well done, Rafa. You deserve it."

Nadal sounded flattered in his press conference, having not been able to check his social media notifications or Federer's note.



"I was not able, of course, to watch anything. But thanks to Roger for the words, no? I think, as everybody knows, we have a very, very good relationship. We respect each other a lot. At the same time in some way I think he's happy when I'm winning and I'm happy when he's doing the things well," the Spaniard said.

"We have been going through a great rivalry for a very, very long time. Yeah, just can say thanks to him."

"For me, it means a lot to share 20, this number with @rogerfederer....We keep playing so I don't know what can happen in the future."

Young guns in focus in second game

SPORTS REPORTER



Following a four-wicket defeat in the opening game against Najmul XI, Mahmudullah XI will look to make a comeback in the BCB President's Cup when they take on Tamim XI in the second match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

There was a bit of rust among the cricketers when they played their first competitive match after seven months as the Mahmudullah Riyad-led side was bundled out for just 196 runs, despite having a solid top order. The likes of Naim Sheikh, Liton Das and Mominul Haque failed to provide a good start.

However, skipper Mahmudullah struck a fifty alongside Imrul Kayes, who scored 42, but it was not enough for the side to post a fighting total.

Tamim XI will be led by ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal, and they will have to contend with rust of their own when they play their first game. The side is made up mostly of young players from the 2019 ICC Under-19 World Cup winning side.

Much like young Towhid Hridoy -- who was instrumental with the bat for Najmul XI while scoring a match-winning fifty -- and Irfan Shukkur during the first match, there will be an onus to perform on under-19 champions like Akbar Ali, Tanzim Ahmed Tamim, Minhajul Abedin Afridi, Shoriful Islam.

Apart from the youngsters, relatively experienced cricketers like Mustafizur Rahman, Mohammad Saifuddin, Anamul Haque and Khaled Ahmed will also feature for Tamim XI.

The pitch at the home of cricket in Mirpur on the opening day seemed to be a sporting one and the batsmen today need to step forward and be counted to make the game an interesting one.

For skipper Tamim this will be his first experience leading the side after being appointed as the long-term Tigers ODI skipper and the cricketer will surely look to make an impact both as a leader and also as a batsman.



Kylian Mbappe has always claimed Cristiano Ronaldo to be his idol. The young Frenchman, who used to sleep with posters of the Portuguese star stuck on his bedroom wall, had the chance to face off as Portugal met France in a UEFA Nations League fixture in Paris on Sunday. The match ended goalless and both players later took to social media to acknowledge their mutual admiration. Meanwhile, Erling Braut Haaland scored a hatrick on the night to power Norway to a 4-0 win over Romania in Oslo.

PHOTO: TWITTER



Novak leads, Iga in top 20

AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal remains 1,890 points behind Novak Djokovic in ATP rankings released Monday despite having beaten him for a 13th French Open title at the weekend.

In the WTA rankings, Poland's Iga Swiatek has shot up 37 places to 17th following her stunning French Open win over the weekend.

The 19-year-old Pole ensured her place in history when she became her country's first major singles champion. The top three remains unchanged, Australian Ashleigh Barty still leading the rankings.

Hamilton's glowing tribute to Schumacher

AFP, Nurburgring

Lewis Hamilton heaped praise on Michael Schumacher for leading the way in Formula One and thanked Mercedes for gambling on a "young black boy" following his record-equalling 91st Grand Prix win on Sunday.

Speaking at length in the virtual news conference after claiming the Eifel GP, his seventh win of the season, the runaway series leader talked of his admiration and respect for the seven-time champion German whose records he is chasing.

"That number 91 is so big and, when it's so far away, it's hard for people to perhaps fully understand how hard it was for him to get those 91 wins," six-time F1 champion Hamilton said.

"To deliver, weekend in and weekend out, year on year, and to stay so in shape and be so precise... I understand that now, more than ever." What he achieved in so many areas, pushing the limit in terms of the physical side, he really was a pioneer in



being the fittest driver."

Hamilton became a Mercedes-supported driver when he was 13 and embarking on his international karting career.

"I'm just unbelievably grateful to Mercedes

for giving a young black boy a chance when I was 13 years old and supporting me all the way," he said.

By the time he succeeded Schumacher in the Mercedes F1 team in 2013 Hamilton was

already a world champion after winning his first title with McLaren in 2008.

On Sunday, Schumacher's 21-year-old son Mick presented Hamilton with one of his father's racing helmets. Hamilton was briefly speechless, but later explained it was not the first in his personal collection.

"I actually already have one of Michael's helmets," he said. "One of the really, really special moments for me was in Abu Dhabi in 2012 when I went over to the Mercedes hospitality and met with Michael."

"We exchanged helmets and that was, for me, a moment that I'll never forget. To stand with someone that I grew up watching on TV and have the honour of exchanging jerseys, or helmets... It's what us sportsmen do and it's the highest sign of respect."

"To have his family honour me today, I'm just incredibly humbled. His son is such a great, bright talent, a really genuine human being."

"I'm going to have two special helmets from Michael in my small living room."



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GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

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SHAH CEMENT

China to test city of 9m in five days

Study shows virus 'survives 28 days' in lab conditions

AGENCIES

All nine million people in a major Chinese port city will be tested for Covid-19 following a tiny outbreak, health officials said yesterday, as surging infection numbers in Europe force another round of containment efforts.

The virus has been largely brought under control in China -- where it first emerged last year -- in stark contrast to many parts of the world still afflicted by rolling lockdowns and high case numbers.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was set to announce a new three-tiered alert system for coronavirus cases in England later yesterday, while German authorities shuttered Berlin bars and clubs after 11:00pm until the end of the month and France is believed to be mulling local lockdowns in major cities.

Six cases of Covid-19 were confirmed on Sunday in China's Qingdao -- a northeastern port city of 9.4 million -- prompting health officials to announce China's first mass testing in months.

Five districts will be tested "within three days" and the whole city "within five days", a statement from Qingdao's municipal health commission said, although it did not give a precise figure on how many people would be tested.

China has extensive, quick test capabilities and by yesterday noon the health commission said more than

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Internet and television cables hanging from poles after being cut by the Dhaka South City Corporation to enhance the beauty of the city. DSCC cleaners are supposed to remove them later on. The corporation has done so reportedly without serving any notice to the ISPs and cable operators. Inset, workers appointed by the DSCC cutting overhead cables. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CLEARING CABLE CHAOS ISPs, cable operators threaten shutdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Internet service providers and cable operators yesterday threatened to shut down internet connectivity and cable televisions for three hours every day from October 18 if Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) did not stop removing hanging cables.

They also demanded fixing of the "last mile cable" issue permanently.

"If the problem is not solved by October 17, we will have a symbolic programme to shut down internet data connectivity and cable TV connections for homes, offices and banks across the country for three hours -- 10:00am to 1:00pm -- every day from October 18," Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) and Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB) told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Int'l observers worried about the US vote

CNN ONLINE

2020 is the year where the unlikely, even the unthinkable, can happen. And election observers, organisers and commentators in Africa, Europe and the US fear that there are significant warning signs for the upcoming US elections.

With a pandemic shifting the nature of balloting and US President Trump and his surrogates relentlessly prejudging the result, questioning the fairness of the polls without evidence and rallying his hardcore base, they worry that a protracted poll could lead to a constitutional crisis and even violence.

For months now, Trump and his campaign surrogates have questioned the integrity of the upcoming elections.

The President has encouraged voters to vote twice to test the system (it is crime to vote twice), he has claimed that foreign countries will print mail-in ballots to rig the election and called on his supporters to go to the polls and watch out for "thieving and stealing" on Election Day -- and that's only a partial list.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Constituent Assembly passes rules of procedure

October 13, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MINOR AMENDMENTS MADE

The Bangladesh Gono Parishad (Constituent Assembly) passes today the rules of procedure with some minor amendments. Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is also the leader of the House, tells the Gono Parishad that the rules of procedure would be applicable only in the Gono Parishad. When a parliament is elected it will adopt its own rules of procedure, he adds.

The rules of procedure, comprising 13 chapters and 90 articles, is a significant document as it will conduct the Gono Parishad during the constitution-making. The lone opposition member Suranjit Sengupta (Muzaffar Nap) moves a number of amendments and all of them are rejected by the House while the two amendments moved by the Treasury Bench member Asaduzzaman Khan are accepted. Some members withdraw their amendments.

UNROD CHIEF CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

The UNROD chief in Bangladesh Victor Umbricht calls on Bangabandhu at Gono Bhaban today. They discuss the present food situation of the country.

GATT MEMBERSHIP



SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

US Deputy Secy of State Biegun arrives tomorrow

Dhaka to raise Rohingya repatriation, RMG export issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The repatriation of Rohingya refugees, privileges for readymade garments export and investments in infrastructure will be the main issues that Bangladesh will raise during US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E Biegun's visit beginning tomorrow.

"Rohingya repatriation is our major issue. It is not just our responsibility. They will have to help us," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told reporters at his ministry yesterday.

He said the most important thing for Bangladesh is not humanitarian assistance but Rohingya repatriation, which will be stressed upon during the high-placed US

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Bad luck prompts tourist to return stolen relics



FORBES.COM

A tourist who stole ancient objects from the archeological site of Pompeii in southern Italy has returned them saying they "bring bad luck".

The Canadian woman, identified as Nicole, purloined the fragments 15 years ago when she was in her early 20s. However, she blames the theft for a spate of unfortunate events, including serious health issues and financial difficulties.

Nicole returned the two mosaic tiles, ceramic fragments and pieces of an amphora to the ancient city via a travel agent in Pompeii. Along with the package, she attached a letter of confession expressing regret for her actions.

"I was young and stupid," she wrote in the letter, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Bangladesh-India flights to resume soon

Says Doraiswami

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Vikram Doraiswami yesterday said he was hopeful about resuming air travel between Bangladesh and India "very quickly".

He, however, said it would take "more time" to issue Indian tourist and student visas due to this ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Doraiswami was speaking to reporters after

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-45 7-15
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bera mayor 'misbehaves' with UNO

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Palma

Bera Municipality Mayor Abdul Baten allegedly misbehaved with UNO Asif Anam Siddiquee during a meeting at the latter's office yesterday over endorsing a proposal placed by the mayor.

In the upazila law and order development coordination meeting yesterday, the mayor wanted the UNO to give the go-ahead to his proposal. Baten proposed that the income from leasing of Nagarbari ghat and Kazirhat ghat, both in Bera upazila, should go to the upazila parishad fund for its development, said meeting sources.

As the upazila nirbahi officer refused to comply, the mayor hurled abuse at him. Baten then walked towards the UNO and a push and shove took place, they added.

At one stage, the mayor walked out of the meeting.

Currently, the lease income goes to government's revenue account.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A bailey bridge over Langulia river on the Tangail-Basail road at Nakasim area collapsed on Sunday after a sand-laden truck got on it. With the vehicle falling into the river along with the collapsed bridge, direct road communications to Basail and Sakhipur upazila from Tangail town were disrupted.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

WORK ON AUCTIONS US duo wins Nobel prize for economics



Paul Milgrom



Robert Wilson

AFF, Stockholm

US economists Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson won the Nobel Economics Prize yesterday for work on commercial auctions, including for goods and services difficult to sell in traditional ways such as radio frequencies, the Nobel Committee said.

The duo was honoured "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats," the jury said.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences noted that the discoveries by Milgrom, 72, and Wilson, 83, "have benefited sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world," it said in a statement.

Wilson, a professor at Stanford in the US, was spotlighted for developing a theory for auctions with a common value,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2