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## Rapists are beasts: PM

*She says death sentence included in law to protect women from rapists; president issues ordinance on law amendment*

STAR REPORT

Terming rapists "beasts", Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has to include the death sentence in the relevant law to save girls from these beasts.

"The rapists are [like] beasts as they exhibit their inhumane nature affecting our girls ... we have amended the law and included capital punishment for rape...we have cleared the amendment [proposal] in the cabinet," she said. The premier was addressing a programme marking the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020, reports UNB.

The disaster management and relief ministry organised the event at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium. The PM jointed the programme from the Gono Bhaban through a video conference.

Hasina said the government was promulgating the ordinance to make the amendment effective as parliament was not in session. "Our aim is to face any problem whenever it arises and resolve it."

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid yesterday issued an ordinance on the amendment to the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain (Women and Children Repression Prevention Act) incorporating the provision for capital punishment for rape.

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A construction worker stands precariously on the edge of the sixth floor roof of a building in the capital's Manda area on Sunday. He unloads concrete mixture from the bucket of a mini crane. Only a few days ago, three workers died after falling from a 10-storey building in the city's Dhanmondi area.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## MP Nixon flouted code of conduct

*Action as per law, says CEC; Nixon wants action against DC*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday said Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, known as Nixon Chowdhury, lawmaker from Faridpur-4, had violated the electoral code of conduct during the local polls and actions will be taken in this regard as per the election law.

"If necessary, a case will be filed."

While speaking to reporters at the Nirbachan Office, he said, "We have received a complaint [from the cabinet division on taking actions against the violations]. We collected information on this matter immediately and I had a meeting with the election commissioners on the

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POSTS ON GOVT, MILITARY, POLICE

## Govt slaps gag on social media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday issued a statement forbidding people both at home and abroad from spreading "false, fabricated, confusing, and inciting statements" on social media about government, military, police officials and members of different other law enforcement agencies.

"They are presenting false and baseless news about the security forces, which is threatening to ruin the peace in the country, and spreading fear, concern and confusion among the general public," said the statement, signed by Sharif Mahmud Apu, senior information officer at the ministry.

"The government has observed the activities of such people with patience, and has come to the conclusion that it is necessary to take legal action against such people to maintain the stability, domestic security and public well-being," added the statement.

Anyone not heeding the statement will face legal consequences according to the law of the country, the ministry warned.

The statement is the latest among a series of similar statements obstructing freedom of speech, issued by different government agencies since the pandemic struck the country.

On April 16, as the media reported the lack of preparation of the health sector in dealing with the coronavirus-driven crisis, all nurses were banned from speaking to the press. The order came from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery.

On April 23, Health Minister Zahid Maleque ordered all health officials not to talk to the media.

The next day, the public administration ministry asked all secretaries to give necessary instructions to their subordinates so that no public servant talks to or writes

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## Quizzing for the stars



The Daily Star GENIUS powered by Walton Smart Fridge is the country's first online inter-school quiz competition. An initiative of SHOUT -- The Daily Star's weekly youth supplement -- the goal behind this event is to engage school and college students in healthy competition over their knowledge of Bangladesh, the world, and everything else in between. Currently in its second week, the

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IEDCR SURVEY ON COVID-19

## Herd immunity in some city areas?

*Experts think it may be the case but warn against slackening of health rules*

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The epidemiological study, which found 45 percent of the respondents in the capital to be carrying Covid-19 antibody, indicates that residents in some parts of the city may have developed herd immunity, say experts.

Noting that the sample size of the study does not represent the entire population of the city, they say the study reinforces the necessity for maintaining health safety guidelines as it showed the majority of the infected people had no symptoms.

The findings of the study carry a lot of importance and will be helpful in transmission control, treatment of the infected people and also vaccination, a number of experts told The Daily Star in their reactions to the first ever cross-sectional epidemiological survey in the country.

"The sample size is not representational. It can be said, but not surely, that some pockets such as slums may be approaching herd immunity. We need to conduct further study with a representative number of samples to know the reality," noted virologist Prof Nazrul Islam told this newspaper.

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1941-2020

## Rashid Haider passes away

STAR REPORT

Renowned writer Rashid Haider passed away at his residence in the capital's Fuller Road at 8:30am yesterday.

He was 80.

He died of old-age complications.

Rashid Haider was formerly the director of Bangla Academy and executive director of Nazrul Institute. He received the Bangla Academy Award in 1984, and the coveted Ekushey Padak in 2014, among several other accolades, for his contributions with the pen.

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UPDATE



1,537  
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3,81,275  
Total cases



5,577  
Deaths



2,95,873  
Recoveries

GLOBAL  
UPDATE



1,087,444  
Deaths



38,196,899  
Total cases

# Civilians in Rakhine being attacked

Says Amnesty International; no sign of conflict abating

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International has found new evidence of indiscriminate attacks on civilians in Rakhine amid serious escalations in the ongoing armed conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army.

“The Myanmar military’s utter disregard for civilian suffering grows more shocking and brazen by the day,” Ming Yu Hah, deputy regional director for campaigns of Amnesty International (AI), said in a statement on Monday.

There are no signs of the conflict between the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military abating -- and civilians continue to bear the brunt, she said, calling for the UN Security Council to urgently refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court.

All this is happening even as Myanmar faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for a military crackdown that drove out some 750,000 Rohingyas to Bangladesh in 2017. No Rohingya refugee could be repatriated in more than three years as they say there is no guarantee of safety and citizenship.

AI said it is concerned by recent reports of increased presence of Myanmar military troops along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. Bangladesh also recently objected to the troops’ mobilisation in Rakhine along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

Analysis of images recently revealed MM2 type landmines, often used by the Myanmar military, in civilian areas. This device is larger than most anti-personnel landmines, and typically inflicts severe damage.

Several incidents involving civilians injured or killed by landmines have been credibly reported in Rakhine and Chin States in recent months.

AI expressed concern over local media reports of the Myanmar military using Rohingya children for

forced portering in Buthidaung.

A local civil society group estimates the number of civilians killed in this conflict since December 2018 in Rakhine and Chin States stands at 289, with 641 injured.

The true figure could not be independently verified, as a mobile internet shutdown and broader government crackdowns on media reporting have impeded documentation efforts.

However, in July 2020, Amnesty International was able to document indiscriminate air strikes and shelling by the Myanmar military, killing or injuring civilians, including children.

Evidence suggests Myanmar soldiers burned a village in central Rakhine State’s Kyauktaw Township in early September, AI said.

Over 120 structures in Taung Pauk and Hpa Yar Paung appear burned in Planet Imagery from September 10. Fires were remotely detected in the villages with satellite sensors on September 3.

New figures from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs indicate that 89,564 people were displaced to 180 sites in Rakhine between January 2019 and September 7, 2020. This adds to the already 130,000 displaced people in Rakhine interned in camps since 2012.

On September 11, the Myanmar military admitted that three of its soldiers had raped an ethnic Rakhine woman during operations in Rathedaung Township on June 30, despite their outright denials when the allegations were first raised in July.

“Even when the Myanmar military are compelled to admit wrongdoing, their handling of this appalling sexual violence case shows a complete neglect for accountability,” said Ming Yu Hah.

The international community must raise the alarm about the situation in Rakhine state now, or face questions later about why they failed to act again, she said.

## Govt slaps gag on social media

FROM PAGE 1

in the media without approval from the authorities concerned.

In a letter, the ministry said some public servants, violating Section 22 of Government Servant (Conduct) Rules, are taking part in talk shows, discussions and news on different media outlets, including Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, private TV channels, and giving comments or opinions and writing articles or letters in newspapers and online portals without taking approval from their department chiefs or going beyond his or her jurisdiction.

On many occasions, they are giving comments or opinions over government’s policy decisions, the letter said.

On May 3, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University followed suit by silencing their healthcare workers as well.

On October 7, the Department of Secondary and Higher Education

issued a circular forbidding students and teachers from writing, sharing, “liking”, or posting anything that “ruins the image of the government or the state”, or “disrespects any important person, institution or profession” on social media.

They were also told not to post any writing, audio or video clips that could create “dissatisfaction among the general public”. The heads of institutions were asked to take action against any who did that.

After nurses, health officials, public officials, students and teachers, it is now the turn of the general public to receive a gag order.

Talking on the issue, eminent human rights lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said, “They do not have the option of dictating what the general public will write on their social media accounts.

“We get to criticise them because it is our right. There is no law against criticising. This circular can be called illegal.”

## Quizzing for the stars

FROM PAGE 1

13-week event is off to a great start, promising lots of excitement in every episode.

The competition is set up to be a grand festival of knowledge. With participation of 27 schools from across the nation, its allure is its scale. For weeks leading up to the launch on October 5, The Daily Star had been in contact with these schools and their student representatives to iron out the details of how this could be executed. The idea of general knowledge quiz competitions has been limited to physical events on stage, with a buzzer and at times, a quizmaster. But like many things during this pandemic, this model had to be discontinued.

Yet the quest for knowledge never stops, and The Daily Star GENIUS provides the perfect platform for buzzing young minds to pit themselves against each other, giving them the challenge and the recognition that is so very important. Not to forget, the platform also presents a much needed source of entertainment when schools are closed and extracurricular activities have come to a halt.

There will be nine matches in the first round, with the winner of each of these matches will face themselves in three semifinals, from where the three finalists will emerge. The winner of the final will receive, in addition

to a trophy and certificate, the title of the first-ever Daily Star GENIUS, and a Walton laptop to further assist in their endeavour to acquire knowledge. The matches are held online, where contestants answer questions from the comfort of their homes while host and quizmaster Ashrafal Haque Emu engages with them over video chat, making for a spectacle that is equal parts intense and entertaining.

The programme is broadcast live every Monday at 9:00pm on The Daily Star and SHOUT’s Facebook pages, The Daily Star’s YouTube channel as well as its website, adding to the extravaganza. Live audiences have been engaging in comments with answers and support for the participants, making the event enjoyable for everyone involved.

General knowledge, by some, is looked at as an academic practice, just something to help students pass entrance exams. For others, it’s all about rote memorisation. The prevailing understanding, however, is in the words itself. It’s general knowledge, not special. It’s about knowing what you should know; it’s about being aware. That is something that has been reflected in the questions that students have had to answer in the first two episodes. The main aim of this event is to encourage a knowledgeable and thinking approach to life for youngsters across the country.



Workers of Dhaka South City Corporation remove overhead cable TV and fibre optic cables hanging from electricity poles along Satmashjid Road in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday to enhance the beauty of the city. The cable TV operators and internet service providers, however, said the authorities should not do this without making an alternative arrangement.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Rapists are beasts: PM

FROM PAGE 1

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division of the law ministry also issued a gazette notification to this effect yesterday, reports our staff correspondent.

The ordinance is titled Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

Rights activists and lawyers have said the move was made only to calm protesters and that it does not deal with the reforms being demanded by gender experts.

Amid countrywide protests over the growing incidents of rape and violence against women, the cabinet on Monday approved the draft of the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

According to the ordinance, “Lifetime Rigorous Imprisonment” mentioned in section-9(1) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act has been replaced by “Death or Lifetime Rigorous Punishment”.

It means the maximum punishment for rape is death penalty or life imprisonment. Earlier, the maximum punishment was only life imprisonment.

People recently took to the streets across the country after a video clip had gone viral on social media. In the footage, a woman from Noakhali’s

Begumganj upazila was seen being brutally tortured.

At least 975 women were raped across the country until last month this year and there were 161 incidents of rape last month alone, according to a report by rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

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

According to an estimate by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, there were 129 rape incidents last month. Among the victims were 83 minors.

On Monday, Law Minister Anisul Huq told media that although there were some controversies over the death penalty, the PM felt the need to impose the capital punishment under the current circumstances.

He also said the chief justice would be requested to issue a directive so that the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunals across the country could hear and dispose of old rape cases with priority and also complete trials of new ones at a faster pace.

Besides, the law ministry would issue necessary directives to special public prosecutors, asking them to take initiatives to finish trial

proceedings quickly, the minister said. **DEATH SENTENCE NOT ENOUGH** Legal experts have said death sentence will not solve anything. The amendment does nothing to address the actual reforms being demanded by gender experts, they said.

Veteran women’s rights activist 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.

The Rape Law Reform Coalition, a body comprised of 17 rights organisations including Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) and ASK, have 10 demands regarding 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.

## Herd immunity in some city areas?

FROM PAGE 1

The study, jointly conducted by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) also found that 74 percent of the slum dwellers were carrying Covid-19 antibody during the survey.

A total of 125 samples of individuals in slums and 692 samples of individuals from other areas in 25 wards of the city were tested for Covid-19 antibody under the study supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the USAID.

Researchers involved in the study said the findings do not imply that there should be any change in Covid-19 transmission control and prevention activities.

“Herd Immunity does not depend on a single aspect. The World Health Organisation is also suggesting that we should not think too much about herd immunity because it depends on

many things. We have not yet been able to carry out any thorough study,” Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of the IEDCR, told this newspaper yesterday.

She said there was nothing in the study which implied that there should be any change in the existing health safety rules.

Expressing similar view, Prof Nazrul said there is no alternative to enforcement of the health safety rules such as wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and washing hands.

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community becomes immune to a disease through vaccinations or mass spread of a disease.

Prof Mushtuq Hussain, a consultant for the IEDCR, said, “The study showed that the majority of the infected people had no symptoms, and of them, 18 percent were children. This is why the educational institutions cannot reopen.

“The survey does not necessarily represent the whole picture... Based

on this survey, it is not possible to reach any conclusion about herd immunity,” he pointed out.

“A big portion of the population has not been infected yet. And those who have already been infected should not think they are safe because different studies show that antibody sustains in a human body for a maximum of three months.”

Antibody is a kind of blood protein produced in response to a specific antigen. It counteracts the antigen, and can prevent viruses from causing infections by binding, neutralising or making those inactive.

In case of Covid-19, there are two major types of antibodies -- one is the IgM that can last for a few days in the body and the other is the IgG which can last up to three months.

The findings came at a time when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina warned of a second wave of the novel coronavirus. A number of countries have already been hit by a second wave of the virus.

## Rashid Haider passes away

FROM PAGE 1

Haider was born on July 15, 1941 in Pabna’s Dohapara village, and graduated in Bangla from the University of Dhaka. It is during his time at the DU that he began journalism through the magazine Chitrali. He was also a member of the Pakistan Writers’ Guild in 1964.

“Rashid Haider started writing from his early ages and played vital role in developing modern prose in Bangla,” said Professor Abdul Alim, former head of the Department of Bangla in Pabna university of Science and Technology.

Among his many acclaimed works is Sriti 71, Shahid Buddhijibi Koshagrontho and Asamabriksa. He was the author of more than 70 books throughout his illustrious career.

As a member of Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, Haider wrote the famous Toilo Shonkot, and acted in Nagorik’s first play, Baki Itihash.

Abul Hayat, a legendary name in television and theatre, mourned Rashid’s death.

“His [Rashid’s] brother, Zia Haider, was the founding president of Nagorik Natya Sampradaya. I have some fond memories with Rashid -- I was

especially moved when he published a beautiful write-up about me on my 75th birthday,” he told The Daily Star. Nagorik Natya Sampradaya conveyed their condolences at the news of his death.

Theatre actor Sara Zaker on a Facebook post wrote, “Rashid bhai was a member of Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, Zia bhai’s younger brother. When we did a play written by him, ‘Toilo Shonkot’, it was coincidentally Asaduzzaman Noor’s debut stage performance too. His work during his time at the Bangla Academy -- ‘Smriti 71’ -- will remain a great achievement for the entire country.”

“Rashid Haider was a wonderful mix of journalistic intelligence and literary sense. Smriti 71 is a masterpiece on the Liberation War,” said freedom fighter and writer Robiul Islam Robi, adding, “All members of the Haider family played vital roles in intellectual work in the country. His brother. Professor Zia Haider passed away a few years ago and now his [Haider’s] death is a big loss as well.”

Noted thespian Ferdousi Majumdar said Rashid was a staunch admirer of theatre. “We can never forget him

or his research and work on our Liberation War,” she said.

“He was a very close senior of mine,” said theatre legend Mamunur Rashid, adding, “We sat down for long conversations many times at Bangla Academy, it was a delight. He was an extremely talented and dedicated person.”

He said the writer especially loved books on selected works from 200 years of Bangla Natok, which was published by the Bangla Academy under his supervision.

Actor Tariq Anam Khan said Rashid Haider was an inspiration to him.

“His biggest achievement was the publication of the list of freedom fighters -- that is a huge undertaking that he successfully accomplished,” Tariq said.

“He called me ‘tui’, out of adoration. Out of all the writers that emerged after our independence, he stood out.”

The esteemed writer left behind his wife and two daughters -- both teachers at the DU.

He was laid to rest at the Azimpur Graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza at the DU Central Mosque.

## PBI takes over probe of Rayhan’s death

Key suspect untraceable

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) will now probe the case filed in connection with the torture of a man to death in police custody in Sylhet.

Victim Rayhan Ahmed’s family alleged that he was tortured in the city’s Bandarbazar police outpost and later he died in a city hospital on Sunday morning.

As per an order from the Police Headquarters yesterday, the case was transferred to PBI, said Jyotirmoy Sarker, additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

Meanwhile, sources in police said prime suspect of the case Akbar Hossain Bhuiyan, in-charge of the police outpost, has been untraceable since Monday night.

Rayhan, 33, a resident of the city’s Neharipara area, died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital at 7:50am on Sunday, around an hour after he was admitted there by police.

After allegations of torturing him inside the Bandarbazar police outpost, an internal probe body of police was formed and the body initially found involvement of the outpost’s police personnel.

On Monday, four police personnel, including the outpost in-charge, were suspended and three others were withdrawn from the outpost.

Sources said Rayhan was detained by police on an allegation of mugging and brought to the outpost at 3:10am on Sunday. He was not found injured when he entered the outpost.

Around 6:30am, injured Rayhan was seen taken out of the outpost, and put in an autorickshaw.

The evidence was seen in footage of CCTV installed by the office of superintendent of Sylhet police near the outpost, a police official said, citing the report.

Azbahar Ali Sheikh, deputy commissioner (north) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, “As there are many questions to be answered about the incident, the investigation will be conducted properly as the murder case was filed under the torture and custodial death act.”

NOAKHALI GANG-RAPE

## Delwar sent to jail, Sumon on 4-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A court in Noakhali yesterday sent Delwar, chief of Delwar Bahini, to jail in connection with the torture and gang-rape of a woman in Noakhali’s Begumganj upazila.

Delwar is the prime accused in a rape case filed by the victim with Begumganj Model Police Station.

Judge of Noakhali Chief Judicial Magistrate’s Court Mashfiqul Haque passed the order after police produced him before the court this morning, said Mamnur Rashid Patwari, sub-inspector of Noakhali (Police Bureau of Investigation) PBI.

Following an application filed by Begumganj Model Police Station sub-Inspector Mostak Ahmed, the court also shown arrested Delwar in two other cases filed under the Women and Children Repression (Prevention) Act and under the Pornography Control Act over the incident.

The court also placed another accused Samsuddin Sumon, 39, on four-day remand in two cases filed under the Women and Children Repression (Prevention) Act and under the Pornography Control Act.

Sumon, the sixth accused in two cases, was arrested from Cumilla on Monday evening, said the PBI police official.

PBI SI Mamnur Rashid Patwari produced Sumon before the court with seven-day remand prayer.

Meanwhile, the court ordered to send Eklashpur UP member Moazzem Hossain Sohag to jail rejecting his bail prayer, said PBI inspector Mamnur Rashid Patwari.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

## BLAST demands justice for its employee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) has demanded justice for its female employee who became a victim of sexual violence at a checkpoint on Teknaf-Cox’s Bazar road.

It also demanded that the government ensure her safety.

In a press release yesterday, the rights body also urged journalists to maintain objectivity and ethical standard in doing reports on women repression.

It made the call after some media outlets published reports over the rape incident of the BLAST employee in Cox’s Bazar on October 8.

“We are concerned seeing that some media have published the name and identity of the victim. We call upon all to remain respectful to the provision of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act-2000 that imposes a bar on disclosing the victim’s identity,” said the rights body.

“We believe that it is important for all the state authorities and agencies to remain respectful to the constitutional rights of all as well as the promises and measures taken by the government for ending violence against women.”



New rape law may be abused, says GM Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Appreciating the government for introducing capital punishment for rape, Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said special attention is needed to check the abuse of the new law.

“The government should pay special attention so that the new rape law is not abused. All those involved in the investigation and judicial process should remain careful about making sure no innocent person is harmed by the law,” he said.

GM Quader made the remarks at a programme at Jatiya Party Chairman’s Banani office. Some ruling party leaders and activists from Lalmonirhat joined Jatiya Party at the programme.

He said rape victims’ access to justice must be made easier by removing legal complexities.

GM Quader said perpetrators must be brought to justice within a specific time to get rid of social disease like rape. “Effective steps by the state must be taken to ensure legal assistance for rape victims.”

The JP chief thanked the president for promulgating an ordinance toughening the punishment in rape cases to death from life-term imprisonment.

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‘Sur Saptak’, a swanky new underpass, awaits opening on the capital’s Airport Road near the MES intersection. This is the very spot where college students Dia and Rajib were crushed under the wheels of a bus in July 2018, sparking nationwide student demonstrations demanding road safety. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

‘Death penalty won’t end rape culture’

Protesters call for easier path to justice for victims; announce long march to Noakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following the government’s decision to incorporate the provision of capital punishment for rape in the draft of the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill, anti-rape protesters have termed it an “irresponsible decision” to suppress the ongoing anti-rape movement and vowed to continue their activities.

The protesters -- comprising of some left-leaning parties, students, youths and rights activists -- said they will continue to press home their nine-point demand.

At a press briefing in front of National Museum yesterday afternoon, protesters under the banner of “Bangladesh against Rape and Impunity” announced the route of their long-march from Dhaka to Noakhali on October 16.

The march will start from Shahbagh and go through Gulistan, Chashara, Sonargaon, Chandina, Cumilla, Feni, Daganbhuiyan, Chaumuhani and Ekasapur. On October 17, they will hold a rally in Maizdi.

Anik Roy, general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, read out the press statement. Among others, Arif Noor of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Khan Asaduzzaman Masum of Jubo Union, Nasir Uddin Prince of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, were also present.

They alleged that the prime minister stood in the cabinet and tried to extinguish the movement just when it reached its peak. Death penalty for rapists is not a solution, but in many cases the law can be a threat to the victim’s own life if it is enforced, they said.

The rapist will want to remove the signs of rape, even resorting to killing the victim, they feared.

Rather than increasing the level of punishment, the law should aim to

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Feasibility of amending the anti-trafficking law

LAW DESK

Recently, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen wrote to Law Minister Anisul Huq regarding the alleged abuse of certain provisions of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012.

The 2012 Act confers upon law enforcement agents the power to “conduct preventive search, to enter into any premises and to seize any equipment or proof or document used or likely to be used in the commission of any offence”. The Act also states that such search may be conducted without a warrant if the officers have reasonable grounds to believe that there are equipment or materials in any place which can be used for the commission of offences.

In his letter, the Foreign Minister raised concerns regarding “conflicting provision” between the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 and the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act 2013, and opined that such conflict creates obstacles in the lawful export of manpower.

The minister also stated that legal recruiting agencies are “not at all involved in human trafficking or fraudulent activities”. He further requested the law minister to “partially amend” section 20(1) and (2) of the 2012 Act.

However, global reports have found that there is a close link between recruitment practices and human trafficking. Apart from illegal recruitment agencies, legal and licensed recruitment agencies may also be involved in illegal practices and may engage in fraudulent practices such as lying about the nature of the job and salaries, charging extortionately high recruitment fees etc.

In fact, recruitment practices may fall within the definition of trafficking in persons as laid out by the UN in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

The Protocol defines trafficking using three elements -- an act, a means and a purpose.

So, if recruitment (an act) is done through fraudulent or deceptive means (retention of passports, charging high fees, misrepresenting nature or work or wages) for the purposes of exploitation, it shall qualify as trafficking by international standards.

Due to the complexity in the system, it is difficult to identify trafficking at the recruitment stage. Although Bangladeshi embassies did not identify the cases as trafficking, NGOs involved in repatriation of the 1,250 female migrant workers returning to Bangladesh in 2019 identified indicators of trafficking.

In Bangladesh, trafficking for labour exploitation is a pressing concern. The US Department of Justice’s 2020 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons highlighted past instances where foreign and Bangladeshi recruitment agencies bribed government officials and politicians to maintain monopoly over the labour market and stated that government officials may not be fully committed to implementing migrant-friendly practices due to conflict of interests.

Earlier this year, Kazi Shahid, a Bangladeshi member of parliament was arrested in Kuwait on charges of human trafficking and bribing Kuwaiti officials.

Corruption is addressed by Articles 8 and 9 of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime, which requires States to adopt legislative measures to establish as crime, offences of corruption involving foreign public officials.

The government has shown increased implementation of the anti-trafficking law and has received praise for establishing seven tribunals for the prosecution of human trafficking offences.

However, concerns regarding the plight of migrant workers persist. It is important to identify the aspects of recruitment practices that result in the increased vulnerability of workers.

Cooperation, strategies must to combat human trafficking: law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday underscored the need for cooperation, and proper legal, social and economic strategies to combat human trafficking

“We feel cooperation is fundamental to combating the exploitation of women, children and men by human traffickers. But, cooperation is only the start! We need legal, social and economic anti-trafficking strategies,” the law minister said while speaking at a webinar on “Bangladesh E-Judicial Colloquium to prevent and address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants”.

The minister said human trafficking is a rapidly evolving crime requiring a comprehensive and well-coordinated response.

“The country is implementing a National Plan of Action for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (2018-2022),” he said.

The law minister said the Covid-19 crisis and economic downturn are leaving more women, men and children at risk of being trafficked.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been at the forefront of global policy debate, articulating the idea for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Bangladeshi vessel runs aground amid storm in India

All crew members safe

STAR REPORT

A Bangladeshi cargo vessel, MV Maa, drifted from the anchorage point and ran aground, due to a storm amid deep depression, near Tenneti Park of India’s Andhra Pradesh early yesterday.

The 3,000-tonne ship had gone to Visakhapatnam Port to load some cargo and was waiting near the anchorage point for the last three days for the berthing itinerary, reported The Hindu newspaper.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

We’re ever-ready to face natural calamities: PM

UNB, Dhaka

As a delta land, Bangladesh has to be ever ready to face natural calamities like cyclone, tidal waves, flood, earthquake, river erosion and drought, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

“These natural calamities will come regularly... we have to remain ever ready to face these and we are doing that,” she said while addressing a programme marking the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief arranged the event at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium, which the PM attended from her official residence Ganobhaban.

The theme of this year’s International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is “Disaster risk governance” while the theme for Bangladesh has been set as “Good Governance in Reduce Disaster Risk, Ensure Sustainable Development”.

State Minister for Ministry of Disaster Management

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Momen new chair of C’wealth Ministerial Group on Guyana

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has been appointed Chair of the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Guyana, which works for settlement of Guyana-Venezuela territorial dispute.

He received unanimous support of the seven-member group comprising Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Britain, Canada, Guyana, Jamaica, and South Africa, said Bangladesh High Commission in UK in a statement on Monday.

Upon the appointment, Momen said, “Bangladesh looks forward to steering the group on Guyana-Venezuela territorial dispute in line with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s visionary foreign policy doctrine of peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and international adjudication.”

Chairing the first online meeting of the group under Bangladesh’s chairmanship, he recalled Bangladesh’s peaceful maritime boundary settlement with its neighbours taking recourse of international arbitration and international law.



A streetside vegetable vendor continues his business well into the evening at Dhupkhola in Old Dhaka. Prices of produce have soared in the last few days, putting pressure on the wallets of middle and low-income people in the capital.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



A worker of Bangladesh Power Development Board attempts to dislocate an electrical cable that had caught on fire on the Sonargaon-Rampura link road near the Hatirjheel entrance yesterday. Locals contacted the BPDB office upon spotting the sparks on the pole, and technicians rushed to the spot and averted any danger.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CID rescues 2 children thru’ SMS tracking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaving her two children under her sister’s care, Beauty Begum left for Jordan around one and half years back.

Since then, Mahia Akter Pinky (13), and Md Biplob Bepari (10) have been living with their aunt Saleha Begum in Faridpur. In absence of their parents, who are separated, Saleha often “rebuked” them. So, the children decided to go to Dhaka to stay with their grandfather.

On September 9, the siblings left Saleha’s residence, saying that they were going to a madrasa.

They managed to reach Dhaka. But there was a problem. They did not have the exact address of their grandfather.

Their search eventually took them to Gulshan, where a rickshaw-puller after hearing about their plight offered them shelter.

He also send an SMS on their father’s phone, asking about the location and switched off his phone immediately afterwards.

Meanwhile, Saleha filed a general diary with Kotwali Police Station of Faridpur, fearing that the children may have been

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

No compromise on security, safety at airports: Mahbub Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Mahbub Ali yesterday said there will be no compromise in ensuring safety of airports and passengers.

He said everyone working at airports should always be ready to prevent and deal with any kind of accident. Those who will try to disrupt the security at airports will not be spared.

The junior minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of “full scale airport emergency exercise-2020” and the expanded section of the international lounge at Osmani International Airport in Sylhet.

Mahbul Ali said effective steps have been taken to improve the quality of passenger services at airports and prevent accidents.

He also said security has been beefed up at all airports across the country.

The state minister said major development works are underway at all international and domestic airports in the country.

All modern security equipment including fire alarm, dual view scanning machine, ETD, vehicle scanning system have already been installed at Sylhet airport, he said.

Expansion of Osmani airport has also been started, which will be completed at a total cost of Tk 2,760 crore, he added. Mahbub Ali said the international lounge of the airport has been expanded at a cost of around Tk 8 crore, keeping in mind the needs of passengers.

Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, Member (Management and Planning) Air Commodore Md Khalid Hossain, DIG of Sylhet Range Mofiz Uddin Ahmed and President of Sylhet Metropolitan unit of Awami League Masuk Uddin Ahmed, among others, spoke at the programme.



VERDICT ON LAND RELATED CASE

Apex court expunges some HC observations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday expunged some observations made by a High Court bench regarding the judges of the then First Court of Settlement of Dhaka and corruption in a verdict on a land-property related case.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the expunction order following two separate petitions challenging the HC judgement. The SC bench delivered the order under Article 104 of the constitution, said Supreme Court Spokesman Mohammad Saifur Rahman in a press release.

Article 104 states, "The Appellate Division shall have power to issue such directions, orders, decrees or writs as may be necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before

it, including orders for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person or the discovery or production of any document."

Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star that it can be known after the full text of apex court order is released which observations and directives of the HC have been expunged. The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaul Kamal and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil has made observations and directives about the then First Court of Settlement of Dhaka and corruption in the full 144-page text of the verdict released on October 1.

The bench had delivered the judgement on December 11 last year, following two separate writ petitions filed by the ministry of housing and public works last year, challenging a verdict given by the First Court of Settlement of Dhaka on November 27, 1995.

Death

FROM PAGE 3

remove the barriers to proving the crime. The path is to make it easier for the victim to get justice, it read.

The goal should rather be to ensure proper investigation into each incident and enforce the punishment once the crime is proven, the statement added.

Mentioning that the conviction rate of rape cases is only three percent, the speakers said most cases do not even reach the judicial process. They also alleged that police is often non-cooperative in the investigation process.

Unless this culture of impunity and the innumerable inconsistencies and complexities in the legal and judicial process is alleviated, capital punishment will not play a positive role in curbing "rape culture" in the country, they said, adding that it is extremely difficult for a victim to seek justice in the face of the immense power exercised by ruling party leaders and activists.

After going through all this, even if the victim reaches the court, she has to prove her own character. In such a structure, a victim gets oppressed not once, but repeatedly, protesters said. Without solving all these issues, this movement cannot be stopped just by uttering the word "death penalty".

The protesters' nine-point demand include reformation of the Evidence Act, implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) charter, exemplary punishment for those involved in gender-based violence, and an end to repression of women in the hills and plain land.

KC donates disinfecting equipment to KGH

CITY DESK

The brand KC donated high-tech air-disinfecting equipment to Kurmitola General Hospital on Sunday, says a press release.

Kawsar Chowdhury, design director of the brand, handed over the equipment at a ceremony.

Hospital Director Brig Gen Jamil Ahmed, Assistant Director Lt Col Md Abdul Wahab, and Senior Store Officer Maj Gen Md Idhi Amin were present.

Kawsar Chowdhury, who recovered from Covid-19, brought in the air disinfecting solutions and Far-UVC from manufacturers to help hospitals.

Obaidul Huq's death anniv

CITY DESK

Yesterday was the 13th death anniversary of prominent journalist Obaidul Huq, says a press release.

On that day in 2007, he breathed his last at his Banani residence. He was 96. Obaidul Huq was the editor of the Bangladesh Observer for 12 years since 1972.

Born on October 31, 1911 in Feni, he obtained his masters in philosophy from Dhaka University and completed LLB from Calcutta University. In 1944, he joined the film world. He was the first Bangalee Muslim to make a feature film "Dukkhhe Jader Jibon Gora" in 1946. He was its writer, producer and director.

After the partition of India, he returned to the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) from Calcutta. He joined the editorial board of the Pakistan Observer (later The Bangladesh Observer) in 1951 as joint editor.

After leaving The Bangladesh Observer, Obaidul Huq was editor of now-defunct The Daily News.

He was the chairman of Press Institute of Bangladesh and chairman of Dainik Bangla and Bangladesh Times Trustee Board. He was also chairman of Nazrul Institute.

Obaidul Huq was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 1983, and Bangla Academy Award in 1964 for drama writing. He also received the Unicef Gold Medal for journalism.



Cooperation

FROM PAGE 3

Anisul Huq said Bangladesh, being the seventh largest recipient country of global remittances, has set a clear priority on protecting its migrants' rights and interests both at home and abroad.

"In this regard, Bangladesh passed the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 and its Rules 2017, acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in July 2011, and in September 2019, acceded to the UN Protocol to

Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UNTOC. Bangladesh has also ratified ILO core conventions on forced labour," the law minister said.

He said the government would like to step up action to prevent exploitation amid Covid-19, identify and support trafficking victims, and bring perpetrators to book.

Law Secretary Md Golam Sarwar and representatives from United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes and European Union attended and spoke at the function.

We're ever-ready

FROM PAGE 3

And Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman presided over the programme where Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on disaster management and relief AB Tajul Islam and disaster management and relief secretary Md Mohsin also spoke.

The premier also inaugurated 17,005 newly-built disaster resilient houses virtually, and unveiled the cover of a book titled "Standing Orders of Disaster".

Hasina said the government is dredging rivers to increase their navigability and

depth, re-excavating canals, beel, ponds and wetlands so that enough water can be preserved in those.

She said capital dredging should be done for rivers so that these could contain water during the flood time.

She asked the authorities concerned to strictly maintain the smooth flow of waters in wetlands, rivers, canals and beels. "If we keep filling wetlands, rivers, canals and beels out of greed, and construct buildings, it'll cause water-logging, destroy natural balance affecting the country".

Mahbubur Rasheed no more


CITY DESK

Md Mahbubur Rasheed, head of common services division and executive vice president of Shahjalal Islami Bank, passed away following a cardiac arrest on October 11 at age 50, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, a daughter, a son, brothers, sisters, and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held on that day at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Zohr prayers and a second one at Segunbagicha in the capital. He was buried at his village home in Jamalpur on October 12 after a third janaza.





**Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)**  
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
Phone: 8181658-61, Website [www.pksf-bd.org](http://www.pksf-bd.org), Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PKSF.org](https://www.facebook.com/PKSF.org)

**Tender Notice (OTM-Goods)**

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has been implementing a project for the extreme poor titled 'Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People (PPEPP)', jointly financed by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); formerly DFID and the European Union (EU). For this project, PKSF invites a sealed envelope tender from competitive bidders for the supply of the goods under package titled **"Procurement of Desktop Computer, Laptop, Colour Printer, Multimedia Projector, DSLR Camera and UPS with accessories"**.

'Tender Document' is obtainable from the office of PKSF during office hours from 14/10/2020 to 27/10/2020 on payment of a non-refundable amount of BDT 1000/- (One Thousand) only in the form of bank draft or pay order in favour of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. Interested suppliers are requested to visit the website: <http://pksf-bd.org> for the detailed Tender notice.

The tender will be submitted at the office of PKSF by **12:00 noon** on or before **28/10/2020**. Bid documents will be opened at **12:30 pm** on **28/10/2020** in presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

PKSF reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the bid documents without showing any reason whatsoever.

**Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin**  
Deputy Managing Director

Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 3

As per initial findings by Visakhapatnam Port Trust authorities, the ship had one anchor and this was not informed to port authorities.

Due to the persisting deep depression over the bay, the sea had been very rough over the last two days and the ship had lost its other anchor.

Since the winds were strong, the ship, carrying some 15 crew members, drifted towards the shore and ran aground near Tenneti Park, located on the northern edge of the port limits.

All crew members are safe.

According to port authorities, the Protection and Indemnity officials were informed and an initial damage assessment would be made.

Quoting sources in India, an official at the Indian High Commission said a ship of the Indian navy was scheduled to start the rescue.

Sources said the ship's master is confident that the vessel can be towed out by two or three tugs, if the tide is high.

CID rescues

FROM PAGE 3

kidnapped or trafficked.

While investigating the GD, Criminal Investigation Department rescued them from Dhaka's Bhatara on Monday, through tracking the SMS send by the rickshaw-puller.

Abdullahel Baqui, deputy inspector general of CID, disclosed it at a press briefing yesterday.

Aminul Hoque, senior assistant superintendent of CID, who led the drive, said they received the case 20 days after Saleha filed the GD.

"The children first called their father, Pikul Bepari, from a shop to find out about their grandfather's location. The call duration was 20-second and they disconnected the line after not getting any response despite calling him several times," said Aminul.

The children are in police custody now.

Regarding their allegation and the rickshaw-puller, he said they are investigating the matter and further details will be disclosed later.



**কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ**  
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০

**পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগে ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল ইকুইপমেন্ট ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে পুনরায় দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের টি.এস.সি তে অবস্থিত জনতা ব্যাংক ৪,০০০/- জমা দিয়ে উক্ত জমার কপি অত্র বিভাগের অফিসে (অফিস চলাকালীন) সময়ে জমাদানপূর্বক দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে (হিসাব নং ৩৬০০০৩৯২, হিসাবের নামঃ টেন্ডার সিডিউল ক্রয় বিক্রয়)। আগামী ১৪ অক্টোবর, ২০২০ইং তারিখ হতে ২৮ অক্টোবর, ২০২০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র ক্রয় করা যাবে। ২৯ অক্টোবর, ২০২০ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০টার মধ্যে বিভাগীয় অফিসে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে। ঐদিন দুপুর ১২:৩০টায় দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে। কোনরূপ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখেন।

ডি-১২৪

চেয়ারম্যান

New rape

FROM PAGE 3

He also greeted the prime minister and other cabinet members for approving a draft of Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to make death penalty highest punishment for the crime.

In a statement on October 6, GM Quader had demanded that the law be amended to incorporate a provision of death penalty for rapists.



**PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON DHAKA**  
*The Oasis of Luxurious Hospitality and Tranquility*

**Invitation for Tender**

Sealed tenders are invited from bona-fide contractors/manufacturers/dealers/distributors/ suppliers for supply the following items or tasks. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

| SL No. | Name of the Items/Task  | Quantity | Schedule Price (Non-refundable) |
|--------|---|----------|---------------------------------|
| 1      | Renovation of Annex Building Ground Floor Office Rooms                    | 01 Lot   | Tk.2000.00                      |
| 2      | Renovation of Annex Building Ground Floor Washrooms (Male & Female)       | 01 Lot   | Tk.2000.00                      |
| 3      | Fire & Air Conditioning Works of Annex Building Ground Floor Office Rooms | 01 Lot   | Tk.2000.00                      |


Interested bidders may obtain Tender Schedule from the Purchasing Department on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead up to **November 02, 2020** during office hours. Tender will be received up to **02:30pm** on **November 03, 2020** and will be opened on the same day at **03:00pm** in presence of bidders, if any.

Tender must be supported by an Earnest Money amounting to 5% of quoted price in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favor of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

 **Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008, Extn: 4164**

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**



**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
*Center of Excellence in Higher Education*

The first private university in Bangladesh, seeks applications for the following position:

**Lab Officer, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering: 1 position**

**Job Description:**

- Assist faculty members in conducting lab classes, prepare the list of experiments and offer lectures
- Conduct lab classes and involve in the preparation of lab examination
- Literacy on civil engineering application packages (Auto CAD, ETABS, STAAD, C++, MATLAB)
- Develop, improve and troubleshoot all lab experiments
- Proctoring the exams along with the faculty members
- Grading the lab reports, homework, assignments, lab tests with the consultation of related faculty members in the lab sections
- Maintain inventory list record of the equipment used in the laboratories
- Update lab safety note books in the laboratories time to time and maintain the same
- Attend the meeting with faculty members/researchers to discuss changes and modification in laboratory experiments &
- Any other duties as assigned by either the concerned faculty members or the Department Chair

**Qualifications:**

- Minimum B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from any reputed university
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and supervisory experience
- Ability to handle civil engineering test related machineries

**Job Experience:** Minimum 5 years      **Age limit:** Ideally 30-40 years

**Assistant Lab Officer, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering: 1 position**

**Job Description:**

- Demonstrate Lab experiments in the Lab courses and offer lectures
- Operate the machines and assist in collect data
- Perform commercial tests
- Maintain lab related files/records/software/hardware
- Manage utilities (electrical, water, gas etc.) of Lab spaces in the basements and overall O&M of all equipment's &
- Any other tests required by the Center for Infrastructure Research and Services of DCEE

**Qualifications:**

- Minimum B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from any reputed university
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and supervisory experience.
- Ability to handle civil engineering test related machineries.

**Job Experience:**

- At least 2 years of experience in handling machineries and equipment

**Age limit:** Ideally 25-32 years


**Monthly Salary:** An attractive salary packages & benefits will be offered to the successful candidate.

**Other Benefits:** Provident Fund, Gratuity, Festival Bonuses, Group Insurance, in- house free Medical Consultation etc.

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.

Candidates may apply with complete CV, two photographs, copies of certificates, transcripts and other credentials by **2nd November, 2020** by e-mail or in hard copy.

**Department of Administration**  
**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
Bashundhara, Dhaka – 1229  
E-mail to: [nsuhr@northsouth.edu](mailto:nsuhr@northsouth.edu)



**Pabna University of Science & Technology**  
Office of the Project Director, PUST, PABNA.

Memo No: PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/38


Date : 12/10/2020

**e-Tender Notice (FY/2020-21)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-Gp ([http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of Following Works of “Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project” PUST, Pabna.

| Serial No | Tender ID | APP ID | Package No & Invitation Ref. Number | Name of Works   | Tender Publication Date & Time   | Tender Closing Date & Time        | Method |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 01        | 504135    | 158695 | PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/38                 | Land Development, Earth Filling and Compaction Works Remaining Portion Under Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project, PUST, FY 2020-2021. | 12 October, 2020<br>and<br>11.00 | 10 November, 2020<br>and<br>11.00 | OTM    |

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender 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 from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
Engineer Lt Colonel G M Azizur Rahman  
afwc,psc (Retd)  
Project Director  
Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project.

GD-1629





The playground of Uttar Gosaibari Government Primary School in Bogura's Sonatola upazila remains under stagnant water for nearly four months a year for the last four to five years.

PHOTO: STAR

# School waterlogged for 4 months a year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Students of Uttar Gosaibari Government Primary School in Bogura's Sonatola upazila cannot play on their school ground as it remains waterlogged nearly four months a year. Moreover, students and teachers of the educational institution have to wade across the water-logged compound of the school to attend their classes. Minarul Islam, 36, a resident of Gosaibari village, said for the last four to five years floodwater enters the school ground every year and remain stagnant for nearly four months a year. "For the last two to three years I have been cultivating fish in the waterlogged school ground during this time of the year," Minarul said,

adding that they have been witnessing that students and teachers have been suffering immensely while attending their classes during the waterlogged situation. The primary school was established in 1974. Akib Islam, 11, a Class V student of the school, said, "During the rainy season, we have to wade through the water-logged compound to attend our classes and sometimes our dress gets wet." "Our school have a large playground but we cannot play there as it remains waterlogged for couple of months every year," Akib said, adding that they have suffer for pure drinking water as the tube well remains under water most of the time. Contacted, Farida Yesmin, head

teacher of the school, said, "We have informed the matter to the upazila education officer to solve the problem, but it remains the same." Rafiqul Islam, president of the school managing committee, said the situation arises in the last three years after people build their houses around the school and blocked its drainage system. He said they need to fill up the school compound by dumping earth to overcome the trouble. Sonatola Upazila Education Officer Rabindranath Saha said teachers should contact them with proper documents of their problems. They have an emergency planning and development cell for the flood-hit or waterlogged school and they can allocate funds up to Tk 5 lakh.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges  
Bridges Division  
Bangladesh Bridge Authority  
Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212  
www.bba.gov.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (International)  
For  
Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Customize, Implement and Maintain a Proven Off-the-Shelf Modern Real-Time web based On-Line Centralized Toll Collection System with Web Based Monitoring and Related Services with Complete Technology Transfer to BBA for Toll Collection of Gangabandhu Bridge.

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Ministry/Division                       | : Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges/Bridges Division.  |
| 2. | Agency                                  | : Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).  |
| 3. | Name of procuring entity                | : Chief Engineer, BBA, Dhaka.   |
| 4. | Title of service                        | : Supply, Customize, Implement and Maintain a Proven Off-the-Shelf Modern Real-Time web based On-Line Centralized Toll Collection System with Web Based Monitoring and Related Services with Complete Technology Transfer to BBA for Toll Collection of Gangabandhu Bridge.<br>Major Scope of Services:<br>a. Supply, Customize and Implement a Proven Off-the-Shelf Modern Real-Time, Web-based, On-Line Centralized Toll Collection System using license version of oracle or any other suitable platform with latest updated database connected with BRTA vehicle database for automatic vehicle classification implementing for manual lanes, TOUCH-&GO lanes, Free-Flow lanes using RFID TAG (automatically cash deduction from owner's bank account and may gradually need to implement this system to all lanes as Free-Flow) which can be monitored (all transaction including transaction amount and vehicle footage) Real-Time simultaneously from Toll Plaza, BBA Head Office and Bridges Division.<br>b. Management, Maintenance & Complete Technology Transfer of the system/software for Real-Time, web-based, On-Line Centralized multi-station toll collection. |
| 5. | Procuring entity district               | : Dhaka.  |
| 6. | Expression of Interest for Selection of | : Consulting Firm, Time-based   |
| 7. | EOI Reference No.                       | : 50.01.0000.407.38.006.20-590  |
| 8. | Date                                    | : 12 October 2020.  |

KEY INFORMATION

|    |                        |  |
|----|------------------------|--|
| 9. | Procurement sub-method | : Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS). |
|----|------------------------|--|

FUNDING INFORMATION

|     |                                     |            |
|-----|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 10. | Budget and source of fund           | : BBA/GoB. |
| 11. | Development partner (if applicable) | : N/A.     |

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

|     |                         |                              |
|-----|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12. | Project/program code    | : N/A.                       |
| 13. | Project/program name    | : N/A.                       |
| 14. | EOI closing date & time | : 12.30pm, 25 November 2020. |

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 15. | Brief description of assignment                    | : Scope of service includes but not limited to the following:<br>1. Supply, Customize and implement a Proven Off-the-Shelf Modern Real-Time, Web-based, On-Line Centralized Toll Collection System/Software;<br>2. Supply and Installation of all related Hardware, Software and Network along with setup of requisite POS Terminals, Local Data Center with backup facilities including power equipment at both the Toll Plazas;<br>3. Supply and Installation of all related Hardware, Software, network to manage traffic;<br>4. Supply and Installation of required hardware and software at Central Data Center at BBA Head Office including Central Server, Backup Server and all related Hardware and Software must be completed;<br>6. The customized software shall have provisions to generate toll collection reports for BBA on daily/weekly/monthly basis or on demand;<br>7. The customized software shall have provisions for auto calculation of Toll and fee structure and also have provisions of adjustment of Toll fee in case of any change made by the Government from time to time. Subscribers will be able to get toll deposit receipts/tickets from the Toll booths. The Vehicles shall be automatically classified as per the BRTA database. In this case, the service provider shall take necessary steps and supply all equipment and network at BRTA end for obtaining the data on real time basis;<br>8. Ensure total backup support and supply of necessary equipment from ready stock for smooth operation of toll management and collection system for 24/7 basis;<br>9. Networking with the Bank for Auto Transfer of Collected Toll;<br>10. Software source code, hardware and Complete Technology Transfer to BBA;<br>11. Methods of remedying weakness of the system; |
| 16. | Experience, resources & delivery capacity required | : 1. Background of the Firm(s)/associated/key professionals/experts with general experience in related works and overall experience including company's brochure;<br>2. Experience of the Firm(s) associated/key professionals/experts in similar assignment as follows: Completed during the last 10 (ten) years.<br>a. Experience in design, development, supply, customize & implement a Proven Off-the-Shelf Modern Real-Time, Web-based, On-Line Centralized Toll Collection System of major bridge/flyover/highway/expressway/railway/online payment system in a single contract completed over a period of last 10 (ten) years.<br>3. Experience of the Firm(s)/associated/key professionals/experts in similar assignment.<br>4. Financial Capability & Administrative/Managerial/Professional Strength;<br>a) Average annual turnover of last 5 (five) years including audit report and<br>b) Liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities or authorized capital.   |
| 17. | Other details required                             | : Submission of EOI shall be in closed format mentioning the name and address of the applicant, EOI No. & date and be addressed to the EOI issuing Authority in 2 (two) copies; 01 (one) marked as "ORIGINAL" and other as "COPY" in separate envelope in the form of book binding. Both the "ORIGINAL" and "COPY" shall have to cover within a single envelope. The applicant shall mention the page No. serially in every page of submitted EOI document.   |
| 18. | Association with foreign firm                      | : Association with local/foreign firms is applicable to the following:<br>a. Interested firms may associate with other firms (local or foreign) to enhance their qualifications but should mention whether the association in the form of "Joint Venture" or "Sub-Consultancy". In case of association all member of such "association" should have real and well-defined input of assignment.<br>b. In case of Joint Venture Lead Partner should have the experience in (i) Design, development, supply & installation of online electronics/computerized toll revenue collection system of major bridge/flyover/highway/expressway in a single contract completed over a period of last 10 (ten) years.<br>c. In addition to the above the JV shall have to comply with the experience mentioned in "Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required" collectively.<br>d. The lead partner shall not authorize any other partner to sign the proposal document/contract document.  |

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

|     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 19. | Name of the official inviting expression of interest            | : Quazi Muhammad Ferdous.  |
| 20. | Designation of the official inviting expression of interest     | : Chief Engineer.  |
| 21. | Address of the official inviting expression of interest         | : Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.  |
| 22. | Contact details of the official inviting expression of interest | : Phone: +880-2-55040313, Fax: +880-2-55040444<br>E-mail: chiefengineer@bba.gov.bd |

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept/reject all the EOIs.  
A draft TOR is attached on www.bba.gov.bd

Quazi Muhammad Ferdous  
Chief Engineer  
Ph: 02-55040313  
E-mail: chiefengineer@bba.gov.bd

GD-1631

## Culvert collapse snaps communication of 30 villages in Tangail

Thousands of people as well as hundreds of light vehicles use the road every day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Local people have been suffering immensely since a culvert on Basail-Natiapara road in Basail upazila collapsed about two weeks ago due to heavy pressure of floodwater, disrupting communication of at least 30 nearby villages with the upazila headquarters. Locals said the water of Dakkhin Garamara Beel under Basail municipality was increasing for the last few days due to increasing water level on Jhinai and Banshi rivers. At one stage, an important culvert on Basail-Natiapara road collapsed due to strong current of the floodwater on October 1. As a result, communications between Adajan, Kanchanpur, Bilpara, Balina, Bhorpara and Habla villages

under Basail upazila, Kurni, Fotepur, Patkhaguri, Mohera, Bhatkura and Adabari villages in Mirzapur upazila, and Natiapara and Borni villages in Delduar upazila with Basail upazila headquarters have been disrupted, causing immense sufferings to the villages. Mohammad Ali, a resident of Basail upazila headquarters, said thousands of people of adjacent villages as well as hundreds of light vehicles use the road every day. Moreover, local traders carry their goods to Dhaka through Natiapara, he added. Ali said due to the situation, now people have to go to their destinations using alternative roads, spending both extra money and time, adding that they demanded immediate construction of a concrete bridge in

place of the damaged culvert soon. Basail Upazila Engineer of Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) Rozdid Ahmed said the culvert, which was constructed in 1995 at a cost of Tk 5 lakh, was declared vulnerable recently. They visited the spot and found the culvert was collapsed due to huge pressure of the floodwater, he said, adding that they have already sent a proposal to the higher authorities to construct a 20-meter-long concrete bridge in place of the damaged culvert. Mentionable, a total of 328 roads and 73 bridges and culverts were damaged in 11 out of 12 upazilas of the district due to flood this year. Of those, about 40 roads and seven bridges and culverts were damaged in Basail upazila.

## Youth stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was stabbed to death by unknown criminals in Rangpur's Mithapukur upazila early yesterday. The deceased, Gulshan Mia, 30, son Abdul Haq of Mominpur village, was owner of a makeshift tea-stall at Jaigirhar area in the upazila. Quoting witnesses, police said after closing his shop Gulshan was returning home around 1:30am. On his way, when he reached near Durgapur village, two criminals, wearing helmets, waylaid him and stabbed him indiscriminately with sharp weapon. Locals rescued injured Gulshan and took him to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead.



Students of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) stage a sit-in programme at the university campus on Monday, demanding online classes for all the departments of the institution.

PHOTO: STAR

## 4 get life term for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A Pirojpur court yesterday sentenced four people to life term imprisonment and two others for five years for killing one of their friends in 2014. Pirojpur District and Session Judge Mohammad Mohiduzzaman also fined the lifers Tk 10,000 each. The lifers are Sohul Rana, 26, son of Abdul Khaleq of Pirojpur's Mathbaria upazila, and Milon Gharami, 26, son of Fazlul Haque, Al Amin Howlader, 28, son of Mojibor Rahman, and Masum Billah, 38, son of Abdul Malek of Patharghata upazila in Barguna. According to case statement, Sohul and his cohorts called Shakil out of his home for taking drugs on 9 March, 2014. They later, killed Shakil and took away his motorbike.

**Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.**  
ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ডিপিডিসি)  
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)  
বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (৩য় তলা), ১ আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।  
Web site : www.dpdc.gov.bd

### e-Tender Notice

**e-Tenders is invited through the national e-GP portal for the following procurement of works/goods.**

| e-Tender ID | Name of Works  | Closing & Opening Date & Time | Procuring Entity/ Contact Persons   |
|-------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 501274      | Providing of Vehicle Services of 2 Cars and 2 Microbuses with Driver Fuels & Maintenance on monthly rental basis for Six months under ESPSN project, DPDC. | 28/10/2020<br>02:00 PM        | <b>Md. Mahbubur Rahman</b><br>Superintending Engineer<br>Contract & Procurement Circle<br>Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC).<br>Biddut Bhaban (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor)<br>1 No Abdul Goni Road<br>Dhaka-1000.<br>Ph: 9567258, Fax: 9568349<br>E-mail: secp@dpdc.org.bd |

The interested persons/firm/may visit website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details.

**DGM (HR) Public Relations, DPDC**



# Covid-19 reinfection casts doubt on virus immunity

Study says such cases may cause severe symptoms

AGENCIES

Covid-19 patients may experience more severe symptoms the second time they are infected, according to research released Tuesday confirming it is possible to catch the potentially deadly disease more than once.

A study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal charts the first confirmed case of Covid-19 reinfection in the United States -- the country worst hit by the pandemic -- and indicates that exposure to the virus may not guarantee future immunity.

The patient, a 25-year-old Nevada man, was infected with two distinct variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, within a 48-day time frame.

The second infection was more severe than the first, resulting in the patient being hospitalised with oxygen support.

The paper noted four other cases of reinfection confirmed globally, with one patient each in Belgium, the Netherlands, Hong Kong and Ecuador.

Experts said the prospect of reinfection could have a profound impact on how the world battles through the pandemic.

In particular, it could influence the hunt for a vaccine -- the currently Holy Grail of pharmaceutical research.

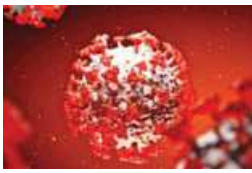
Vaccines work by triggering the body's natural immune response to a certain pathogen, arming it with antibodies it to fight off future waves of infection.

But it is not at all clear how long Covid-19 antibodies last. For some diseases, such as measles, infection confers lifelong immunity. For other pathogens, immunity may be fleeting at best.

According to two reports published on Thursday in Science Immunology people infected with Covid-19 develop antibodies targeting the new coronavirus that last for at least three months.

The researchers pointed out that reinfection of any kind remains rare, with only a handful of confirmed cases out of tens of millions of Covid-19 infections globally.

However, since many cases are asymptomatic and therefore unlikely to have tested positive initially, it may be impossible to know if a given Covid-19 case is the first or second infection.



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Project Director (ACE, RHD)  
Technical Assistance for Road Transport Connectivity  
Improvement Project Preparatory Facility  
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208  
[www.rhd.gov.bd](http://www.rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.2690.071.07.001.2020-30

Date: 11.10.2020

## Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) (Consulting Services for Feasibility Study and Detailed Design Consultant (FSDDC) – Firms selection)

Bangladesh Western Economic Corridor & Regional Enhancement Program (WeCARE) Phase-I

Assignment Title: Feasibility Study and Detailed Design Consultant (FSDDC)

Reference No.: SP-07

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank for implementing the Western Economic Corridor & Regional Enhancement Program (WeCARE) Phase-I and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the Consulting Services of Feasibility Study and Detailed Design Consultant (FSDDC).

The broad scope of consulting services ("the Services") include carrying out the tasks mentioned below along the Jhenaidah-Jashore National Highway segment and Bhomra-Satkhira-Navaron National & Regional Highway segment.

1. Prepare feasibility study and detailed design for Bhomra-Satkhira-Navaron Highway segment;
2. Update the existing feasibility study and detailed design for Jhenaidah-Jashore Highway segment that was done under SRTPPF;
3. Carrying out all required surveys and investigations;
4. Preparing Cost Estimates, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Bidding Documents and providing Procurement support.

Expected date for commencement of the services is March 2021 and the tentative duration of the entire assignment is about 18 (eighteen) months. A draft TOR can be found at the following website: ([www.rhd.gov.bd](http://www.rhd.gov.bd); [www.cptu.gov.bd](http://www.cptu.gov.bd); or can be obtained at the address of the undersigned given below).

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) under Road Transport and Highways Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Government of Bangladesh now invites eligible Consultancy Firms to express their interest in providing the Services. Interested consulting firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The qualifications and experiences for shortlisting are:

1. Experience in feasibility study and detailed design of highways and bridges;
2. Experience in Engineering investigations and surveys required for feasibility study and detailed design;
3. Experience in development partner's funded similar projects.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to the Section III, Para 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016 and updated in August 2018," setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultancy Firm may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a Joint Venture; associations of and/or a sub-consultancy, in case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. The short-listed firm would also have opportunity to form JV or association, even if the said firm is short-listed on their own as single entity.

A Consultancy Firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address of the undersigned given below during office hours from 9:00am to 17:00pm Bangladesh Standard Time (BST).

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form to the address of the undersigned (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by 14:30pm (BST), November 16, 2020.

The Client will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation or delivery of the EOI. The Executing Agency reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without assigning any reason.

**Riaz Ahmad Jaber**  
Project Director (ACE), RHD  
Technical Assistance for Road Transport Connectivity  
Improvement Project Preparatory Facility  
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E-mail: [pd.rtcipf.rhd@gmail.com](mailto:pd.rtcipf.rhd@gmail.com)

# 10.4m Americans voted so far

Mail-in voting continues amid ballot errors, court battles and threats

AGENCIES

US voters have cast more than 10 million votes for the Nov 3 presidential election, significantly outpacing the early vote in 2016 and suggesting a large turnout, according to data compiled by the US Elections Project.

As of Monday night, nearly 10.4 million Americans have cast a vote in states that report early voting data, according to the election information resource at the University of Florida. The number of ballots cast in five states - Minnesota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin - already exceeds 20% of total 2016 turnout, the Elections Project said.

But the complex rules of mail-in voting also rising worries among both camps.

Three weeks before the US presidential vote, the immense surge in demand for mail-in ballots due to the coronavirus is testing the country's ability to pull off a credible election.

Tens of thousands of ballots in Ohio and New York have been cancelled with the wrong candidate or voter names. Votes thrown in the trash in Pennsylvania over naked votes and scores of lawsuits have been filed over the counts.



President Donald Trump says voting by mail is ripe for fraud and has promised to challenge ballot counts.

"Out of control. A Rigged Election!!!" Trump tweeted on Friday after news that ballots with the wrong candidates were sent to 50,000 residents of Columbus, Ohio, a key state Trump needs to win for reelection.

But election analysts say that, despite those headline cases, so far the process is going well.

Nearly 75 million mail-in ballots have been sent or requested so far this year, more than double the 33 million in 2016, according to the

US Elections Project of the University of Florida on Monday.

But errors and delays in getting the ballots printed and mailed, cases of mishandled ballots like in Pennsylvania, and reports of people receiving more than one ballot have stoked attacks on the concept at large.

The Ohio and New York ballot problems were simple printing and envelop insertion errors that could have been avoided with better management.

Republicans especially have tried to limit the impact of mail-in voting, as surveys show Democrats are much more likely that Republicans to mail their ballot rather than vote in person.

In Pennsylvania they battled for a court ruling to throw out ballots if the voter uses the wrong envelope. In South Carolina Republican attorneys won a ruling requiring envelopes for ballots to be signed by witnesses as well as the voter.

The issue of rejected ballots could be crucial.

The 2000 presidential battle between George W Bush and Al Gore was decided by a 537 vote margin in Florida, and hinged on the Supreme Court blocking a broad recount that could have restored thousands of rejected ballots.



## পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

### নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং- পাবিপ্রবি/সংস্থাপন/২৮২/৮২৫

তারিখ : ১৩/১০/২০২০ ইং

পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিভিন্ন বিভাগের জন্য স্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে

| বিভাগের নাম, পদের নাম, বেতনস্কেল ও গ্রেড   | পদের সংখ্যা | শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা   |
|--|-------------|---|
| (১) পণিত বিভাগ<br>অধ্যাপক (৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০) (গ্রেড-৩)  | ২টি         | <b>অধ্যাপক</b><br>ক) কোন পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নশ্রিট বিষয়ে সন্মান ও মাস্টার্স উভয় পরীক্ষায় গ্রেডিং পয়েন্টে সিঁজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে ৩.৫ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে।<br>খ) ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগসমূহের ক্ষেত্রে স্নশ্রিট বিষয়ে বিএসসি ও এমএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পরীক্ষায় গ্রেডিং পয়েন্টে সিঁজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে ৩.৫ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে।<br>গ) এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি প্রত্যেকটি পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম সিঁজিপিএ ৫.০০ এর মধ্যে ৩.৫০ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে প্রথম বিভাগ থাকতে হবে।<br>ঘ) কোন পরীক্ষায় সিঁজিপিএ ২.৫০-এর কম / ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।<br>ঙ) স্নশ্রিট বিষয়ে পিএইচডি ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদেরকে পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে কমপক্ষে ১২ (বারো) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতা, কমপক্ষে পাঁচটি স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ের থিসিস গবেষণা পরিচালনা (Supervision) এর অভিজ্ঞতা ও সহযোগী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৪ (চার) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতাসহ স্বীকৃত (referred) জার্নালে বিষয় সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্ততঃ ১০ (দশ)টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে যার মধ্যে সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদে থাকাকালীন কোন স্বীকৃত জার্নালে অন্ততঃ ৪ (চার) টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে। |
| (২) ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন বিভাগ<br>অধ্যাপক (৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০) (গ্রেড-৩)                                    | ২টি         | <b>অথবা</b><br>স্নশ্রিট বিষয়ে এমফিল ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদেরকে পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে কমপক্ষে ১৪ (চৌদ্দ) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতা, কমপক্ষে চারটি স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ের থিসিস গবেষণা পরিচালনা (Supervision) এর অভিজ্ঞতা ও সহযোগী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৪ (চার) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতাসহ স্বীকৃত (referred) জার্নালে বিষয় সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্ততঃ ৮ (আটটি) প্রকাশনা যার মধ্যে সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদে থাকাকালীন কোন স্বীকৃত জার্নালে অন্ততঃ ৪ (চার) টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে।<br><b>অথবা</b><br>যে সকল সহযোগী অধ্যাপকের উচ্চতর ডিগ্রি নেই তাদের ক্ষেত্রে ১৬ (ষোল) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতার মধ্যে সহযোগী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং বিষয় সংশ্লিষ্ট মোট ৮ (আট) টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে যার মধ্যে সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদে থাকাকালীন কোন স্বীকৃত জার্নালে অন্ততঃ ৩ (তিন) টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে।  |
| (৩) ইনফরমেশন এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ<br>সহযোগী অধ্যাপক (৫০০০০-৭১২০০) (গ্রেড-৪)       | ২টি         | <b>সহযোগী অধ্যাপক</b><br>ক) কোন পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নশ্রিট বিষয়ে সন্মান ও মাস্টার্স উভয় পরীক্ষায় গ্রেডিং পয়েন্টে সিঁজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে ৩.৫ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে।<br>খ) ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগসমূহের ক্ষেত্রে স্নশ্রিট বিষয়ে বিএসসি ও এমএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পরীক্ষায় গ্রেডিং পয়েন্টে সিঁজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে ৩.৫ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে।<br>গ) এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি প্রত্যেকটি পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম সিঁজিপিএ ৫.০০ এর মধ্যে ৩.৫০ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে প্রথম বিভাগ থাকতে হবে।<br>ঘ) কোন পরীক্ষায় সিঁজিপিএ ২.৫০-এর কম / ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।<br>ঙ) স্নশ্রিট বিষয়ে পিএইচডি ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদেরকে পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে কমপক্ষে ০৭ (সাত) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতা, কমপক্ষে তিনটি স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ের থিসিস গবেষণা পরিচালনা (Supervision) এর অভিজ্ঞতা ও সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৪ (চার) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতাসহ স্বীকৃত (referred) জার্নালে বিষয় সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্ততঃ ৫ (পাঁচটি) প্রকাশনা যার মধ্যে সহকারী অধ্যাপক পদে থাকাকালীন কোন স্বীকৃত জার্নালে অন্ততঃ ৩ (তিন) টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে।     |
| (৪) ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেক্ট্রনিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ<br>সহযোগী অধ্যাপক (৫০০০০-৭১২০০) (গ্রেড-৪) | ১টি         | <b>অথবা</b><br>স্নশ্রিট বিষয়ে এমফিল ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদেরকে পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে কমপক্ষে ০৮ (আট) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতা, কমপক্ষে দুইটি স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ের থিসিস গবেষণা পরিচালনা (Supervision) এর অভিজ্ঞতা ও সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৪ (চার) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতাসহ স্বীকৃত (referred) জার্নালে বিষয় সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্ততঃ ৫ (পাঁচটি) প্রকাশনা যার মধ্যে সহকারী অধ্যাপক পদে থাকাকালীন কোন স্বীকৃত জার্নালে অন্ততঃ ৩ (তিন) টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে।  |
| (৫) পদার্থবিজ্ঞান বিভাগ<br>সহযোগী অধ্যাপক (৫০০০০-৭১২০০) (গ্রেড-৪)                                | ২টি         | <b>অথবা</b><br>যে সকল সহকারী অধ্যাপকের উচ্চতর ডিগ্রি নেই তাদের ক্ষেত্রে ১২ (বারো) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতার মধ্যে সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং বিষয় সংশ্লিষ্ট মোট ৪ (চার) টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে যার মধ্যে সহকারী অধ্যাপক পদে থাকাকালীন কোন স্বীকৃত জার্নালে অন্ততঃ ২ (দুই) টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে।   |

### শর্তাবলী :

- ১) আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ০৪/১১/২০২০ ইং। সকল আবেদনপত্র রেজিস্ট্রার, পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, রাজাপুর, পাবনা বরাবরে উক্ত তারিখের(০৪/১১/২০২০ ইং) মধ্যে (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (৯:০০টা থেকে ৫:০০টা) কেবলমাত্র ডাকযোগে পৌছাতে হবে।
- ২) আবেদনের জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিজস্ব ওয়েব সাইট ([www.pust.ac.bd](http://www.pust.ac.bd))-এ প্রদত্ত ফরমেটে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত ডকুমেন্টগুলো অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে এবং প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্রে স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে :  
(ক) সদ্যতোলা পাসপোর্ট আকারের ০৩ কপি রঙিন ছবি (খ) শিক্ষাদাতা যোগ্যতা সনশ্রিটে সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/ জন্ম নিবন্ধনের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (ঘ) অভিজ্ঞতা (বেতনক্রমসহ) সনশ্রিটে সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি থাকে বা প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) (ঙ) প্রকাশনা ও প্রশিক্ষণ সনশ্রিটে সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি থাকে বা প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) (চ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার।
- ৩) (ক) সকল পদের প্রার্থীদের জন্য ০৮ (আট) সেট আবেদনপত্র জমা দিতে হবে।  
(খ) মূল আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিজ ঠিকানা সম্বলিত ১০/- (দশ) টাকার ভাকটিকিটসহ ফেরত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ৪) চাকরিতত্ত্ব প্রার্থীর অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- ৫) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটার ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান প্রার্থীদেরকে সর্বশেষ সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের সনদপত্রসহ আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীর পিতা/মাতার অনুকূলে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ৬) এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক আপগ্রেডেশন নীতিমালার আলোকে অভ্যন্তরীণ যে সকল শিক্ষক ইতিমধ্যে সনশ্রিট পদে আপগ্রেডেড হয়েছেন, তাদের ক্ষেত্রে শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।
- ৭) বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যে কোন একটি শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য এবং নির্ধারিত যোগ্যতার অতিরিক্ত প্রকাশনার জন্য প্রার্থী সর্বোচ্চ ১(এক) বছর রেয়াতি সুবিধা প্রাপ্য হবেন।
- ৮) স্বীকৃত জার্নাল বলতে ISSN নম্বর সম্বলিত Peer Reviewed গবেষণা জার্নাল অথবা ISBN নম্বর সম্বলিত গবেষণা পুস্তক বুঝাবে।
- ৯) ক্রেডিটপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ১০) প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীর তাঁর প্রার্থিত পদের নাম এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা প্রার্থী, মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য অংশটি খামের উপর স্পষ্ট করে লিখতে হবে।
- ১১) প্রাপ্ত দরখাস্তসমূহ প্রাথমিক বাছাইয়ের পর কেবলমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে লিখিত পরীক্ষা/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় ডাকা হবে। এর জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- ১২) পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর অনুকূলে জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর যে কোন শাখা হতে সকল পদের প্রার্থীদের ৫০০/- টাকার (অফেরতযোগ্য) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার নং, টাকার পরিমাণ ও তারিখ উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- ১৩) বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীরা অগ্রাধিকার পাবেন।
- ১৪) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল কিংবা সংশোধন করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

GD-1628

**১৩/১০/২০২০**  
অতিরিক্ত রেজিস্ট্রার  
পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
পাবনা।



NEWS IN BRIEF



**Protesters topple Roosevelt, Lincoln statues in Portland**

Protesters toppled two statues of former US presidents in the western state of Oregon, prompting President Donald Trump to call Monday for the demonstrators to be locked up and for federal intervention. "Put these animals in jail, now," Trump said in a series of tweets after learning of the statues of Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln being felled Sunday night. "The Radical Left only knows how to take advantage of very dumb 'leadership' fools," he added. "This is Biden! Law & Order!" Similar protests in recent months prompted by the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died in police custody in Minneapolis, have led to statues of Confederate leaders and other US presidents linked to America's history with slavery being felled.

**New Karabakh fighting despite ceasefire pleas**

Armenian and Azerbaijani forces yesterday engaged in new fighting over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region despite pleas from world and regional powers for them to observe a ceasefire agreed last week. More than two weeks of conflict between the Caucasus rivals has left almost 600 dead, including 73 civilians, according to a tally based on partial tolls from both sides. The Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, overwhelmingly populated by Armenians, has been controlled by Armenians since a 1990s war that erupted as the Soviet Union fell. But Baku has never hidden its desire to win back control and no state has ever recognised the independence that was self-declared by Nagorno-Karabakh. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday acknowledged that the ceasefire was not holding and urged both sides to immediately begin implementing it. The European Union and Iran have also called on the parties to properly observe the ceasefire.

**Anwar meets Malaysia king in bid to topple government**

Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim yesterday met the king in a bid to prove he has a "convincing" parliamentary majority to form a new government and he called on Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin to resign. Anwar said he had the support of more than 120 lawmakers in the 222-seat parliament. The palace said Anwar only provided the number of members of parliament who he said back his bid to become prime minister and not their identities, and it urged him to respect the constitutional process. It is now up to King Al-Sultan Abdullah to decide the next steps in Malaysia's power struggle, which comes as it grapples with an economy battered by the novel coronavirus and a new surge in infections. If the king is not convinced of Anwar's majority, he would likely allow Muhyiddin to stay on. The king could also call a general election on the advice of the prime minister.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

# US a 'security risk' for South East Asia

*Says China, urges Asean to be vigilant*

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

The Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councillor Wang Yi, yesterday urged Asian countries to remain "vigilant" over the risk of US strategy stoking geopolitical competition in the South China Sea and other parts of the region.

Beijing and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) should work together to remove "external disruption" in the South China Sea, Wang said during a joint news conference with Malaysia's foreign minister.

"We (China and Malaysia) are both of the view that the South China Sea should not be a ground for major power wrestling teeming with warships," said Wang, who is on a short Southeast Asian tour.

"China and Asean have full capacity and wisdom, as well as responsibility, to maintain peace and tranquillity in (the) South China Sea."

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said maritime disputes should be resolved peacefully through regional dialogue.

China has in recent months held military exercises in disputed parts of the strategic waterway, while Washington has accused Beijing of attempting to build a "maritime empire" in the area.

Wang described Washington's "Indo-Pacific" strategy, which aims to cast the United States as a trustworthy partner in the region, as a "security risk" for East Asia.

"What it pursues is to trumpet the old-fashioned cold war mentality and start up confrontation among different groups and blocks, and stoke geopolitical competition," he said.

"I believe all parties sees this clearly and will stay vigilant against it."

**WHITE HOUSE MOVES FORWARD ON ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN**

Meanwhile, the White House is moving forward with three sales of advanced weaponry to Taiwan, sending in recent days a notification of the deals to Congress for approval, five sources said on Monday. The move is likely to anger China, which considers Taiwan a wayward province that it has vowed to reunite with the mainland, by force if necessary.

# China, Russia, KSA set to join UN Rights Council

AGENCIES

China, Saudi Arabia and Russia are poised to join the United Nations Human Rights Council, raising alarm among rights groups who say the countries are among the world's "worst rights violators".

The UN General Assembly was expected to hold elections yesterday for 15 seats in the 47-nation council, with the new members serving for three years from January 2021.

"Electing these dictatorships as UN judges on human rights is like making a gang of arsonists into the fire brigade," Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch, an independent human rights group based in Geneva, said in a statement.

"Serial rights abusers should not be rewarded with seats on the Human Rights Council," said Louis Charbonneau, UN director at Human Rights Watch (HRW).

Saudi Arabia was previously on the council until 2019. China, which is under fire over its treatment of ethnic Uighurs in the far western region of Xinjiang and its imposition of a National Security Law in Hong Kong, could also return as a member.

HRW said both countries had a history of using their seats in the council "to prevent scrutiny of their abuses and those by their allies."

Only last month, dozens of nations condemned Saudi Arabia before the council over serious rights violations and demanded accountability for the murder Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post newspaper columnist who was killed in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

Other countries vying for the four seats available to the Asia Pacific region are Nepal, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, while Russia and Ukraine are competing for one of the two Eastern European seats.

Garry Kasparov, a Russian chess champion and human rights defender, described the three countries' probable election as a "joke".



A pro-democracy activist flashes a three-finger salute as she scuffles with police officers during a protest against government and monarchy near the Democracy Monument in Bangkok, yesterday. Hundreds of Thai protesters scuffled with police and threw blue paint at them yesterday and, after 21 of them were arrested, chanted "release our friends!" as the royal motorcade of King Maha Vajiralongkorn swept past.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# 'I have failed' you

*Kim shows tearful side in confronting citizens' hardships*

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appeared to shed tears at the weekend as he thanked citizens for their sacrifices, in the most striking demonstration yet of how he is relying on his "man of the people" persona to tackle his country's deepening crises.

Though the young leader has consolidated his rule over the isolated nation with ruthless purges, North Korea watchers say he has also sought to portray himself as a more traditional political leader than his eccentric father, Kim Jong Il.

Speaking at a military parade on Saturday, Kim became emotional as he paid tribute to troops for their response to national disasters and preventing a coronavirus outbreak and apologised to citizens for failing to raise living standards.

"Kim's modesty and candour, and his tears and choking, were all highly unusual, even for someone who



publicly acknowledges shortcomings and has an established pattern of being expressive," said Rachel Minyoung Lee, an independent researcher and former open-source North Korea analyst for the US government.

The speech, which was clearly carefully designed to resonate with the domestic audience, likely cemented Kim's image as a competent, charismatic leader who also has a human side to him, she said.

Kim - who broke into wide smiles when huge new ballistic missiles were displayed in the parade - blamed

North Korea's continuing economic hardships on international sanctions, the coronavirus crisis and a series of damaging typhoons and floods.

Since succeeding his father in 2011, Kim has made economic progress a cornerstone of his agenda. But ambitious plans for international trade, and other economic measures have stalled in the face of sanctions imposed over his nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes.

"Our people have placed trust, as high as sky and as deep as sea, on me, but I have failed to always live up to it satisfactorily," Kim said, at one point appearing to choke up. "I am really sorry for that."

Kim said the country's success in preventing a coronavirus outbreak and overcoming other challenges was a "great victory achieved" by the citizens.

"Our people have always been grateful to our Party, but it is none other than themselves who surely deserve a bow of gratitude," he said.

# BORDER TENSIONS

## India, China hold 'positive' talks on troop pullback

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian and Chinese military commanders held "positive, constructive" discussions on disengaging troops locked in a months-long standoff at their disputed Himalayan border, the two sides said in a joint statement yesterday.

Diplomats and military officials have held several rounds of talks to pull back from the brink after a clash erupted between border troops in June in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed.

On Monday, senior commanders held a seventh round of talks at Chushul in the western Himalayas that went on for more than 10 hours, officials said. Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue, communication to find an acceptable solution to the crisis.

The trouble began early in April when New Delhi says Chinese troops intruded deep into India's side of the LAC in the Ladakh sector which adjoins the Tibetan plateau. Beijing claimed the area to be its territory and blamed Indian road construction activity in the area for destabilising the situation.

So far there has been no sign of a troop pullback even though winter is approaching and the area is considered uninhabitable.



# Climate disasters doubled

*Says UN as report says early forecast system, actions vital to stymie disasters impact*

AFP, Geneva

Climate change is largely to blame for a near doubling of natural disasters in the past 20 years, the United Nations said as experts called yesterday for more efforts to forecast looming disasters and early action to mitigate their impact.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction said 7,348 major disaster events had occurred between 2000 and 2019, claiming 1.23 lives, affecting 4.2 billion people and costing the global economy some \$2.97 trillion.

The figure far outstrips the 4,212 major natural disasters recorded between 1980 and 1999, the UN office said in a new report entitled "The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019".

The sharp increase was largely attributable to a rise in climate-related disasters, including extreme weather events like floods, drought and storms, the report said. Extreme heat is proving especially deadly.

"We are wilfully destructive," UNDRR chief Mami Mizutori told reporters in a virtual briefing. "That is the only conclusion one can come to when reviewing disaster events over the last 20 years."

She accused governments of not doing enough to prevent climate hazards and called for better preparation for looming disasters.

While major floods had more than doubled to 3,254, there had been 2,034 major storms up from 1,457 in the prior period. The data showed that Asia has suffered the highest number of disasters in the past 20 years with 3,068 such events, followed by the Americas with 1,756 and Africa with 1,192.

Early warning systems have proven vital to reducing risks from such disasters, said WMO yesterday highlighting how such systems have helped dramatically drive down disaster-related deaths in places like Bangladesh.

The WMO report urged countries to go beyond mere forecasting of weather events and to invest in so-called "impact-based forecasting" -- a system aimed to more effectively trigger early action based on the warnings. Such systems strive to better understand and anticipate the likely human and economic impacts of severe weather. But so far, less than 40 percent of WMO's 138 member states have set up such systems, the report found.

# Bay of Bengal prospects

*Growing importance of the Bay of Bengal for Bangladesh in the post-Covid world*

Staff Correspondent



Kazi Sarwar Hossain



Mashfee Binte Shams



Milan Pagon



Rameshore Khanal



Rensje Teerink



Sabyasachi Dutta



Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury



Sonam Tobden Rabgye



Tariq A Karim



Zaidi Sattar

With 66 percent of vital oil shipments for India, Japan, and China, and 33 percent of the world's bulk cargo passing through these waters, the Bay of Bengal is practically on the economic highway of the world. This has provided the impetus for growth of maritime enterprises of densely populated littoral countries including Bangladesh. Regional connectivity through the Bay of Bengal can change the fate of the South Asian people.

The observations came at a webinar titled "Regional Importance of the Bay of Bengal for Bangladesh and its landlocked and littoral neighbours". This was the final webinar of the four-part series jointly organised by Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development (BIMRAD). The programme was held on October 6, 2020.

IUB Vice-Chancellor (Acting) Prof Milan Pagon started off the discussion by highlighting the importance of data-driven decision-making in the context of the 'new normal'. It helps us to see the big picture which is essential for creating awareness about the increasing importance of the Bay of Bengal, he added.

Referring to the smart harvesting of marine resources he said, "We need to make sure that we don't destroy the marine resources while harvesting." He also emphasised upon regional cooperation in terms of protecting the ecology of Bay of Bengal.

Dr Zaidi Sattar, Chairman of the Policy Research Institute and moderator of the session, pointed out, "Bangladesh has a symbiotic relationship with the Bay of Bengal. The Bay of Bengal has been the conduit for global integration of Bangladesh in the past 25 years which has led to tremendous economic progress for the country."

In her keynote speech, Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams, Additional Foreign Secretary (East), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, discussed how maritime collaboration could be an answer to the sub-continent's perennial problems. "One fifth of humanity lives in South Asia and many of these people are forced to live in man-made poverty. The region's prosperity depends largely on maritime and inland waterway connectivity, which in turn requires steady cooperation from all co-riparian countries," she said.

The connectivity she talked about is not merely related to transport routes; it has a wider connotation that encompasses infrastructure, institutions and people-to-people exchange.

Ambassador Mashfee further explained, "Nepal, Bhutan, India and Bangladesh share so many complementarities and commonalities that none can afford to prosper alone. Our destinies, along with our past, are entangled. The solution is therefore to deepen ties and build alliances that bind these countries with common interests, shared geography, history and culture. The Bay of Bengal is our common strategic interlocutor for building such alliance. If Nepal, Bhutan and Northeast India are able to properly harness the Bay, they may have the opportunity to fully shift from their current status of 'landlocked' to 'land-linked'."

Sonam Tobden Rabgye, former Ambassador of Bhutan to Bangladesh, highlighted the importance of seaborne trade for landlocked countries like Bhutan and said, "This pandemic provides an opportunity for landlocked countries to link with the global economies."

Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, former Foreign Secretary of the Bangladesh Government, emphasised on revitalising regional initiatives like BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) and BCIM (Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar Economic Corridor) to strengthen regional connectivity.

Rensje Teerink, Head of the European Union Delegation to Bangladesh, focused on the infrastructural investment required for regional connectivity projects and said, "Asia will need 1.3 trillion euros a year of infrastructure investments to keep its current GDP growth."

Rameshore Khanal, former Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal and Former Finance Secretary of Nepal, stated that peaceful maritime space is a necessity for trade and commerce to continue without fear or disruption. He urged all to be vigilant so that the Bay of Bengal remains free from military action.

Sabyasachi Dutta, Founder Director, Asian Confluence-India, talked about the blue economy of the Bay of Bengal, which can connect to the hill economies of the middle level states of India and to the mountain economies of places such as Bhutan and Nepal.

He further stated, "The northeast of India, along with our northern neighbours, Bhutan and Nepal, and southern neighbours, Bangladesh and Myanmar, together create a unique ecosystem. This binds us in a unique bond of ecology, culture, and economy."

Rear Admiral (retd.) Kazi Sarwar Hossain, ndp, ndc, Adviser of the Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development, emphasised on the strategic advantage enjoyed by Bangladesh being at the crossroads of the economically rising South Asia and South-East Asia. "We need to leverage this connectivity to reap the maximum benefits," he reiterated.

Ambassador (retd.) Tariq A Karim, Senior Fellow, Bay of Bengal Institute Project, IUB, concluded the session by stating that in the post-COVID world, everyone needs to readjust their thinking economically, ecologically and geo-politically.



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FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2020, ASHWIN 29, 1427 BS

# Capital punishment for rape

But can legislation alone deter rape?

At last, the government has proposed an amendment to the current law related to rape, enhancing the level of punishment. Rape and sexual violence has assumed an epidemic proportion. The recent horrific gang rape in Noakhali and the one in Sylhet, as well as innumerable others within a very short period of time, has led to public outrage, culminating into protests on the streets. According to Ain-o-Salish Kendra (ASK), at least 975 rape cases were reported in the country between January and September 2020. And that includes 208 gang rapes.

The government, in light of public demand, has announced the death penalty for the crime of rape. As well intentioned as it may be, we must point out that merely changing the existing law or bringing in new legislations would not automatically stem the plague the country is beset with. There are several aspects that one must be cognisant of, without addressing which it would not be possible to prevent rape. There is the legal, the procedural, as well as the societal angles which must also be addressed.

In so far as the legal aspect is concerned, there is unanimity in the demand for defining or redefining rape. Section 375 of the Bangladesh Penal Code 1860 is anachronistic, and the explanation therein is even more so. We feel that attempting to rape should also be considered as rape. Apart from this, laws should be brought in to provide protection for not only the victims but also the witnesses, simplifying the Evidence Act related to rape and the process of investigation, which more often than not ends up with the victim being even more victimised and consequently, irreparably traumatised. There is need, as a former Justice of the High Court Division says, for careful drafting and coordination of medical and psycho-social responses with legal responses.

The second aspect is the procedural, which cannot be delinked with the social aspect because of the taboo that the victim is subjected to. We should ask ourselves why 78 percent of rape victims (16, 804) between 2001 and 2013 chose not to pursue their cases even after taking the initial step of seeking medical treatment. This is the data from the government established one stop crisis centres. The fault is in the system; this is despite the appropriate laws. Thus, there is a need for making the legal procedure and investigation process more victim friendly, where the onus of proof should not be on the rape survivor. Furthermore, settlement of rape cases through local arbitration should be made a punishable offence.

It is because of flawed investigation, political influence and money that most of the cases fail to reach convictions. As another NGO report on the incidents of reported rape cases in six districts between 2011 and 2018 shows, of 4,372 cases, only five people were convicted. The reasons are evident.

Legislation only does not redeem a situation. Enabling conditions should be created for effective implementation of law, and that is what is necessary too for the prevention of rape.

# IEDCR antibody survey in Dhaka show surprising results

But no scope for complacency

THE cross-sectional epidemiological survey conducted in Dhaka jointly by the government’s IEDCR and Icdtr, have brought out some surprising revelations about the coronavirus situation in the country. It shows that around 45 percent of those surveyed in the capital were carrying Covid-19 antibody, a majority of them asymptomatic; the presence of such antibodies among slum-dwellers was much higher (about 74 percent). If extrapolated to the roughly two crore population in Dhaka, it means nearly one crore may have already been infected. This is marginally good news, scientists agree, as it means people might be on the way to develop herd immunity, provided the immunity against the virus lasts long. But scientists are unsure of how long the protection works, and whether if someone’s antibody test comes out positive, they may still be re-infected by Covid-19 and unknowingly spread the disease to others. This is especially risky for those with underlying health conditions.

However, these are still conjectures based on a survey done about three months ago and involving a relatively small sample size (3,227 households) compared to the large population of Dhaka. We still don’t know how immunity to Covid-19 works or how accurately such seroprevalence surveys can project the situation. So there is little room for complacency—which, unfortunately, continues to underpin our official response. We have seen how officials and ministers often suffered from misguided optimism over Bangladesh’s preparedness in the last seven months, resulting in devastating consequences. The official figures of infection hover around only 380,000, in stark contrast to the projected figures. Officials failed to explain this gap, nor did they tell us how the survey findings will factor into their response plan—both for those at risk of infection and those who recovered from the disease but still risk health complications and productivity loss as a result of their exposure. The fact is, although they assured us of “necessary preparedness” to deal with a possible second wave of coronavirus during winter, precious little has been done to improve our test, trace and isolate regime.

All this points to the fact that although antibody prevalence is vital to tackle the virus, the bigger concerns of a massive, silent outbreak and associated risks to both health and economy remain. Unless such surveys are done from time to time to understand the movement of the virus and relevant policy efforts are remodeled in light of their findings, such efforts are but wasted opportunities. We must continue to ensure the public wear face masks, along with maintaining physical distancing and hand hygiene. The IEDCR survey has shown how profound the threat is and how big a task we have at hand, so the government must respond by revitalising public health institutions and allowing scientific evidence to dictate its policy interventions to contain the virus.

# Contra capital punishment even in this ‘rapedemic’



AHRAR AHMAD

THE demand was predictable. Given the outrage that has been generated by the vicious acts of assault and dehumanisation that have been inflicted on women over some time, it even appears justifiable. It is widely, perhaps passionately, believed that life imprisonment for rapists is not enough, they must face the death penalty. The arguments are fairly clear and obvious. First, anything less is considered to be disrespectful to the suffering of the women. This is not a crime with merely physical and immediate consequences for the victim. The trauma, the pain and the socially imposed guilt and shame that women are forced to endure are long, deep and often debilitating. If murderers are executed, so must rapists. This may help to bring some “closure”, and perhaps some relief, to the victim.

Second, some sexism may be implicit in the selective use of capital punishment. In Bangladesh, the death penalty is applicable for a whole range of crimes such as kidnapping or drug possession (over 25 grams of heroin or cocaine, and over 200 grams of yaba), but not if a woman is assaulted so brutally. The highest punishment for rape is life imprisonment, a penalty that can be cleverly “managed” and loopholes can be found to secure early release for the convicted.

Third, this punishment would serve as a deterrent to people who become aware of the dire consequences they would face if they are brought to justice. Such exemplary action by the state would serve as a lesson and warning to the people, strike fear into their hearts, and prevent such acts. The cogency and clarity of that position has given this argument historical validity, religious sanction and seductive appeal.

These are all undoubtedly powerful arguments. However, some interrogation is possible and necessary. Before one proceeds in that direction, it is essential to clarify that opposition to the death penalty for rape does not suggest that one is “soft” on rape, nor does it imply a patriarchal trivialisation of this grievous offence (which is usually done by referring to the victim’s dress, her sexual history and her “risky” behaviour in typical “slut-shaming” and victim-blaming efforts). It is important to state categorically that rape is one of the vilest crimes that can be committed, and that its punishment must be swift, sure and severe.

The first argument has been questioned by Indian feminists, among others. Jahnvi Sen has indicated that equating rape with murder is a disservice to the woman because it rests on some patriarchal notion of “honour” that is “intrinsically linked

to her sexuality”, which if “destroyed” means that she has lost her place in society, her value, her agency, and is as good as dead. Instead of helping her to cope and providing social, economic and psychological support, all this does is reaffirm her tragedy, her helplessness and her stigma.

The second argument that compares crimes and punishments is misleading and, in this case, totally unhelpful to the victim. Death penalty trials are typically longer, costlier and more complex; may lead to reduced reporting because many (most) perpetrators are known to the victims and there would be family pressures not to pursue the case (against the uncle, the brother-in-law, the kinfolk etc.); and may also provoke more murder of rape victims to ensure their silence.

The third is located within an empirical frame of reference and is therefore easier to analyse. There are less than 10 countries in the world which practice death penalty for rape. Apart from North Korea and China, all the others are in the Middle



PHOTO: COLLECTED

East. None of these countries can claim to be particularly sensitive to women’s rights and interests. Some of these countries practice female genital mutilation, some engage in honour killings, and most impose a perverse dress code that reveals the insecurities and misogyny of those heteropatriarchal societies. The death penalty for rape is merely an extension of their reliance on violence as a solution to all problems rather than an effort at establishing retributive justice.

The issue of deterrence provided by capital punishment may be examined from another perspective. Capital punishment for murder is upheld by 55 countries; 106 have banished it, 28 more have not practiced it. There is absolutely no evidence to indicate that countries with death penalties have lower homicide rates.

Even within the US, only 38 states have the death penalty. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, states with capital punishment were 25 to 46 percent more liable to have higher homicide rates

than states without, and the Death Penalty Information Center reported that southern states which had almost 80 percent of the executions for murder over the last 10 years, actually had higher rates of murder than the north-east states, which had less than one percent of the executions. Thus, capital punishment may not be as efficacious in halting crime as is popularly believed.

This issue of rape is complex. First, and foremost, the problem is attitudinal, behavioural and structural. It is inherent in a system of power—where women are commodified, objectified and reduced to being a collection of body parts (breasts, hips and vaginas) that robs them of their autonomy, their identity, and their humanity; where women are taught to be meek, frail, sacrificial (where good women quietly accept), while men are expected to be macho, aggressive, entitled (where real men get what they want); where women are still considered to be “property” and hence usable at will and disposable; where women are viewed as temptresses

law. Women suffer additional burdens—they are not believed, their cases often not recorded, and they have to submit to humiliating questions and tests.

Second, there are *bahinis* (gangs) of goons and thugs whose very swagger epitomises the “culture of impunity” in the country. No *bahini* can grow in a vacuum. There must be enabling conditions, protections and encouragements usually provided by political leaders who use them as auxiliaries for their own purposes (usually for elections but also for exerting local control). These *bahinis* function beyond the authority of the police or, at times, in collusion with them. If our political leaders cannot disown and dismantle these groups, and our police forces cannot stand up to them, all their pious platitudes about reducing sexual assault would appear to be hollow if not hypocritical.

Third, the juridical environment within which rape cases are situated is woefully archaic and biased. The definition of rape is still derived from Section 375 of the Penal Code of 1860 with its narrow emphasis on penile penetration, and the line of questioning about a woman’s “character” and related issues is admissible because it is based on Section 155(4) of the Evidence Act of 1872.

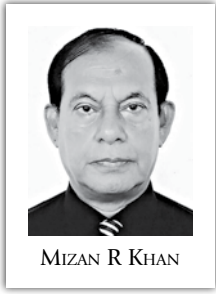
The judicial system remains serpentine and sluggish. Only three percent of rape cases end in prosecution, and as of March 2019, 1,64,551 cases for crimes against women and children are still pending, with 38,000 dragging on for more than five years. Many laws and even court directives are not even implemented. The story is not particularly reassuring for women, or for justice.

In this context, to push for the death penalty today would appear to be disingenuous. It is more a distraction, a tokenist flourish which provides the appearance of doing something, when little is being attempted and even less will be accomplished.

Thus, unless the nation addresses the difficult issues caused by economic inequality, democratic deficits, endemic corruption, institutional inefficiency, moral decay, and social dislocations (which often provoke intolerance, rudeness and aggression), and unless fundamental changes are made in education, family life, linguistic practices, notions of sexuality, the pervasiveness of drugs and pornography, and a national malaise of despair, disdain and distrust—all of which contribute to the culture of sexual violence—simply tinkering with punishment regimes is nothing but a sleight of hand, a *tromp l’oeil* or, in the language of T S Eliot (in *The Hollow Men*)—Shape without form, Shade without colour, Paralysed force, Gesture without motion.

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# Adaptation finance at the conflux of climate crisis, Covid-19 and debt distress



MIZAN R KHAN

COVID-19 has hit all countries of the world, both rich and poor, but the low income countries (LICs) are hit hardest, and half of them are at high risk of or are already in debt distress.

Although in April this year, the G20 Finance Ministers endorsed a Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) to grant temporary relief to the LICs to help manage the impact of the pandemic, the uptake to date appears limited. The DSSI covers only a part of the total debt of the LICs. Private-sector lenders have largely refused to come forward, thereby undercutting governments’ efforts.

On the other hand, climate disasters are increasing both in frequency and severity. The frontline victims are the LICs, with very little adaptive capacity. Mitigation ambition so far by major emitters is very weak, compared to the temperature targets set in the Paris Agreement. The Climate Action Tracker’s “thermometer” projects a temperature rise of up to 4.1 degrees Celsius by 2100, unless climate action is taken dramatically. Even if this happens, the IPCC report on 1.5 degrees Celsius made clear that very significant climate damages to lives and livelihoods in the LICs are to be expected. This makes the need for investments in adaptation immediate and urgent.

However, adaptation finance is extremely poor, despite the pledges made by donors. As the private sector is not that interested in adaptation in the LICs because of the inefficacy of market instruments and adaptation actions being mostly of a public goods nature, international public finance is the best possible source for adaptation. These countries have been accorded preferential treatment for support in the Paris Agreement. It may be recalled that provision of climate finance is a legal obligation for the developed countries, both under the Convention and the

Paris Agreement, and Article 7.4 has recognised that adaptation as a global responsibility. Against this, adaptation finance comprising of less than USD 10 billion a year falls short, by orders of magnitude, of the needs of USD 140-300 billion a year by 2030. Despite pledges of a balanced allocation, adaptation finance stands at less than 20 percent of total climate finance. The LIC citizens get average support of USD three per person per year, which is less than a cent per day, according to Oxfam.

The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) has made a strong case for adaptation and resilience investments, finding that benefit-cost ratios of interventions ranged from 2:1 to 10:1. However, private sector contribution to

As the private sector is not that interested in adaptation in the LICs because of the inefficacy of market instruments and adaptation actions being mostly of a public goods nature, international public finance is the best possible source for adaptation.

adaptation still stands at a paltry three percent of their total climate finance, and mostly goes towards mitigation. Obviously, there are barriers to investment in climate resilience, including a lack of awareness of its benefits and capacity constraints. The GCA highlighted the need to rapidly scale adaptation finance through both international and domestic sources.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, developing countries’ repayments on

their public external debts will cost USD 2.6-3.4 trillion, just in 2020 and 2021. For Bangladesh, it stands at more than USD six billion a year. However, Bangladesh gets support of only a few hundred million, against the domestic investments of over USD three billion a year in adaptation. Obviously, in the absence of adequate liquidity support and major debt relief, the world economy, particularly the LICs, cannot return to pre-pandemic growth levels without risking severe climate distress and social unrest. In light of these concerns, the G20 has called on the IMF “to explore additional tools that could serve its members’ needs as the crisis evolves, drawing on relevant experiences from previous crises.”

Against the continued poverty in adaptation finance, there is a need to search for alternative sources. One such instrument worth considering is a “debt-for-climate swap” option. The global community has experience on “debt-for-nature swaps” (DNS) since the late 1980s and 1990s in developing countries, where debt relief was linked to investments in reforestation, biodiversity, and protection for indigenous people. In Bangladesh, we have experience of the Arannyak Foundation, established in 2003 under the US Tropical Forest Conservation Act, where a part of the debt to the US was converted into local currency for investments in nature conservation. Globally, this instrument could not have much impact on debt reduction because of its very small scale. For example, the share of debt relief derived from the DNS by some creditors is miniscule, just 0.3 percent of the total climate finance in 2012. Since then, it did not scale up much.

Although there is global agreement about adaptation finance being new and additional and largely grant-based for the LICs, whether debt for adaptation swaps (DAS) can be considered as such is controversial. These debates aside, at this time of a global financial crunch, DAS may be an option worth exploring by the global climate community.

It is argued that under appropriate designing and implementation, DAS can be a win-win option for both the creditors

and the debtors. However, it depends on many conditions on both sides. Making DAS a viable and sustainable option calls for relatively large amounts of public debt for having an impact on debt reduction. Given its acceptance, the management modalities, including budgetary support or through creation of a dedicated fund, can be decided later.

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in London in a recent study argues that debt for climate and nature swaps offer a way to restructure debt while promoting pro-poor growth and debt sustainability. The IIED proposes to establish a global expert group to further understanding of such swaps.

Another potential source is also being explored to boost adaptation finance. In 2019, the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) launched the Climate Resilience Principles, which informed the issuance of the first dedicated climate resilience bond by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in September 2019, highlighting an opportunity for the creation of a new market for such instruments. But given the experience of the private facility of the Green Climate Fund, and International Development Association of the World Bank, successful blended finance models are still in short supply. The debt instruments such as green bonds—including climate resilience bonds—may not be universally applicable or viable in all markets. Still, against a severely constrained fiscal space, in certain cases they may offer a much-needed leverage for short- and medium-term private finance for resilience goals.

These issues are likely to be raised at the upcoming World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings during 12-18 October. Obviously, the Bangladesh delegation to these meetings is expected to be conversant of these issues for sharing their considered interventions, in alliance with like-minded nations.

Mizan R Khan is Deputy Director at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh and Program Director at the LIC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC).



# Facade of workers’ safety beginning to show cracks during the pandemic

Seven years ago, many global retailers boldly declared that, “it would no longer be business as usual.” While many joined efforts to monitor factories for structural violations, most have also continued to pursue a sourcing strategy that forces suppliers to continuously produce products faster and cheaper.

**SANCHITA BANERJEE SAXENA**

MORE than seven years after the Rana Plaza disaster in 2013, issues related to fire, electrical and structural safety in hundreds of the nation’s garment factories have improved from before. For example, according to the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety’s website, 84 percent of factories under the Accord have corrected their outstanding structural issues. Covid-19, however, has put a spotlight on just how “safe” workers really are. While building structures have been made safer over the years, the larger structure of the global supply chain was intentionally left intact. Inherent inequities endemic in all layers of this complex network have left workers vulnerable, and their livelihoods have become even more precarious under this current global pandemic.

A new report released by The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at the University of California, Berkeley in collaboration with the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) at BRAC University finds that, based on export earning data, the garment industry lost USD 4.6 billion between March and May this year. Bangladesh, like many other export oriented countries, is part of an unbalanced global system, characterised by contracts that tilt the terms of business in favour of global brands and legal loopholes that can be used to cancel orders, refuse payments and demand discounts. This unequal distribution of power is difficult for suppliers during the best of times, and even more devastating during these unprecedented times.

Seven years ago, many global retailers boldly declared that, “it would no longer be business as usual.” While many joined efforts to monitor factories for structural violations, most have also continued to pursue a sourcing strategy that forces suppliers to continuously produce products faster and cheaper. Many studies show that this business model, characterised by hyper-flexibility and limited transparency, contributes to increased incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based violence and to overall declines in the mental and physical health of workers. When we say workers are now safer, we really have to question what we mean by “safety.” In my mind, these factors certainly do not contribute to any sense of security, especially for female workers.

After much confusion early on in the pandemic between the government and factories about whether workers should return to work or not, this report finds that more than 87 percent of workers said their factories have introduced new precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Despite the various measures in place, however, whether workers feel “safe” is questionable, since almost 60 percent of workers fear that they are somewhat likely or very likely to get infected by the virus in their factory. The practicality of instituting measures to limit the transmission of a contagious virus is difficult, and probably even impossible, in high-density factory settings. More than half of workers would not be able to isolate at home if they contracted the virus, even though 66 percent said that their factory would send workers home if they show symptoms. If factories are going to continue their operations during this crisis, there needs to be certain contingency plans in place for



workers who become sick, including providing places to isolate, health care provisions, financial support, and job security.

It is difficult for workers to be “protected from harm,” when they are forced into practices that

negatively impact their health. We know that salary levels for garment workers have never been adequate for them to support their families, meet their required caloric needs, and accumulate savings. According to the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Dhaka, a worker must spend at least Tk 3,270 per month on a variety of foods to meet their caloric needs; they found, however, that workers really have the ability to spend only about Tk 1,110 a month. And this was during normal times. In our survey, we found that in April, when salaries hit their lowest point, female garment workers received only Tk 5,742 and male workers only Tk 7,739 for that month. Those in helper positions in factories (82 percent who are women) received only Tk 5,170 in April. Thus, it is not surprising then that 77 percent of workers in this report said that it was difficult to feed everyone in their household. Sixty-nine percent of workers ate less protein rich foods like meat, fish and eggs in May compared to February, while 40 percent ate more pulses, like lentils and chickpeas during this time. I think it is high time to revisit the idea of a living wage.

Protection from other “non-desirable outcomes” is impossible when workers are unable to save or are forced to reduce expenses in other areas, just to meet their very basic needs. A 2018 study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) found that 45 percent of garment workers are unable to save anything from their earnings. When asked how they have coped during this recent crisis, 60 percent of workers said they don’t save or have used their savings to pay for food and an overwhelming 92 percent said they had to reduce other expenses. Not being able to save or cutting costs in

other essential areas, like healthcare, puts workers at even greater risk of not being able to mitigate future economic or health crises.

An article in *The Daily Star* from September 9, 2020, finds that Bangladesh has the fewest social protection initiatives in the Asia Pacific region, according to a United Nations position report: “The organisation broke down “social protection” into eight categories... According to the report, Bangladesh is only providing income support, or social assistance. The report iterates the necessity of preventing job losses and providing social protection to those rendered unemployed.” In our survey, 90 percent of workers said they did not receive any support from the government during this pandemic. The lack of universal social provisions for all, but particularly for those who work in an industry that has been the engine of economic growth for the country over the last four decades, is not only shocking, but highly irresponsible. According to the Clean Clothes Campaign, “The severity of this crisis could have been averted if living wages had been paid, and social protection mechanisms had been implemented.”

By all definitions, garment workers are not safer now, especially under this current crisis, compared to seven years ago. This pandemic offers us an opportunity to think about the gross inequalities that are present at all layers of the global supply chain and re-examine the factors that prevent constructing work environments that are truly safe, in the fullest definition of the word.

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## Unpredictable disaster risks overlapping with Covid-19 and poverty in Kurigram



ACCORDING to data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016, which was reported on in 2019, the poverty levels have been sky high in Kurigram over the last ten years. Earlier this year, a report from *The Business Standard* said that Kurigram’s poverty level was 70.8 percent. The district is densely populated, with a total of 17,25,509 poverty-stricken people.

A trip to Kurigram this year reminded me of the Bhatiyali songs of Abbasuddin Ahmed. These songs by the revered folk singer were an outcome of the many journeys he made on the rivers of North Bengal. At the time, Kurigram was recognised for its economic activities, much of which were done through its river ports, particularly Chilmari.

During my visit, while crossing the Dharla and Teesta river, I noticed that the river bed was visible and the water reservoir was not working, showing the dire need for dredging—the lack of which has led to continuous floods in the poverty stricken Kurigram district. Upon reaching Chilmari, I hopped on a boat on the Jamuna River and headed towards the islands (chars) where Friendship runs its many projects. The journey is amazing, and the islands in the distance are truly a wonderful sight. However, once you reach the islands, you realise that each of them are major crisis zones in reality.

In the wake of Covid-19, due to increased health hazards as well as floods, the people in the chars had their mobility severely restricted. In fact, the flood situation worsened to such an extent in mid-July that

the Brahmaputra, Dharla and Dudhkumar rivers were flowing above the danger level, leading to a scarcity of basic amenities for those living in poverty. According to a report by *The Daily Star* from mid-July, “more than three lakh flood-affected people in 400 villages of 56 unions in nine upazilas are living in misery as they face an acute shortage of food, pure water and toilet facilities.”

As a result, people in the chars couldn’t find work—60 to 70 percent of these people are day labourers; very few are land owners. None of these workers could tend to crops or go fishing due to the rising water levels. I learned that around March and April, they went into lockdown and the markets were also no longer accessible. With their mobility restricted, whatever savings they had were exhausted. While they were struggling to earn a living due to the pandemic, natural disasters like floods continued to add to their miseries—char dwellers lost their assets and were forced to take loans at the same time. Livestock such as cows, goats, ducks and chickens are to low-income families what fixed deposits are to us urban dwellers—selling them off is no simple decision to take. Additionally, their loans are also mostly taken from unregistered money lenders who charge the borrowers a 100 to 200 percent interest rate.

When flood waters are rising, a lot of char dwellers stay back to protect their livestock—even if they are neck or waist-deep in water, they build raised platforms in their homes to stay protected. Why do they do it? For the simple fact that the cow or the goat is a crucial resource for their families. Finding a shelter that will also protect their livestock is not always possible. In these trying times, Friendship had built some raised plains that can house 20-25 homes, as well as 100-200 families. It’s an environment friendly

intervention, where a lot of people gather. Some people also seek shelter in the local schools, whereas others take refuge in the embankments. The challenge, however, lies in moving with livestock—a big boat is necessary for this, which is often too expensive.

There are a few measures that can be taken by NGOs and INGOs to eliminate the risks associated with floods in low-lying lands in

*Despite living in a country that is experiencing technological advancements, these marginalised communities are lagging behind. What is evident in North Bengal is that poverty and natural disasters, coupled with Covid-19, has increased their struggles tenfold.*

Kurigram. The first thing that can be done is funding the boat fares—paying Tk 500 to boatmen could easily be done by the government or NGO run local initiatives operating there. Funding the rescues and shift to shelters is a better option than just providing them with relief. Other problems

include staying at home to look after the elderly or the sick. As a result, they are cut off from access to medication and other essentials. If a boat can deliver these basic resources, this could drastically bring down the likelihoods of disease. The government livestock department’s vaccination team could also provide services that will benefit them in managing their assets.

The sudden arrival of Covid-19 has also brought a stop to educational activities for almost six to seven months now, resulting in school dropouts of the children living in the fringes of Kurigram. A report from *The Daily Star* this month said that erosion by the Brahmaputra, Dharla and Teesta rivers have resulted in the collapse of at least 10 government primary schools in different char areas under four upazilas of Kurigram. Additionally, the health burden of Covid-19 and waterborne diseases also keep children away from school. The absence of education leads to children exploring employment opportunities with their families. If their parents are doing agricultural labour such as fishing, the child is most likely to follow suit with the hopes of bringing in greater income for the household. As a result, the engagement with economic opportunities becomes so dominant for the child that there is little scope of returning to education.

In the absence of proper income, television and internet access and affordability is not something that is present in these areas, thus depriving children of the remote education that is available countrywide. Simply put, they are now victims of a long-term crisis—there is no saying how many adults will gain back their access to job markets and how many children will return to school. Many of them have incurred asset losses and are also burdened with loans. For the children who are missing out on education, there is likely

to be a major gap in their learning process that will impede their progress.

Despite living in a country that is experiencing technological advancements, these marginalised communities are lagging behind. What is evident in North Bengal is that poverty and natural disasters, coupled with Covid-19, has increased their struggles tenfold. While the disease burden has increased, other things that are expected to rise are the population, as well as malnutrition. Since mortality and morbidity always puts the economy under pressure and reduces working capacity, the strengths and abilities of workers are compromised in the wake of a widespread disease. The inability to afford treatment further exacerbates the problem, which contributes to loss of motivation to work, which in turn hinders their skills from growing. What is needed is interventions that target communities, areas and families. Simply providing relief or funding alone will not solve the problem.

A way forward for Kurigram would be the inclusion of context specific interventions as well as an enabling environment where children can go back to school. In addition to that, some region specific designs need to be tailored in order to provide free services, such as free boats for transportation as well as shipping, in order to increase market accessibility for workers living in the fringes. Other services that can be introduced to them would be interest free loans. Moreover, there’s an immediate need to address the losses these people have incurred so that we can design a comprehensive solution that mitigates the problems arising from poverty, Covid-19 and natural disasters such as floods and cyclones.

Kazi Amdadul Hoque is an environmental and social activist, and director of strategic planning and head of climate action in Friendship. Email: hoqueka@gmail.com

**IMMANUEL KANT**  
(1724-1804)  
German philosopher.

*Experience without theory is blind, but theory without experience is mere intellectual play.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

1 Uncertain state  
6 Flag feature  
10 Be of use  
11 Caller's need  
12 Rich cake  
13 Corduroy feature  
14 Crocus cousin  
15 Jimmy's successor  
16 Plop down  
17 Atlantic catch  
18 "You betcha!"  
19 Led  
22 Talk drunkenly  
23 Winter wear  
26 Became more exciting  
29 Upper limit  
32 Ammo for a Red

Ryder  
33 Ruby of films  
34 Can't stand  
36 Sunset site  
37 Hunting goddess  
38 Bamboo eater  
39 Collectible car  
40 Kind of wave  
41 Casual tops  
42 Doesn't budge

**DOWN**

1 Toward midnight  
2 White keys  
3 Kind of bliss  
4 Drill parts  
5 Flamenco cry  
6 Tibia's place  
7 Right now  
8 Protractor

measure  
9 Oboe parts  
11 Catalog choices  
15 Retina part  
17 Appealing to brainiacs  
20 "Well, that's obvious!"  
21 "The Raven" writer  
24 Book extras  
25 Mardi Gras, e.g.  
27 Crunch targets  
28 Potpourri pieces  
29 West Pointer  
30 Tolerate  
31 Full moon, for one  
35 Some bills  
36 "Hold on!"  
38 Score amts.

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | E | P | S | C | A | S | E | S |
| P | A | N | I | C | A | P | A | C | E |
| O | L | D | C | H | E | S | T | N | U |
| T | I | E | O | V | A | T | A | D | O |
| S | A | D | D | L | E | S | A | D | O |
| O | C | H | E | R | Y | E | A | R | N |
| R | O | A | D | F | E | E |   |   |   |
| N | U | N | M | I | S | M | A | D | E |
| E | G | G | O | N | O | P | E | A |   |
| T | H | U | N | D | E | R | B | O | L |
| T | E | P | E | E | N | E | R | V | E |
| E | D | S | E | L | O | T | T | E | R |

**BEETLE BAILEY**

**BY MORT WALKER**

**BABY BLUES**

**BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT**







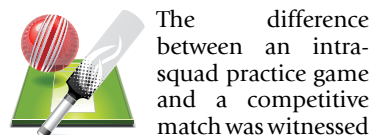


Rubel Hossain celebrates the wicket of Mohammad Mithun during the second match of the BCB President's Cup between Tamim XI and Mahmudullah XI in Mirpur yesterday. Rubel returned figures of 3-16 as Tamim XI were bundled out for 103 runs.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Rusty batsmen again make easy prey for hungry pacers

SPORTS REPORTER



The difference between an intra-squad practice game and a competitive match was witnessed yet again as the cricketers were still shedding the rust for a second consecutive day of the three-team BCB President's Cup as Mahmudullah XI took on Tamim XI.

With batsmen yet to get into their groove in their first taste of competitive cricket in seven months, the pacers continued to shine brightest in the fifty-over tournament.

In the first game between Mahmudullah XI and Najmul XI, fast bowlers were instrumental. So much so that Mahmudullah XI folded for just 196 as Najmul XI's pace trio of Taskin Ahmed, Al Amin Hossain and Mukidul Islam picked up two wickets each.

Taskin looked especially solid

alongside Ebadot, both pacers managing to get extract pace and bounce from a sporting Mirpur pitch which offered even bounce and swing. Meanwhile, after impressing during last year's T20 Bangladesh Premier League for Rangpur Rangers, young Mukidul again displayed good bowling.

Ebadot had been the brightest spot for Mahmudullah XI, the tall right-arm pacer bagging three early wickets, but it was always going to be difficult for the bowling side to defend such a small total.

Similar to the first game, overcast conditions yesterday favoured the pacers and Mahmudullah XI's Rubel Hossain and Sumon Khan made full use to flatten Tamim XI's batting line-up.

Rubel impressed with pace and swing and trapped ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal leg before with a gem of a delivery that shaped into the left hander.

The experienced pacer then toiled to get purchase from the

| SCORES IN BRIEF  |
|--|
| <b>TAMIM XI:</b> 103 all out in 23.1 overs (Tanzid 27, Anamul 25; Rubel 3-16, Sumon 3-31, Mehedi Miraz 2-2, Aminul Islam 2-17)                 |
| <b>MAHMUDULLAH XI:</b> 106 for 5 in 27 overs (Mominul 39, Nurul Hasan 41 not out, Mahmudullah 10; Saifuddin 2-8, Tajjul 2-27, Mustafizur 1-14) |
| <b>Result:</b> Mahmudullah XI won by 5 wickets.  |

pitch and dismissed young Tanzid Hasan Tamim -- who looked solid for his 27 runs -- and Mohammad Mithun in the same over to leave Tamim XI struggling at 42 for three.

It was then that young Sumon came onto the scene to pose challenging questions with his pace and bounce. The 20-year-old dismissed a the well-set Anamul Haque before removing Shahadat Hossain and Mosaddek Hossain in quick succession.

Failing to negotiate the right-arm pacer, Tamim XI crashed 68 for six and were unable to mount a

comeback. They eventually folded for 103 runs inside 23.1 overs in a game that had been curtailed to 47-overs-per-side due to a rain delay.

Fascinatingly, Tamim XI made a game of it and Mahmudullah XI faced the music from more pacers, namely Mohammad Saifuddin and Mustafizur Rahman -- who rattled through the top order and left Mahmudullah XI reeling on naught for three.

Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo stated previously that the team management was looking to build a group of seven to eight fast bowlers who would be able to serve the team in all formats at home and away.

Although the rust was more evident on batsmen, they could also be blamed for not being able to spend enough time at the crease, while those that got starts could also be faulted for throwing their wickets away when they needed to score big.

## From Hamdu Miah to Nahida's father

While male cricketers have returned to training with some form of cricket scheduled for the coming days, the same cannot be said about women cricketers as the Bangladesh Cricket Board is yet to schedule a series for the Tigresses in the pandemic era. Since the halt in cricketing activities, The Daily Star has been talking to women cricketers to learn stories of their early days. In today's instalment, we talk to Nahida Akter, a left-arm spinner who represented Bangladesh in 15 ODIs and 41 T20Is since her debut in 2015.

MOSTAFA SHABUI



The proudest moment for a father, probably, is when he is known among friends and others through his children's identity.

For Hamdu Miah, a mere employee of the government's central poultry farm, there probably is no other prouder feeling than being referred to as 'Nahida's [Akter] father'.

"As my father is a fourth-class employee in the colony, the people of the colony and other senior officers did not have much respect for him. But since I started playing for the national team, everyone has a lot of respect for him. Earlier, everyone used to call him Hamdu Miah. But now everyone refers to him as 'Nahida's father,'" explained a proud Nahida Akter, who not only brought financial stability to her family but also upgraded the family's social status through cricket.

Nahida, who used to bunk school to play cricket with boys of her colony, had to face a lot of criticism for cricket. Even at times, it was her family and especially her father, who used to scold her for playing cricket. But times have changed drastically for the left-arm spinner.

"People who used to criticise me upfront for playing cricket don't even dare face me now. When I go home, my father still cleans my boots, balls, bat and bag with his own hands. He said, 'we get a lot

of respect in the society for cricket, so we have to respect this bat, ball, shoes too'."

However, Nahida's family was initially not so interested in letting her play. It was the adamant nature of Nahida that forced her parents get her admitted to a cricket academy.

"Seeing that I was not giving up cricket and after heeding advice of a few good neighbours, my family decided to get me admitted to a cricket academy," said Nahida.

But Nahida could not make it to the BKSP straight away.

"I went for the BKSP trial in 2012 but I was not selected at that time. Then my brother Nazim Ahmed told my mother that I should focus on my studies and give up cricket. I broke down in tears.

"I wanted to go to the BKSP trial in 2013 but I could not convince anyone else in my family except for my mother. Later my aunt Rehana Begum took me to the



BKSP. After the trial and prior to the result, I grew impatient and thought to myself that this would be the end of cricket for me if I didn't make it. But after five days I got a call from BKSP and I got in. That was the best day of my life," reminisced Nahida.

Things changed a lot from there on for Nahida and her family.

"The brother who once told my mother to stop my cricket bought me bat, ball and shoes with the money he earned from tutoring students. I was called for the national side in 2015 and made my debut against Pakistan that year. Through that I could reimburse the money that my father had spent while marrying off my sister in 2013. Since then my family has been enjoying financial prosperity."

## WTC final on schedule, says ICC

REUTERS, New Delhi

The final of the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC) remains on course to be held in June next year despite the disruption caused to the qualifying process by the Covid-19 pandemic, the ICC told Reuters on Tuesday.

The pandemic played havoc with the game's calendar, prompting cancellation of a number of Test series and complicating the process of allocating WTC points from those matches in the process.

"The planning is still in progress," a spokesman of the ICC said of the WTC final, without elaborating how the point system would be reworked.

"There is likely to be more clarity in the coming days once all stakeholders are aligned. There will be an announcement soon."

This year's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia had to be postponed because of the pandemic and the restrictions it forced.

The ICC launched the WTC last year to lend context to bilateral test series, giving the format its standalone showpiece like the World Cup in other formats.

India currently top the WTC points table, having played four series, followed by Australia who have played one fewer.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive Tom Harrison last week underlined the logistical challenge of hosting the WTC final.



### 'YOU'RE A SUPERMAN'

During his unbeaten 33-ball 73, AB de Villiers showed India the way to deal with Australia's pace attack ahead of their tour down under by playing Pat Cummins in Monday's IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders. Australia's pace spearhead had given away 19 runs in three overs but finished with figures of 4-0-38-0 after de Villiers smacked two sixes and a four in the 17th over. Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli said of his star teammate afterwards: "Barring one superhuman, every batsman struggled on the pitch. Only AB can do what he did. It was a fabulous knock."

PHOTO: COLLECTED



### UNITED, BUT NOW ONLY IN SPIRIT

Cristiano Ronaldo posted this photo of a team meal with all members of the Portugal squad and wrote: "Unidos dentro e fora do campo! (United on and off the field!)." The defending champions were scheduled to face Sweden tonight in the UEFA Nations League, but the hosts' plans were disrupted by the news late in the day that Ronaldo had tested positive for coronavirus. The 35-year-old will certainly not feature and the repercussions of this meal could be massive.

PHOTO: TWITTER

## Can new VP stem 12 years of failure?

ANISUR RAHMAN



Irregularity in staging lower division football leagues and district football leagues has been one of the major areas of criticism of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) President Kazi Salahuddin in his past three tenures.

Having been elected to a fourth term, he has taken up the responsibility of arranging the district football leagues and brought newly elected Vice-president Imrul Hasan into the Dhaka Metropolis Football League Committee (DMFLC), which is responsible for holding lower-division football leagues in Dhaka.

While Salahuddin has been able to stage the top-tier Bangladesh Premier League regularly, he could not do the same for the lower divisions and district leagues, the pipelines through which footballers graduate into the professional football leagues -- the Bangladesh Championship League and the BPL.

There was a time when the DMFLC used to organise all football leagues including the popular Dhaka Premier League in Dhaka, but its functionality reduced drastically when the professional football league was introduced in 2007 with top clubs like Abahani, Mohammedan SC, Brothers Union, Muktiyoddha Sangsad entering the professional era.

The BFF placed much focus on the then B League, which was later renamed the Bangladesh Premier League, overlooking the importance of holding the lower division leagues regularly. At one point the BFF was forced to allow each club to play five foreign players due to a lack of quality players as well as the high demand of some top players.

The irregularity of lower and district leagues also resulted in a scenario where players were blooded in the national team following just two or five matches in top-flight football.

In his first 12 years in charge,

Salahuddin appointed Manzoor Hossain Malu, Sheikh Mohammad Maruf Hasan and Harunur Rashid as chairmen of the DMFLC. All three were only able to arrange the first, second and third division leagues a maximum of twice in their four-year terms because of two shortages -- sponsorship and grounds.

However, new DMFLC chairman and Bashundhara Kings president Imrul Hasan is apparently taking up the challenge to regularise all lower leagues, including the pioneer league, but he wants proper coordination with the Professional Football League

and the lower leagues because there is the question of promotion and relegation. So you can't just think of lower leagues; you also have to think of the professional leagues," said Imrul.

To increase the number of footballers and giving them enough time to mature before entering the professional football league, Imrul is also thinking about limiting a footballer to one Dhaka league and another district league per season.

"If the league is held regularly, a player will not have the opportunity to play more than one league in



Committee, which is responsible for holding the BPL and BCL, to fix the timing of the lower leagues.

"The main challenge is to regularise the lower leagues but it is my responsibility to make it happen," Imrul told the Daily Star adding that he has the will to work with both lower division leagues and district leagues.

"I believe we can manage sponsors for the lower division leagues but the shortage of grounds is the biggest problem. Let's hope of doing something by adjusting everything," Imrul said.

"We will sit soon to make a calendar for lower leagues but timing is also another factor and we need the synchronisation of the top leagues

Dhaka and I am thinking of keeping a provision that one player will be allowed to take part in two leagues -- one in Dhaka and one in district -- in a single season," said Imrul.

He said he was also mulling another provision -- to have certified coaches for all clubs in the lower divisions.

Although Imrul is not involved with district leagues, he is thinking of how to incorporate the champions of district leagues into the national level, so that clubs at district level can also play with an ultimate target in mind.

With a history of predecessors failing to regularise the lower leagues due to shortages of funds, grounds and will, time will tell how well the new vice-president fares in this regard.



4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA EXPRESS HIGHWAY BUILT WITH BSRM XTREME

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SHAH CEMENT

# HILSA IN RIVERS

## Production can increase by 10pc

Experts hope for next year as 22-day ban on netting fish begins

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Over half the hilsa eggs laid are likely to hatch this year due to favourable environment, researchers and officials said.

They said this would be over 5-10 percent more than last year.

Even if 5 percent of the fry survive, the fish production will increase by around 10 percent next year, they said.

They called for strict monitoring of bans on all fishing in rivers where there are hilsa, hilsa selling, and hoarding, and transportation.

A 22-day ban on catching fish goes into effect from today to November 4.

If all things go well, the fish production will rise around 10 percent next year, they expect.

Hilsa researcher Anisur Rahman, chief scientific officer of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute in Chandpur, thinks more mother hilsa will spawn and more eggs will hatch this year.

Last year, around 48.92 percent eggs hatched. This year, there was heavy rainfall at the beginning of the monsoon, which is conducive to the arrival of hilsa into rivers from the sea.

Lots of plankton have grown in rivers due to favourable

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Fishermen rolling up their fishing nets and taking them off their trawler as they will not need them for some time. The government imposed a 22-day ban on catching, transporting, storing, buying and selling of hilsa. The photo was taken in Chattogram's Fishery Ghat area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



## US wants Bangladesh as partner

Say experts as Biegun arrives today

PORIMOL PALMA

The US has intensified its engagements with Bangladesh to advance its Indo-Pacific Strategy amid the lowest point in decades of its relationship with China, which is expanding its global footprint.

Foreign relations analysts say a series of talks surrounding trade, economic and defence cooperation, and the signing of an open sky deal in a month are significant steps towards this end.

Bangladesh's former ambassador to the US M Humayun Kabir says there are some clear objectives for high level of engagements

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## Campaigns focus on swing states

Trump, Biden head to Pennsylvania, Florida

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump was set to travel to Pennsylvania yesterday for his second campaign rally since his bout with Covid-19, while Democratic rival Joe Biden is heading to Florida as the fight for the White House focuses on two of the biggest battleground states.

Trump returned to the campaign trail on Monday night in Florida for the first time since disclosing he had the coronavirus, throwing out protective masks to supporters but not wearing one himself as he talked about his recovery.

"I went through it now. They say I'm immune. I feel so powerful," Trump told the crowd, who stood shoulder to shoulder, with most not wearing face coverings. "I will kiss everyone in that audience, I will kiss the guys and the beautiful women, I will give you a big fat kiss."

The rally came hours after the White

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

### Save stranded Bangalees from persecution: Bangabandhu

October 14, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU CONVEYS HIS GRAVE CONCERN TO WALDHEIM

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a communication to the United Nations Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim expresses grave concern over the rapidly deteriorating condition of the stranded Bangalees in Pakistan and seeks his good office's support in securing their expeditious repatriation.

In a personal letter today Bangabandhu appeals to the secretary general, "It may be recalled that Your Excellency's representative who visited Bangladesh earlier this year was afforded all facilities to see personally the arrangements made by my government for the safety and wellbeing of persons of non-Bangalee origin living in Bangladesh. I shall therefore be grateful if you would kindly consider sending a representative to enquire into the condition of the Bangalees living in Pakistan."

STRANDED BANGALEES WILL BE ENROLLED AS VOTERS

Bangabandhu today assures that the Bangalees stranded in Pakistan would be enrolled as voters. He holds out this assurance while talking to the families of some stranded Bangalees who call on

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## Man held for raping two sisters in Narayanganj

STAR REPORT

A woman was raped in Jashore on Monday, while a man was arrested early yesterday for allegedly raping two sisters in Narayanganj.

Meanwhile, a 19-year-old was sent to jail by a Dinajpur court on charge of rape.

In Jashore, police said that rapist, Sakib Hossain of Manirampur upazila, was a neighbour of the woman.

On Monday afternoon, the victim, who is mother of three, went to local market where she met with Sakib. Then, he took her to a house at Taherpur area in the same upazila and raped her. At that time, five other persons recorded the video, which they used to blackmail her for money.

As she denied, the accused sent the video clip to the victim's brother-in-

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## S'pore Airlines sells out meals on parked A380



NEW YORK POST ONLINE

Airplane food never got such rave reviews.

Reservations filled up within minutes on Monday for a pop-up restaurant Singapore Airlines has opened aboard two Airbus A380 planes at the city-state's Changi Airport.

Every available seat on the double-decker jets was reserved within half an hour after bookings opened for the lunch service on October 24 and 25, prompting the airline to add more slots for its "Restaurant A380" experience.

"We are grateful for the extremely strong support from our customers, and we look forward

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## FOREIGN BRIBERY Trade partners' failures cost Bangladesh dearly: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed grave concern over the failure of leading foreign trade partners of Bangladesh in taking steps on foreign bribery.

Referring to a Transparency International (TI) report titled "Exporting Corruption 2020: Assessing Enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention", launched globally yesterday, TIB alerted the government saying the failure of foreign trade partners is causing huge financial loss to the country.

TIB has also called upon foreign trade partner countries to strengthen laws and enforcement systems.

By definition, foreign bribery includes providing or offering a benefit to a foreign public official, or causing a benefit to be

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## SINOVAC VACCINE Govt won't co-fund trial

Says health minister

REUTERS, Dhaka

The government will not co-fund a late-stage domestic trial of a potential coronavirus vaccine developed by China's Sinovac Biotech, Health Minister Zahid Maleque told Reuters yesterday.

His comments come weeks after Sinovac asked the government to co-fund the domestic trials, which sources said would cost roughly \$7 million.

Sinovac informed the health ministry in a letter, seen by Reuters, that a delay in approvals in Bangladesh had resulted in funding getting reallocated to trials in other countries.

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### PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 14

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A group of hawkers swarm a car as they try to sell Covid-19 safety kits, including masks, to the passengers at a set of traffic lights at Technical intersection on Mirpur Road in the capital yesterday morning. Many hawkers who used to sell other items on the streets have switched their products over the last few months.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 'Unethical'

WHO chief slams herd immunity as Covid response; 2nd vaccine trial paused over unexplained illness

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization chief warned Monday against just allowing the coronavirus to spread in the hope of achieving so-called herd immunity, saying it was "unethical" as China rushed yesterday to test an entire city within days after a minor outbreak.

The virus is still spreading rapidly around the world, with well over 37 million infections, and nations that had suppressed their first outbreaks are now struggling with fresh surges -- especially in some parts of Europe.

"Herd immunity is a concept used for vaccination, in which a population can be protected from a certain virus if a threshold of vaccination is reached," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus pointed out during a virtual press briefing.

For measles, for instance, it is estimated that if 95 percent of the population is vaccinated, the remaining five percent will also be protected from the spread of the virus. For polio, the threshold is estimated at 80 percent.

"Herd immunity is achieved by protecting people from a virus, not by exposing them to it," the WHO chief said.

"Never in the history of public health has herd immunity been used as a strategy for responding to an outbreak, let alone a pandemic," he insisted.

In the absence of a vaccine, governments are wary of allowing the virus to spread unchecked, with China launching a sweeping drive to test all residents of Qingdao after a handful of cases were detected on Sunday.

"As of 8 am... our city has taken 3.08 million samples for nucleic testing," the city's health commission said yesterday, adding that no new positive samples were found.

Chinese officials intend to test the entire city -- around 9.4 million people -- by Thursday.

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