

**THAI DEMOCRACY PROTESTS**  
PM Prayut Chan-O-Cha vows to protect monarchy as protesters continue to defy ban  
**SEE PAGE 6**

# The Daily Star

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## Rape verdict in 7 working days

*Bagerhat court completes 'quickest trial to date'; legal experts give mixed reactions*

STAR REPORT

A tribunal in Bagerhat has delivered its verdict in a rape case in just seven working days, setting what experts said was a record for the fastest disposal of a criminal case.

The district's Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2 yesterday sentenced 53-year-old Abdul Mannan Sardar to life in prison along with a fine of Tk 20,000 for raping a seven-year-old girl in Mongla upazila.

Law Minister Anisul Huq said the quick disposal was a reflection of the government's sincerity in ensuring justice within a short period of time. But some legal experts said the accuracy of trial proceedings will come into question if they are conducted in a hurry.

The case was filed by the girl's uncle on October 3, after she was raped. A judge court referred the case to the tribunal on October 11, reports our correspondent in Bagerhat.

Yesterday's verdict was delivered by District and Sessions Judge Md Noor-e-Alam.

Rules stipulate that trial of any case filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act must be completed in 180 days.

Convict Mannan, resident of a government shelter for the homeless, was arrested soon after the case was filed.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



An elderly woman stands resolute in the face of policemen trying to drive away jute mill workers inside the Eastern Jute Mill factory in Khulna city's Atra Gilatal area yesterday noon. The workers were demonstrating to press for their 14-point demand, including the reopening of state-run jute mills.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY



## Wear masks when you're out: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has once again called upon people to always wear face masks while out of the home as it reduces Covid-19 infection risks.

She made the call during an unscheduled discussion at the cabinet meeting yesterday. The PM joined the virtual meeting from the Gono Bhaban through a video conference.

Briefing reporters after the meeting at the secretariat, Cabinet Secretary Khandker

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

AKHAURA-LAKSHAM EXPANSION

## Rail project PD to be removed over graft

*Railways ministry acts after PMO directive*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The railways ministry has asked Bangladesh Railway (BR) to remove project director Ramzan Ali from the Akhaura-Laksham Dual Gauge Double Line Project after a corruption case was filed against him.

The ministry gave the directive recently following instructions from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), railway sources said.

In August, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed two separate cases against Ramzan Ali and his wife Dilruba Parvin Elora for allegedly amassing around Tk 4.28 crore beyond

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BANGLADESHI MIGRANTS

## Hundreds in distress in Bosnian woods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Yasin, a Bangladeshi youth, took a perilous journey from Oman to Bosnia and Herzegovina two years ago, with a dream of making it to a rich European country.

But things didn't go as planned, and he is now stranded in the woods of Velika Kladusa in the southeast European country near the Croatian border.

Over the last few months, he tried in vain to enter Croatia from there. Whenever he tried to enter that country, the Croatian police caught him, seized all his belongings and pushed him back to Bosnia, according to a report of Deutsche Welle (DW) Bangla published on Sunday.

"I reached Iran from Oman by a speedboat, and then travelled to Greece via Turkey. I entered Bosnia from Greece. I have been stranded in the woods for the past four months.

"Three days ago, I again tried to enter Croatia. This time, I almost made it to the country [Croatia] but was eventually caught by police. They snatched away everything I had and pushed me back," Yasin told German broadcaster DW.

He is one of the several hundred stranded Bangladeshis, now passing their days in inhuman conditions in the woods of Velika Kladusa near the Croatian border amid severe cold, mentioned the DW report.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## Jute workers, cops clash; 25 hurt

*At least 9 workers' leaders arrested in Khulna*

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

At least 25 people, including three police personnel, were injured in a clash between police and jute mill workers on Khulna-Jashore highway yesterday morning.

The clash broke out when nearly 1,000 laid off workers of the jute industrial belt in Khulna and Jashore blockaded the highway around 11:00am to press home their 14-point demand, which includes the

reopening of 25 jute mills.

Police arrested at least nine workers.

Police first tried to negotiate with workers when they, under the banner of Sammito Nagorik Parishad, blocked the road. As the agitated workers refused to leave the road, police charged with batons and fired tear gas shells, leaving 22 workers injured, said Kudrat-e-Khuda, convener of the parishad.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Why should Kajol not get bail?

*HC asks govt about incarcerated journo*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government's authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol should not be granted bail in a case filed under the Digital

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Motorcycles seized by DB police gather dust and rust under the Moghbazar Flyover in the capital. The law enforcers have kept around 200 such vehicles there this way, mainly due to a lack of space. In many countries such vehicles are impounded properly in a shaded car park and owners collect them following payment of fines or court orders.

MURDER OF RULING AL LEADER

## Family points the finger at rival faction

*Victim's brother sues 14 including Gouripur mayor*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The family of slain Swechchasebak League leader Masudur Rahman Shuvra has alleged that a local faction of the ruling party was behind his killing while party leaders blame the BNP for the murder.

Unidentified assailants hacked Shuvra, secretary of Swechchasebak League Gouripur upazila unit, 28, to death in Pan Mahal area in the upazila on Saturday

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## Ensnaring children in the dark web

*3 held for child pornography; cops move receiving complaints from US; suspects targeted children as young as nine*

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Girls as young as nine to 15 are first targeted on different social media, especially Instagram, and then they are provoked by different sexual content.

Once the child responds, she is then blackmailed for nude videos and photographs that could be sold on the dark web in exchange for bitcoins. This is how people involved in child pornography usually get their dirty job done.

Upon receiving a complaint on Facebook from a victim in the United States against such child pornographers, the digital forensic team of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

**TEER**  
SINCE 1972  
ADVANCED  
FORTIFIED SOYBEAN OIL

তীর অ্যাডভান্সড  
সয়াবিন তেল

এখন  
নতুন  
বোতলে

দেশের প্রথম ও সর্বকৃৎ অয়েল সীড ক্রাশিং প্ল্যান্ট

নিউট্রিফিকেশন রিচিইভ  
টেকনোলজি-তে তেল বিফাইন হয় বলে,  
সকল পুষ্টিগুণ থাকে অক্ষুন্ন

ওমেগা  
369

ওমেগার ট্রিপল পাওয়ার

দেশের প্রথম এবং সর্বকৃৎ অয়েল সীড ক্রাশিং প্ল্যান্ট বিশ্বের সর্ববৃহৎ বীজ হতে তেল একট্রাকশন ও বিফাইন করে যৌগেজাত করা হয়

- ডিটামিন 'এ' ফটোফাইভ এবং ডিটামিন 'ই' ও 'কে' সমৃদ্ধ সয়াবিন তেল
- কোলেস্টেরল ফ্রি

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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**1,637**  
New cases in 24hrs



**3,90,206**  
Total cases



**5,681**  
Deaths



**3,05,599**  
Recoveries



**GLOBAL UPDATE**



**1,120,217**  
Deaths



**40,435,880**  
Total cases

## Wear masks

FROM PAGE 1

Anwarul Islam said, "We have once again seen a rise in Covid-19 cases in the USA and Europe. That's why the prime minister has asked all to be more careful and use face masks."

Mentioning that using masks at public places is mandatory, he said, "If we use mask, the chance of getting infected reduces. We have seen people's relaxed attitude towards using masks and that's why we need to create awareness."

Replying to a question, Anwarul said the divisional commissioners and Islamic Foundation have already been instructed to take steps to make people aware of using masks.

The divisional commissioners have been advised to operate mobile courts, if needed, to ensure the use of face masks, he added.

The cabinet meeting yesterday discussed three issues according to its agenda. The issues were: third quarterly report on implementation of the cabinet's decisions, approval of a draft contract between Bangladesh and Austria on flight services and the foreign minister's recent tour to Turkey.

The cabinet secretary said due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, the rate of implementation of the cabinet's decisions has reduced by 12 percentile points to 46 in the third quarter of this year compared to the rate of the previous year.

Comparing to the rate of July-September period of 2019, the cabinet has taken more decisions during the same period this year, he told reporters.

"Although the rate of implementation was low, the cabinet has expressed satisfaction over the report," said Anwarul.

He said the cabinet last year had taken 258 decisions and 238 of those were implemented. This year, the cabinet has taken 169 decisions till September and 116 of those have been implemented.

Talking about the second issue discussed at the cabinet meeting, the cabinet secretary said Bangladesh and Austria would be able to operate seven passenger and cargo flights a week between the two countries once the contract is finalised.

He said the initiative will ease Dhaka's communications with Vienna where several UN offices are located.

A team, led by Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, recently visited Turkey after the inauguration of Bangladesh Chancery Complex in Ankara by PM Sheikh Hasina.

The foreign minister briefed the cabinet meeting about his visit.

Quoting Momen, the cabinet secretary said Turkey was keen to see a solution to the Rohingya crisis and it assured Bangladesh of help in this regard.

The Turkish government also showed interest in investing more in Bangladesh, he added.

## Rail project PD

FROM PAGE 1

their known sources of income.

"We will change him [from the post]," BR Director General Md Shamsuzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked whether any other measures would be taken against him, the DG said, "It depends on the Anti-Corruption Commission's [case verdict]."

Ramzan was project director of the Khulna-Mongla Rail Link Project before he was given charge of the "Construction of Dual Gauge Double Line and Conversion of Existing Rail Line into Dual Gauge Between Akhaura-Laksham", a few months ago.

Earlier, he served as chief engineer (west) of BR.

In the corruption case filed by ACC's Deputy Director Abu Bakar Siddiqui on August 16, Ramzan was mentioned as project director of the Khulna-Mongla Rail Link Project.

According to the case document, he amassed Tk 2.43 crore through bribes and corrupt practices. This correspondent could not learn when and from whom he allegedly took bribes.

On the other hand, his wife has amassed Tk 2.48 crore between September 24, 2007 and June 30, 2019. Of this amount, around Tk 1.85 crore was amassed beyond the known sources of income, said the case document.

Railway sources said the PMO asked the railways ministry to take steps in this regard in the last week of September.

The railways ministry recently sent a letter to the Director General of BR asking him to give a proposal for appointing a new project director for the Akhaura-Laksham project.

BR is implementing the Akhaura-Laksham Project at a cost of Tk 6,504.54 crore under an Asian Development Bank loan while the Tk 3,801.61 crore Khulna-Mongla Rail Link Project is being implemented under Indian Lines of Credit.

This correspondent attempted to contact Ramzan Ali for comment, but he did not respond to calls and texts.

Railways Ministry Secretary Salim Reza could not be reached over phone.



Police chase away jute mill workers in a field inside Eastern Jute Mill in Khulna city's Atra Gilatala area yesterday after around a thousand workers blocked the Dhaka-Khulna highway outside the factory demanding reopening of state-run jute mills. Top right, a policeman kicks a protesters near the factory. Bottom right, an injured worker detained and being taken to a police van parked nearby.



PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

## Jute workers

FROM PAGE 1

He told The Daily Star, shortly before being arrested himself, that police attacked the jute workers without any provocation.

They beat the workers mercilessly and used tear gas to disperse them, he said.

"Police picked up five workers from their homes," he added.

There were at least 12 women among those injured. Among them, Nazma, Shumi Roy, Shafali Bala, Suchitra Biswas were seriously hurt, he also said, adding that the injured were given primary treatment.

Several hundred workers and members of Sammilito Nagorik Parishad blocked the Khulna-Jashore highway in the Atra area, just opposite Eastern Jute Mills in Khulna around 11:00am. Around 11:20 policemen tried to chase them away, which resulted in the clash.

Workers threw bricks and branches at police from inside the gates of Eastern Jute Mills, where they had gone after the clash with police.

Police then entered the premises and arrested the workers.

While police said they arrested nine people, Munir Chowdhury Sohel, convener of Gano Sanghaty Andolon said they arrested 14 leaders and activists. They include Oliar Rahman, Jute Mills Protection Movement; Al Amin Sheikh, convener of Chharta Federation, Khulna district unit; SA Abdur Rashid, Communist Party of Bangladesh, leader of Khulna unit, Janardan Dutta Nantu, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal; and Kudrat-e-Khuda.

Police arrested inside the residential quarter of Eastern Jute Mills, he said.

Deputy Commissioner (north) Mollah Zahangir Hossain of Khulna Metropolitan Police said the three injured policemen were given primary treatment.

The government yesterday started paying golden handshake benefits to workers of state-owned jute mills in Khulna region.

At 12:00pm, State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Mannujan Sufian inaugurated the programme at the Officer's Auditorium of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills -- more than 10 km away from Eastern Jute Mills -- in Khalishpur area of Khulna city. Sufian is a lawmaker from Khulna-3 constituency, which has five government jute mills.

Yesterday, she handed over cheques and savings certificates to 45 retired and terminated workers of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills Ltd. In total, 3,836 retired and terminated employees of Platinum will be given over Tk 216.28 crore and 3,674 workers will be given Tk 2.15 crore worth of three months' savings.

Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Mayor of Khulna City Corporation was the special guest at the programme. Khulna Additional Divisional Commissioner (revenue) Subash Chandra Saha, Khulna Range DIG of police Dr Kh Mohid Uddin, Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Masudur Rahman Bhuiyan, Rab-6 Director Lt Col Raushan Firoz, Superintendent of Police in Khulna SM Shafullah were present among others at the programme.

Khulna Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Helal Hossain presided over the function.

## Why should Kajol

FROM PAGE 1

Security Act.

The court also ordered the investigation officer of the case to appear along with the case docket before it on November 12.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the rule and order following a petition filed by Kajol seeking bail in the case.

Lawyers Jyotirmoy Barua, Fuad Hasan and Ripon Kumar Barua appeared for the photojournalist while Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi represented the state during the hearing of the bail petition.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Ripon said Kajol was accused in three cases and he was yet to get bail in any of those.

Kajol in the bail petition said he should be granted bail because of his illness and the DSA section, under which he was implicated, did not apply to him as he did not defame anybody, the lawyer added.

According to the case statement, Kajol was engaged in extortion by obtaining information illegally and publishing false, intimidating and defamatory information via Facebook and Messenger.

On August 24, judge Emrul Kayes of a Dhaka court refused to grant bail to the photojournalist in the case filed under the Digital Security Act (DSA).

Earlier, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Dhiman Chandra Mondol on June 24 had rejected his bail petition in the case.

Two other cases were filed against Kajol under the DSA on March 10 and 11 with Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar police stations respectively.

Kajol, now in Dhaka jail, went missing on the evening of March 10, after leaving his office in Dhaka's Hatirpool. Border Guard Bangladesh found him in Benapole of Jashore on May 3.

He was then arrested, initially on charges of trespassing, but was granted bail by a Jashore court after being produced before it.

Later, Kajol was shown held under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) after police informed the court that he was accused in three more cases filed with different police stations in the capital.

The court then sent the photojournalist to Jashore jail.

## Family points the finger at rival faction

FROM PAGE 1

night. Two others were injured in the attack. Shuvra was also the chairman of Bangladesh Rural Development Board's Gouripur unit, said police.

Last night, the victim's brother, Abidur Rahman, filed a murder case with Gouripur Police Station against 14 people, including Awami League leader and Gouripur Municipality Mayor Syed Rafiqul Islam; and BNP leader Riyaduzzaman Riyad.

Md Borhan Uddin, officer-in-charge of the police station, confirmed this. He said they arrested four accused, including Riyad, joint convener of BNP Gouripur upazila unit and also chairman of Moilakanda union parishad. The other accused are on the run.

Quoting locals, Md Kamal Hossain, OC (investigation) of the station, had earlier told this correspondent that Riyad, along with his eight accomplices, attacked Shuvra and his two companions with sharp weapons at a tea stall in Pan Mahal area around 10:30pm on Saturday.

The attackers arrived at the scene by two CNG-run auto-rickshaws and

escaped after the incident.

Shuvra's two companions -- Siddiqur Rahman, 45, president of the AL ward-6 unit in Gouripur municipality; and Al Amin, 25, member of Swachchasebak League Gouripur upazila unit -- were injured.

The three were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where Shuvra died around 11:15pm on Saturday, said the OC.

Shuvra's uncle Sadequr Rahman Selim alleged that Mayor Rafiqul, also president of the AL Gouripur municipality unit, is the mastermind behind the killing.

Minutes before the attack, a group of men led by Riyad was seen coming out of the mayor's office after a meeting with him, alleged Selim.

He said Shuvra had expressed his wish to contest the upcoming mayoral election in Gouripur municipality and was making preparations for that. This could be the main reason behind the murder.



Shuvra

Selim also alleged that a group of men, loyal to Rafiqul, attacked Shuvra in 2016 in a similar fashion. He was critically injured and admitted to the MMCH.

Shuvra's another uncle Mohammad Morsheduzzaman said that as a young leader, Shuvra was popular which made the mayor anxious about winning the next election. And a plot was hatched to kill him.

Despite repeated attempts, Rafiqul could not be reached for comments. His mobile phone was switched off.

Talking to this correspondent, Md Sohel Rana, president of

Swachchasebak League Gouripur upazila unit, said there was a fight between Shuvra and Riyad at a programme last year.

He claimed that the main reason behind the killing could be feud between the two, but a BNP leader would not dare to commit such a murder in Gouripur without backing of ruling party men.

## Hundreds in distress in Bosnian woods

FROM PAGE 1

Most of them reached Bosnia from different Middle East countries. They had to pay hefty amounts to middlemen and made perilous journeys, said the report.

"I had to spend Tk 18 to Tk 20 lakh to reach here. I had to pay the money to middlemen in different countries....", one of the Bangladeshis told DW.

INHUMAN CONDITIONS

Several hundred Bangladeshis are spending night in overcrowded shacks made of polythene sheets. They don't have sufficient food, drinking water and emergency medical supplies.

International agencies were not seen playing an active role in providing support to them, the DW report mentioned.

Many of the Bangladeshis there said officials from some international agencies distributed food among

them and provided medical support occasionally but those were not sufficient.

In a separate report published on Sunday, DW Bangla said that failing to get shelter at a nearby refugee camp run by the International Organisation for Migration, more than a hundred Bangladeshis took shelter at an abandoned factory in Velika Kladusa.

Those who took refuge there said

they had to endure untold sufferings in cold and rain as the walls and roof of the factory building were damaged.

Despite all this, they still dream of making it to rich European countries, according to the report.

Asked whether they would return home if the Bangladesh government makes arrangements for them, they said their dream is to reach Italy or Spain and that they would not abandon it.

## Rape verdict in 7 working days

FROM PAGE 1

The tribunal took cognisance of the charges on the day the case was referred to it and framed the charges the next day. On October 13 and 14, 16 prosecution witnesses, a doctor, a judicial magistrate, the investigating officer and other members of the police testified in the tribunal.

The accused testified on October 15. The court delivered the verdict yesterday, a day after completing the hearing of arguments of both sides.

"We are happy. This has set an example," Assistant Public Prosecutor

Ranjit Kumar Mandal told reporters after the verdict was announced.

The complainant also expressed satisfaction.

Convict Mannan's lawyer Liakat Hossain said his client will appeal against this verdict.

Rizia Parveen, regional coordinator of the Women Development Forum, said it was proof that trial procedures can be completed in a short time.

Law Minister Anisul said, "We have not stopped after raising the punishment to death penalty for rape. We have directed prosecutors to

take necessary steps for hearing and disposing of the cases quickly.

"I have said time and again that the government is pledge-bound to ensure justice quickly and to establish rule of law," he told The Daily Star while expressing his reaction to the Bagerhat court verdict.

Supreme Court lawyer and Chairperson of Ain O Salish Kendra ZI Khan Panna said no trial of a criminal case took place in such a short period of time in the history of judiciary.

"If the trial proceedings of the Bagerhat case were held flawlessly, we will appreciate it. But it's unacceptable

if it had not been done accurately," he said.

It has been proved that trial proceedings can be done really fast, Panna added.

Criminal law expert and Editor of Dhaka Law Reports (DLR) Khurshid Alam Khan said the trial of the Bagerhat case was the rarest event in the history of Bangladesh.

"The prosecution must ensure that the trial has been held in a fair and faultless manner," he said.

Assuming that everything was done properly, the disposal of the case is laudable, Khurshid added.

## Ensnaring children in the dark web

FROM PAGE 1

According to officials, a 15-year-old US girl first filed a complaint against Ovi on November 20 last year through the Facebook page of the CITC's cybercrime unit.

Two months later, on February 2 of this year, another 14-year-old US girl filed a complaint on Facebook against Borhan.

In the complaint, the girl mentioned that Borhan had been using her as a victim of child pornography for the past five years.

The unit also received five other complaints from local and international law enforcement agencies, said officials.

In the confessional statement, Borhan told the court that he started using social media site Instagram using a fake female ID in 2015, through which he was connected to a secret group for watching pornographic photos and videos.

Of the victims, 3 are Bangladeshis and 42 others are from the US, the United Kingdom and Australia.

After noticing Borhan's activities in

the group, the admin included him into another secret group called, which provided the manual with a 13-point task list about how to trick girls into providing nude content, court sources quoted Borhan as saying.

Borhan was then advised to open an account in the dark web using a separate browser at the cost of around 0.002 bitcoin -- a crypto currency. The present value of 1 bitcoin is around Tk 9.72 lakh.

Borhan's task was to send private messages to different minor girls and if anyone responded, then to apply the 13-point task list to convince them to send small nude video clips and photos, Borhan told the court.

Once the victims sent videos and photos, he would upload them on secret Instagram groups and on the dark web for trade.

Borhan later included his cousin Mahmud one and half years ago.

If any victim sent content once or

twice and then refused to send more, the accused used to threaten them of releasing the photos or videos on different websites, court sources said.

Similarly, Ovi also used to instigate children and teenagers after connecting with them through different dating sites and social media profiles.

AC Ishtiaq Ahmed said that the ultimate goal of these syndicate members were to collect bitcoins through the dark web by selling pornography.

"We are now trying to get details of the arrestees' associates by analysing their data and cellphones. We may be able to give a clear statement after we get the forensic reports of the arrestees' cell phones," he said.

Ishtiaq further suggested that guardian check what their children are doing on social media sites and remain alert regarding whether they are becoming victims of child pornography.

## North Korean justice system treats people as 'less than animals': HRW

AFP, Seoul

Torture, humiliation and coerced confessions are rampant in North Korea's pretrial detention system which treats people as worth "less than an animal", a rights group said yesterday in a report on the country's opaque legal processes.

US-based Human Rights Watch

drew on interviews with dozens of former North Korean detainees and officials to highlight what it called inhuman conditions at detention facilities that often amount to torture.

Nuclear-armed North Korea, accused of widespread rights abuses by the United Nations and other critics, is a "closed" country and little is known

about its criminal justice system.

Mistreatment of detainees -- beating with a stick or kicking -- was "especially harsh" in the early stages of pretrial detention, interviewees said.

"The regulations say there shouldn't be any beatings, but we need confessions during the investigation and early stages of the preliminary

examination," a former police officer said.

"So you have to hit them in order to get the confession."

Former detainees said they were forced to sit still on the floor, kneeling or with their legs crossed, for as long as 16 hours a day, with even a flicker of movement leading to punishment.



## Declare salish for settling rape cases a criminal offence

ASK seeks in writ petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leading rights organisation yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, praying to it to declare salish (arbitrations) in settling incidents of rape as a criminal offence.

Lawyer Shahinuzzaman Shahin submitted the petition on behalf of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), also requesting to the HC to issue necessary directives to ensure finishing trial proceedings of rape cases in 180 days in line with the relevant provisions of the Women and Children Repression (Prevention) Act, 2000.

In the petition, the organisation urged the HC to inquire how many rape cases were filed with the police stations across the country and how many rape cases were sent to the courts for their trial in last 10 years.

ASK in the petition also prayed to the HC issue a directive on the authorities concerned to implement the provision of holding closed-door trial of the rape cases.

Petitioner's lawyer Yeadia Zaman told The Daily Star that the HC is yet to set any date for holding hearing on the writ petition.



This walkway on the bank of Buriganga River at Munshikhola of Dhaka's Shampur remains in ruins. The structure couldn't bear the load of parked trucks and eventually fell apart, and authorities haven't taken any steps to fix it yet. The photo was taken earlier this week.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Article 70 crippled parliamentary govt system: GM Quader

STAR REPORT

Article 70 of the constitution has crippled the parliamentary government system, said Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday.

"MPs cannot vote against their party's decision due to Article 70 and this is why a dictatorship or autocracy has been established in parliament," he said while speaking at a joint meeting of Jatiya Sramik Party at the Jatiya Party chairman's Banani office in Dhaka, reports UNB.

According to Article 70, a person elected as a member of parliament (MP) in a national election in which he or she was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his/her seat if s/he a) resigns from that party or b) votes in parliament against that party.

Quader, also the deputy opposition leader in parliament, said parliamentary democracy had been introduced in the country as per outlines of the three alliances in 1991 as his brother HM Ershad quit power. "But in the name of establishing parliamentary democracy, an institutional dictatorship was established in the country by changing the presidential form of government system," he said.

As per the system, head of the party that gets majority votes in the election becomes head of the government and whatever s/he says will happen. Because, any MP speaking against the party will lose the post, he observed.

GM Quader said Jatiya Party is now the most promising political force in Bangladesh as people have become fed up with BNP and Awami League.

"It's right that Awami League has carried out various development activities by staying in power for a long time. But they also hurt people with their acts. People of the country don't remember the development, but they remember the sufferings for a long time..." he observed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

### BOOKS BRIEFING

## Reopening holds prospects and pitfalls for bookstores

SHABABA IQBAL

As Covid-19 infections continue across the country, several bookstores in the capital are creatively rebooting.

In addition to selling books online, Bookworm Bangladesh, located at Old Airport Road, reopened their physical store with limited hours and stringent safety protocols involving face masks, sanitisers and disinfectant sprays. In an effort to engage with their audience, they are also planning to host virtual programmes called 'Bookworm Sessions', Ariz Hoque, Social Media Coordinator, tells The Daily Star.

However, the struggles of the past few months are yet to end. Due to travel restrictions and unavailability of stocks, the store is facing delays in incoming consignments. "We are noticing a drop in reprints from large publishing houses," Ariz said.

"All couriers from abroad were stalled until very recently," Minhaz Muhammad, a bookseller at Charcha, agrees. "Deliveries are still slow."

However, popular bookstore Baatighar are a bit luckier, having received seven to eight consignments, mostly from Kolkata. "We had placed our book orders around the time of the Ekushey Book Fair, so we were able to keep a good stock of books," says Dipankar Das, owner of Baatighar.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Culture & Books, the only bookshop at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (Departure Lounge, Terminal 2) has been severely affected due to the suspension of flights since March. Store Manager Michael G shares, "The pandemic has been a major setback for us. We closed our shutters for seven months." They continued their activities online though, by posting videos on Instagram and Facebook and inviting authors for virtual chats about their books.

The store has reopened on October 1, but profit remains below the margin. "We import our books from the USA, UK and India. These books used to reach Dhaka in seven to ten days, but each consignment takes at least one month now," Michael laments. "Shipping charges have also skyrocketed." There's also the added cost for health safety. "We sanitise our books with alcohol pads before packaging them and provide extra alcohol pads with every delivery," Michael said.

Banani's Keepsake, a gift and book, remained open both online and offline, but were not spared from similar issues. "Besides custom duties, transportation costs of consignments are much higher than the previous fiscal year. This has had a direct effect on our prices," explained Liaison Officer Md Sifat Kaiser Khan.

Fortunately for Worthy Books BD, despite a fall in spot purchases, the store managed to see a spike in online sales from an ongoing 10 percent discount on products. It is now gearing up for the future. "We will be launching our monthly magazine, Quirky, in November," shares co-founder Nuzaimul Hoque Xishan. "It will be similar to Reader's Digest, with segments devoted to health, advice, lifestyle, entertainment, business, food, travel and literature."

Follow Daily Star Books on Facebook and @thedailystarbooks on Instagram.



PHOTO COURTESY: BOOKWORM BANGLADESH

## Mental health services essential to achieve SDGs

Says Saima Wazed Hossain at webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Advisory Committee on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Chairperson Saima Wazed Hossain on Sunday said mental health services are essential to achieve SDGs, and such ailments should be treated with care.

She was addressing a webinar titled "A day centre for people with mental health needs: A model care of Bangladesh", organised by Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), on occasion of World Mental Health Day.

This year's theme was investment in mental health.

Saima appreciated CRP's contribution in the rehabilitation sector and pointed out the importance of mental health services. She asked for everyone's collaboration, not competition, and said there are no social and political barriers in this field.

Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed, associate professor at National Institute of Mental Health; Karen Heaslip, occupational therapist from Ireland; and Razia Sultana, project coordinator of Occupational Therapy Day Centre for People with Mental Health Needs of CRP, presented keynote papers.

In his presentation, Dr Helal showed the current scenario of mental health in Bangladesh, while Karen presented a brief overview of mental health in communities based in the UK and Ireland.

Razia described the activities and improvement of patients at the day centre through a video documentary and concluded by saying that CRP is trying from its position, and if they could enhance services at community-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## DEATH 'IN CUSTODY' 3 constables testify at court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three police constables yesterday testified before a Sylhet court in the case filed in connection with the murder of Rayhan Ahmed, who was allegedly tortured at Bandarbarazar police outpost on October 11.

The constables -- Shamim, Saidul and Delwar -- testified before Sylhet's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ziadur Rahman, said Amulya Bhushan Chowdhury, assistant commissioner (prosecution) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

This was the first day of court proceedings for the case, he said.

Inspector Mahidul Islam of Police Bureau of Investigation, the case's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

### PADMA BRIDGE

## Five km visible after 33rd span installed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around five-kilometre-long structure of long-cherished Padma Bridge is now visible, after another span of the bridge was installed yesterday.

The 33rd span linking the third and fourth pillar at the Mawa end in Munshiganj was installed around 12 noon yesterday, Dewan Md Abdul Kader, project manager (main bridge), told The Daily Star.

With the span installment, total 4.95km of the 6.15km structure is now visible, he said.

On October 11, the authority installed 32nd span, ending a four-month stalemate over installing spans due to flood situation and strong currents in the Padma.

"We did not face much problem with strong currents today [Monday]; we hope the situation will improve further in coming days," he said.

They have plan to install two more spans within this month and all spans within December, he added.

Authorities had planned to install all 41 spans within July, but it could not be possible due to the pandemic and strong currents in the river, project officials said.

When work of most development projects was suspended due to the pandemic, the Padma Multipurpose Bridge project work continued. But the work suffered due

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Fake currency factory busted, 4 held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police in a raid at Noorjahan Road in Dhaka's Mohammadpur area yesterday claimed to have busted a fake currency manufacturing mini-factory, owned by one Humayun Kabir who had previously been arrested five times for the same offence.

Along with Humayun (47), Jamal Uddin (42), Taslima Akter (30) and Sukhi Akter (30) were also arrested during the raid on the second floor of a six-storey building by the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Gulshan division.

Jamal is also an accused in two fake note-related cases.

Humayun hired Taslima and Sukhi at Tk 15,000 and Tk 10,000 per month to prepare special papers and glue and to cut the fake notes into size.

Kawsar, brother of Humayun, who is also a fake note manufacturer, was arrested earlier and is now in jail. Taslima's husband Saiful Islam was arrested by Rab in January. He is now in jail.

"They make fake notes throughout the year but they have become more active

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



The counterfeit notes and note making materials laid out on the floor after they were seized by law enforcers from a flat in Mohammadpur.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Schools may be closed, but the children who used to zoom around the premises -- with cricket bats in hand in hopes of scoring big, or dribbling footballs to make that crucial pass -- are coming out of their homes again. The pandemic may have tried to cage the whole world, but these little ones just would not stay confined to their homes. This photo was taken from Gabtoli Govt Primary School.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

### NEGLIGENCE IN RENOVATING TWIN TEMPLES

## Legal notice served on govt after Star report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a report published in The Daily Star, a Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice on the government to form a committee in three days to probe the negligence in renovating two-century-old twin temples at Muktagachha in Mymensingh and to take appropriate action against the officials responsible for the negligence.

Lawyer Manoj Kumar Bhowmick sent the legal notice to the cultural affairs secretary and the director general of department of archeology requesting them to take necessary steps to this effect.

In it, he said he will take legal steps if the cultural affairs secretary does not form the probe committee and take action against officials concerned.

The Daily Star report published under the headline "200-year old twin temples in sorry state" yesterday said, "The two-century-old twin temples, Shree Shree Anandamoyee Shiva and Kali Mata Mandir, is in a dilapidated state for decades, thanks to the indifference of the authorities concerned."

Built in 1820 by Shreemoti Bimola Devi, mother of zaminder Maharaja Shshikanta Acharya Chowdhury, the twin-temple is awaiting loss of its architectural beauty as no steps are taken to renovate it, said the report.

Located outside the palaces of Muktagachha zaminders in Kalibari area, the temple is also known as "Dhaksinashar Mandir" where religious events including Durga Puja and sacrificial activities on the occasion of Kali and Monsha puja are held.

It is oblong in shape with conical shape tops and small corridors on a high basement which is connected to the staircase leading to a large pond. Special puja is also held there during every full moon and new moon and on the occasion of Pehela Baishakh, the report added.

### COMPENSATION FOR JAHA ALAM

## Brac Bank seeks SC stay on HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Bank Ltd yesterday filed a petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking a stay on its High Court verdict that directed the bank to give Tk 15 lakh in compensation to jute mill worker Jaha Alam, who had suffered in jail for three years instead of the real accused in several corruption cases.

The bank filed the petition through advocate-on-record Joydul Abedin saying that the HC did not direct other banks concerned and the Anti-Corruption Commission to give the compensation to Jaha Alam, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

He also said Brac Bank's stay petition may be heard before the court of chamber judge of the Appellate Division today.

On September 30 this year, the HC directed the Brac Bank Ltd to give Tk 15 lakh in compensation to jute mill worker Jaha Alam in a month after receiving the verdict as its two officials Faisal Kayes and Sabina Sharmin supplied the photo and information of Jaha Alam instead of real accused Abu Salek to the investigation officers of the ACC.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Article 70

FROM PAGE 3  
Besides, the Jatiya Party chief said BNP has long been facing leadership crisis, frustrating its leaders and activists. "People are also disappointed with BNP," he added.

The JP chairman said there was good governance and rule of law in the country during the nine-year rule of HM Ershad. "There was no murder, rape, extortion, politicisation and tender manipulation in the country at that time. So, the only party that people trust is Jatiya Party and people will join it in groups in the days to come."

# 5km detour due to a 30ft washed-out road

Bridge-linking clay road, damaged nearly a month ago by rain, remains unattended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Residents of ward-33 in Rangpur city have been suffering immensely since part of a clay road connecting Damdama bridge was washed away following a record-breaking downpour on September 26.

As a result, locals are having to use a five-kilometre diversion road to cross the area.

Hossainnagar residents said the 150x24-foot bridge was built by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) over river Ghagat in 2012.

According to Met office, Rangpur recorded a 433mm rainfall on September 26, which left the whole city waterlogged.

Strong currents washed away a 30ft stretch of the link road in Hossainnagar, snapping communication between the ward and the main city.

Sirajul Islam, councillor of ward-33, said the ward is far away from central city and the residents have to cross the river through the bridge to go to workplaces and for other necessary reasons.

Following the incident, locals put a bamboo structure in the gap on their own at a cost of Tk 20,000. But that is not working for vehicles properly.

Younus Ali, a resident of Mekura, said he needs to go to Pairabandh every day. "Now I have to use another road which is 5km long," he further told the newspaper.

Rezaul Haq, executive engineer of LGED in Rangpur, said they are aware of the situation.

They are trying to have a project proposal approved by the higher authorities in Dhaka to renovate the road for minimising public sufferings, he added.

# NSU students continue protest for fee waiver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the second consecutive day, a group of North South University students staged a sit-in in front of their campus yesterday, demanding 30 percent waiver of fees for the upcoming fall semester.

In addition, the protesters also demanded cancellation of all student activity fees -- including computer lab fees, library fees and more.

"We demand 30 percent waiver of tuition fees and cancellation of all student activity fees," said a protesting student of the university's Electrical and Electronic Engineering department.

Students said they want their demands to be fulfilled by October 22, the starting date for the fall semester.

"If the authorities do not heed our demands, we will wage tougher protests," a protester told this correspondent.

The students staged the sit-in in front of the university gates for several hours starting from 12 noon.

Talking to The Daily Star on Sunday morning, NSU Vice-Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam said, "We have already sent a message to the students. We said we will get back to them (students) regarding a decision on fee waiver by October 22."

A top official of the NSU administration said the issue is in the hands of the board of trustees, adding that the board is yet to make any decision in this regard.

"We understand that the authorities will take a decision in this regard in co-ordination with the board of trustees and finance committee, which is headed by a trustee," added the official.

# ROOPPUR PURCHASE SCAM Suspended PWD engineer refused bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to an engineer, Md Shafiqul Islam, in three cases filed over corruption in purchasing furniture and household items for the officials of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna.

The court, however, ordered the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) to complete investigation of the cases in six months. It also kept three rules over the bail for Shafiqul in the cases stand over (waiting for hearing) for six months.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel came up with the order during virtually hearing on the rules.

On August 17, the HC bench issued three separate rules asking the ACC and government why Shafiqul, a suspended assistant engineer of the Public Works Department, should not be granted bail in the cases.

ACC lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Shafiqul cannot get release from jail following the HC orders.

Advocate Sayeed Ahmed Raza appeared for Shafiqul while Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the state.

The ACC filed the case with its Pabna district office against Shafiqul and several others on December 12 last year on charges of irregularities involving Tk 26 crore in supplying furniture and household items to the officials of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, said Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan.

Shafiqul was also arrested on that day. According to several reports, the prices of various items used to furnish the project's 966 flats for the Russian engineers and others were abnormally higher than market prices.

The reports claimed that each pillow was bought for Tk 5,957, and the cost of carrying it to a flat was Tk 760. An electric stove cost Tk 7,747 and the cost of carrying it from the ground floor to the top floor was Tk 6,650. The price of an electric iron was Tk 4,154 and the carrying cost was Tk 2,945, the reports showed.

**LOST**  
I have lost mortgage permission (no. RAJUK/Estate/1513 Stha dated 7 July 1992) from RAJUK for mortgaging plot (Plot 6, Road 14, Sector 1, Uttara Model Town) allotted to me and NOC from Janata Bank issued following settlement of loan. I filed a GD with Badda P.S. (No. 1430, 21.9.2020).  
**Shamsuddin Ahmed**  
Phone: 01731909072

**Study Abroad**  
Global University Admission & Visa Processing Centre  
BASHATI CONDOMINIUM House # 15, Road # 17, Banani, C/A, Dhaka M: 01406 252 275 / 70  
RING TOWER 06/A, Ring Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka M: 01406 252 221 / 33 / 20

**We Mourn**  
We deeply mourn the sudden demise of Engr. A.E.M. Eshaque, Ex-Director, Production & Engineering, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation. (BCIC) on October 15, 2020 at his residence in Dhaka. Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. He was 81 years old. He has left behind his wife, two children and a host of relatives and well-wishers. May the Almighty rest him in eternal peace.  
**-Family**

**NOTICE : 18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**  
Cadet College Club Limited  
CCCL/SECT/MEETING/GB/00104A/66 18 October 2020  
The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Cadet College Club Limited will be held as per Art. 49 of the Articles of Association.  
Date : Saturday, 12 December 2020  
Time : 11:00 hours  
Venue : Cadet College Club Limited, Purbachal Plot # 002, Road # 203A, Sector-12, (Purbachal New Town Project)  
Agenda :  
a. Confirmation of the minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 14 December 2019.  
b. Consideration of the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the year 2020.  
c. Adoption of the Audited Statement of the Accounts for the Financial Year (FY) ended on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.  
d. Adoption of the Annual Budget for the Financial Year (FY) ending on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.  
e. Appointment of the Auditor(s) and fixation of the remuneration for the Auditor(s).  
f. Discussion & Adoption of Resolution(s), if any (proposed by members to EC and placed as per Article).  
g. Discussion and Resolution on Permanent Club Complex Committee.  
h. Any other business allowed by the chair.  
i. Election of the Office Bearers for the year 2021.  
Any Primary Members having cleared their respective Club dues latest by Thursday, 26 November 2020 are eligible to attend & vote in the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Cadet College Club Limited as per Art. 49 (f) of the Articles of Association of the Club.  
Sd/ (Jashim Mohammad Al-Amin) Secretary General

# 3 constables

FROM PAGE 3

An investigating officer, produced the constables before court, but he denied to comment on what they said.

The officers are not among those who were suspended and withdrawn from the police station after Rayhan's death.

Rayhan (33) died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital on October 11 morning, around an hour after he was admitted there by police.

# Brac Bank

FROM PAGE 3

Later, the investigation officers implicated Jaha Alam in the corruption cases, the court observed.

Delivering verdict on a suomoto (voluntary) rule, the HC ordered Brac Bank Ltd to submit a report to this court through the SC registrar general's office after complying with the directive, said ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader also cautioned the ACC to remain careful in conducting inquiry into the corruption cases and in appointing investigation officers so that such incident like that of Jaha Alam does not take place in future.

The bench observed that ACC investigation officers had negligence and incompetence in conducting inquiry into Jaha Alam cases as they were young, but

they had not any malafide intention. The HC bench on January 28 last year issued the rule asking the authorities concerned of the ACC, Brac Bank Ltd and government why they should not be directed to release Jaha Alam and to compensate him for his suffering in jail.

The bench came up with the rule following a report published in the Prothom Alo, headlined "Wrong accused in jail in 33 cases: Sir, I am Jaha Alam, not Salek."

The court issued the rule after SC lawyer Amit Das Gupta, now a deputy attorney general, placed the newspaper reports before the HC bench for necessary order. On February 3 last year, the HC directed the jail authorities to release Jaha Alam from prison immediately and accordingly he got released the same day.

# Five km

FROM PAGE 3

to lack of workers -- Chinese and local -- and poor supply of construction materials since January, they said.

The project authorities were able to bring back pace after Chinese nationals returned to work in May following the end of the two-month shutdown. But strong currents in the Padma started causing problems, they said.

No span could be installed after June 10, when the 31st span was put in, officials said.

Besides, at least 192 railway stingers and 220 roadway decks, supposed to be used for

construction of the bridge, went into the Padma on July 31 due to erosion at a yard.

Although the erosion could not affect the bridge, it might cause some delay as the stingers would have to be imported from Luxembourg, they added.

The current deadline of the fast-track project is June 2021. However, top government officials already said they have to extend the deadline.

Once in service, the bridge will connect the capital with 21 districts, and is expected to boost the country's GDP by 1.2 percent.

# Mental health

FROM PAGE 3

level with the government's help, there would be more positive outcomes.

The webinar was chaired by Valerie Ann Taylor, founder and coordinator of CRP, where Saima was the chief guest.

Speaking at the webinar, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative Dr Bardan Jung Rana said Covid-19 has disrupted essential health services, including mental health, and WHO is now working on mental health services at primary level.

Dr Md Golam Rabbani, chairperson of Neuro-Developmental Disability Trust, and Rita Bonomali, programme manager of Southeast Asia, Kadoorie Charitable Foundation, Hong Kong, also addressed the programme as special guests.

CRP has been working on mental health since 2014, providing occupational therapy for several mental hospitals of Bangladesh.

# Fake currency

FROM PAGE 3

ahead of Durga Puja," Mashur Rahman, deputy commissioner of DB, Gulshan division, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Two laptops, four printers, some note cutters, holographic thread, ink, special paper and materials -- through which around Tk 4 crore worth fake notes can be manufactured -- were recovered.

Law enforcers also seized fake notes worth Tk 49 lakh from the flat, Mashur said.

They had the capacity to manufacture fake notes worth Tk 2 to 2.5 lakh daily. It cost them Tk 6,000 to make each lakh of fake currencies, the official said.

They then sold those at Tk 10,000 to small traders at districts across the country, officials said.

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**  
Pubali Bank Limited, the largest Online Commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in the following Tender as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below:  
1. Notice Inviting Quotation for **Hardware Security Module (HSM)** for Card Division at Data Center of Pubali Bank Limited.  
Please visit <https://www.pubalibangla.com/Tender.asp> for more details, Interested Parties may purchase their Tender document by **27 October 2020** duly filled up all requirements.  
**(Md. Helal Uddin)**  
GM & Division Head  
ICT OPERATION DIVISION  
Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

**World Health Organization Bangladesh**  
**VACANCY NOTICE**  
World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under different contractual modalities:  
- Urban Immunization Focal Person, SSA 9  
- National Consultant – Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), SSA 8  
- National Consultant – Health Financing and Universal Health Coverage, SSA 8  
- National Consultant – Health Field Coordinator, SSA 8  
- Executive Assistant – Data Management, SSA 5  
- Consultant - Tracking the expenditure of Bangladesh Essential Health Service Package (ESP), NO-D  
For further details on the terms of reference and deadline for applications, please visit our website: <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>  
Qualified **female candidates** are highly encouraged to apply.  
WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

**RFP Ref. No. LRPS-BAN-2020-9162358**  
**Request for Proposal (RFP): To provide Fumigation and Pest control Services for UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office (BCO) under Long-Term Agreement (LTA).**  
UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above-required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org"  
Pre-bid Meeting date: **Please see the schedule mentioned in the RFP**  
The deadline to submit the proposal is **Thursday, 05 November 2020; Time: 11:00 Hrs.**  
**Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.**  
www.unicef.org.bd

**চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর**  
মৎস্য বন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম  
চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দরের স্বতন্ত্র ইলেকট্রিক সাবস্টেশন যন্ত্রপাতি এবং ক্যাবল ক্রয় ও সংস্থাপন কাজ সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	দরপত্রের বিষয়	১০২২.৭৩ কিলোগ্রামট ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন স্বতন্ত্র ইলেকট্রিক সাবস্টেশন যন্ত্রপাতি ও ক্যাবল ক্রয় এবং সংস্থাপন।
২	সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ০২ নভেম্বর ২০২০খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা।
৩	দরপত্রের সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর, ইছানন্দর, কর্ণফুলী, চট্টগ্রাম এবং প্রধান কার্যালয়, বামউক, বিএফডিসি ভবন, ২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা।
৪	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ০৯ নভেম্বর ২০২০খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান এবং খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর, মৎস্য বন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম। তারিখঃ ০৯ নভেম্বর ২০২০খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
৬	অনুসন্ধানের জন্য যোগাযোগ	সেল ফোনঃ ০১৭১৬-১৬৯০৬২ (চট্টগ্রাম), ০১৭১৬-৩৭৯৪০৮ (ঢাকা)।

জিডি-১৬৫৬ ম্যাবাবহাপক

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ecosystem based development, management and conservation of the Saint Martin's Island Project  
Department of Environment  
E-16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207  
[www.doe.gov.bd](http://www.doe.gov.bd)  
No. 22.02.0000.040.14.067.19.195 Date: 18/10/2020

**Invitation for Re-Tender**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
2	Agency	Department of Environment.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, 'Ecosystem based development, management and conservation of the Saint Martin's Island' Project.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Procurement of Mooring Buoys for safe anchorage of fishing boats in Saint Martin Island.
6	Invitation Ref. No.	G1/2019-2020.
7	Date	18/10/2020.

**KEY INFORMATION**

8	Procurement method	OTM.
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

9	Budget and source of funds	GoB.
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

10	Project/programme	224073600.
11	Project/programme name	'Ecosystem based development, management and conservation of the Saint Martin's Island' Project.
12	Tender package No.	G1/2019-2020.
13	Tender package name	Procurement of Mooring Buoys for safe anchorage of fishing boats in Saint Martin Island.
14	Tender publication date	18/10/2020.
15	Tender last selling date	05/11/2020.
16	Tender closing date and time	08/11/2020. 12:00pm
17	Selling tender document	Room-1102, 10th Floor, Paribesh Bhaban, E-16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
18	Tender opening date & time	08/11/2020 12:30pm

No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents

19	Receiving tender document	Room-1102, 10th Floor, Paribesh Bhaban, E-16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
	Opening tender document	Room-1102, 10th Floor, Paribesh Bhaban, E-16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

20	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minimum general experience of the tenderer in the supply of similar goods as supplier shall be 05 (five) years.</li> <li>The minimum specific experience as supplier in making and supply of mooring buoys should be at least 05 years with a value of at least Tk 50 lac.</li> <li>The minimum liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 80 lac.</li> <li>Valid income tax certificate, Vat registration &amp; trade licence.</li> </ul>
21	Brief description of goods	Mooring Buoys for safe anchorage.
22	Brief description of related services	Mooring Buoys for safe anchorage.
23	Price of tender document	BDT 1000.00.

Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
24	1 G1/2019-2020 (Procurement of Mooring Buoys for safe anchorage of fishing boats in Saint Martin Island)	Paribesh Bhaban	3% of tender money	90 (ninety) days after signing agreement

25	Name of official inviting tender	Mohammed Solaiman Haider.
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, 'Ecosystem based development, management and conservation of the Saint Martin's Island' Project.
27	Address of official inviting tender	Room-1102, 10th Floor, Paribesh Bhaban, E-16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	02-8181779.
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

Mohammed Solaiman Haider  
Project Director  
GD-1662





The broken bridge at Baghpara village in Mymensingh's Dhobaura upazila

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## A bridge without a guardian

Damaged five years ago, it brought misery to hundreds; but it failed to invoke responsibly of public servants and representatives alike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Hundreds of inhabitants of 20 villages in Dhobaura upazila are living in misery since the bridge on the Indian Chhora river, running through Baghpara village, collapsed partially five years ago.

However, in these long years, the authorities did not feel any obligation to the citizens by reconstructing the 48-metre-long section of the bridge.

The collapsed section of the bridge was built in 2009 on Charuapara-Baghpara road. It sustained extensive damage by strong current and erosion of the river in 2015.

Locals said the breach of communication due to the broken bridge is not only causing sufferings, but it is also having a negative impact on the residents' livelihoods in the 20 villages of Dakshin Maizpara union.

Especially for residents of Baghpara,

Munsipara, Gilagora, Kashipur, Ballabhpur, Kalikapur, Ramsinghpur, Koroigora, Nayapara and Digalbagh villages, this bridge has been the only means of communications with the upazila and district headquarters.

When even motorbikes and bicycles struggle to cross the bridge, crossing it in any other form of vehicle, let alone transporting critical patients, is absolutely impossible, they also said.

"We petitioned the department concerned and public representatives to reconstruct the bridge on numerous occasions, but no steps were taken. We're really frustrated and left it for fate to decide," Shahidul Islam, a resident of Ramsinghpur village said.

"Contestants of local or national elections always make fantastical development pledges. But the pledges are shelved after the poll is over," he said frustratingly.

Jalal Uddin, from Kashipur village, said

if schools were open now, students of six educational institutions including three primary schools, situated on either sides of the bridge, would have to risk their lives to cross the broken bridge.

Moreover, farmers in this agricultural community are paying a heavy price for not being able to send their produce and goods to markets in time, the elderly man added.

Farmer Abdul Kadir, from Ramsinghpur village, said unable to ship out their produce to markets, local farmers are being compelled to sell those at rock-bottom prices to wholesale buyers.

Contacted, Shahinur Ferdous, engineer of Local Government Engineering Department in Dhobaura upazila, said they recently submitted a project proposal with the ministry concerned for reconstruction of the bridge's damaged section.

Once approved, they hope to start the work this year, he also said.

## Govt rice dealer 'fleecing' poor in Baralekha

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Allegations are surfacing about a rice dealer who is giving short weight to recipients of an affordable rice distribution programme of the government in Moulvibazar's Baralekha upazila.

Many of the recipients of the rice, under the government's "khadya bandhab" programme for the poor in haor areas of Sujanagar union, said the rice dealer, Bikash Chandra Das, has been giving each recipient 25 to 26 kilogram of rice, instead of the 30-kg allotment for each individual.

The irregularity in distribution has been possible as the supervising government officer, known as the 'tag officer', has not been present during the distribution of rice, they also alleged.

On September 20, the dealer collected 9,270 kg of rice -- under the "khadya bandhab" programme for Sujanagar union -- from government food warehouse in Baralekha upazila, said Mostaq Ahmed, food control officer in Baralekha upazila.

Each of the 309 cardholders in the union is supposed to be able to buy 30 kg of the rice for Tk 300 from the dealer, he added.

Aside from giving short weight, the dealer is also distributing rice to multiple cardholders together, alleged a number of cardholders.

Sajon Kumar Biswas, from Barathal village, said he saw a 50-kg sack and another 10-kg sack being handed over together to two different cardholders.

Cardholder Muhibur Rahman, from Eidgah Bari in Saldiga village, said he paid Tk 300 to the rice dealer for 30 kg of rice but he received only 25 kg in return.

The 'tag officer' officer was not present during the distribution that day, he also said.

Barathal village resident Akkas Ali said the dealer also fleeced him of his money by giving him only 26 kg of rice in exchange for Tk 300.

Bakul Mia, another cardholder from the same village, the dealer has been fleecing people by not using any weighing scale

during distribution.

Asked about the accusation, dealer Bikash Chandra Das claimed that only a handful of people might receive short weight as some of the bags of rice he had received from the food warehouse were underweight.

However, he said he did not make any formal complaint about the "rice shortage" to the upazila food control officer.

According to the rules of the government's rice distribution programme for the poor, each cardholder is eligible to buy 30 kg of rice every month for Tk 10 each kg and it is mandatory to use a weighing scale during the distribution process, said

The irregularity in distribution has been possible as the supervising government officer, known as the 'tag officer', has not been present during the distribution of rice.

Mostaq Ahmed, the upazila food control officer.

He said he has asked the officer-in-charge at the upazila food warehouse to investigate into the claim of rice bags, dispatched from the warehouse, being underweight and also as to why a 'tag officer' on behalf of the government is not overseeing the rice distribution programme in Sujanagar union.

When asked what action would be taken against the rice dealer in Sujanagar, he said it is a gross violation of the rules to distribute the rice to multiple recipients under one transaction.

He would launch an investigation over the alleged fleecing of the poor by the rice dealer and take legal action against him if he is found guilty in the investigation, he also said.

## Primary school under river erosion threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Students of a government primary school in Sadar upazila of the district is facing uncertainty as the institution is under threat of being washed away due to continuous erosion by the Beghati river.

Established on 33 decimals of land in 1999, there are five teachers and 102 students studying at different classes from Class I to Class V.

Head teacher of Hatbakua Government Primary School Sayeda Parvin said the school ground is facing serious erosion threat as the Beghati river is only 70 to 80 feet away.

Around 60 feet portion of the school ground has already been washed away by the river in the last couple of years, she said, adding that students of the institution cannot play any games and sports.

Moreover, they cannot even arrange students' assembly on the school ground.

Sayeda said the school needs a demarcation wall and its playground should be filled with earth immediately.

"I have talked to the Sadar upazila education officer several times in this regard, but to no effect," Sayeda said.

Besides, the school has a 100 per cent pass rate in the PSC exams for two



A large portion of the playground of Hatbakua Government Primary School in Jhenidah Sadar upazila have already been washed away by the Beghati river, and the school may be devoured soon.

PHOTO: AZIBOR RAHMAN

consecutive years in 2018 and 2019.

Papia Khatun, an assistant teacher of the school, said they are worried about the remaining part of the school ground as it is being gradually washed away but authorities concerned are not taking necessary steps despite repeated pleas.

Al-Amin, a Class V student of the institution, said they cannot play sports

as most part of the school ground has already been washed away due to river erosion.

Fourth-grader Samia khatun echoed the same.

Acting Sadar Upazila Education Officer Sudhangsu Shekhar Biswas said he will take necessary step in this regard after visiting the school soon.

## Missing youth found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Police recovered the body of a youth in Melandah upazila yesterday, seven days after he went missing on October 12.

The deceased, Abdul Malek, 30, an auto-rickshaw driver, was son of Dulal Miah of Burunga village.

Meanwhile, police detained two people for their alleged involvement in the murder.

Malek went out of his house with his auto-rickshaw on October 12 and remained missing since then, OC of Melandah Police Station Rezaul Islam said.

The following day, Malek's wife Rita Begum filed a general diary (GD) with the police station, he added.

On secret information, police recovered Malek's auto-rickshaw from the house of one Shafiqul Islam Sadhu, 30, at Nalkuri village Sunday night, the OC said.

Later, according to Sadhu's statement, police recovered Malek's decomposed body from a canal in Munsiri Nangla area yesterday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার		
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		১৯ অক্টোবর/২০২০খ্রিঃ
<b>দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি</b>		
০১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	যশস্রী মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২.	সম্প্রদায়িক কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	জেলা সুপার, কুষ্টিয়া জেলা কারাগার।
০৩.	দরপত্রের নাম	কুষ্টিয়া জেলা কারাগারের ০১-০১-২০২১খ্রিঃ হতে ৩১-১২-২০২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সময়ের বিভিন্ন প্রকার বাসনাবাহী ১ম বার দরপত্র সরবরাহের জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত করা টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী নিয়োগের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি।
০৪.	ইচ্ছুক দরদাতাদের ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা	দরপত্র সিডিউলের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী।
০৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র	বিভাগীয় সদর দপ্তর, যশোরের পত্র নং-৫৮.০৪.৪০০০.০৬৪.০৩.০০৪.২০২০-৩৭০৪ তারিখ ১১ অক্টোবর, ২০২০খ্রিঃ।
০৬.	বাজেট ও স্বাক্ষর প্রাপ্তির উৎস	জাতীয় রাজস্ব তহবিল।
০৭.	দরপত্র আহ্বান পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
০৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	১। জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া জেলা কারাগার। ২। কারা উপ-মহাপরিদর্শকের কার্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া জেলা কারাগার, সদর দপ্তর, যশোর। ৩। কারা উপ-মহাপরিদর্শকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা।
০৯.	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৯/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	সিডিউল জমা দেওয়ার স্থান	(১) কুষ্টিয়া জেলা কারাগার। (২) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া। (৩) সদর থানা, কুষ্টিয়া।
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া জেলা কারাগার।
১২.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।
১৩.	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার পরিমাণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত PG-3 অনুযায়ী।
১৪.	কার্যদানের সময়সীমা	কুষ্টিয়া জেলা কারাগারের ০১-০১-২০২১খ্রিঃ হতে ৩১-১২-২০২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত।
১৫.	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে	দরপত্র সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত শর্তাবলী।
১৬.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	জেলা সুপার, কুষ্টিয়া জেলা কারাগার, কুষ্টিয়া।
১৭.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১০/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ সকাল ৯:০০ হইতে ২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৮.	দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলার এবং মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলার তারিখ ও সময় ১০/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা। মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময় ১১/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৯.	দরদাতাদের প্রতি বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	দরপত্র সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী পাঠ্যে ফর্মে/ব্যক্তিগতভাবে অবহিত হয়ে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
২০.	দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যেকোন তথ্যাবলী জানার জন্য অত্র কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।	
২১.	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যেকোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
যেহেতু তাৎক্ষণিক উদ্ভিদ নিয়া বিঃ-০১৮৩২০০৫০৮ জেলা সুপার কুষ্টিয়া জেলা কারাগার ফোন/ফ্যাক্স ০৭১-৬২০৯১ (দপ্তর)		
জিডি-১৬৬৩		

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

যৌথমূলধন কোম্পানি ও ফার্মসমূহের পরিদপ্তর

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**কোম্পানির কমন সিল**

**অবলোপন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, দেশে ব্যবসা বান্ধব পরিবেশ সৃষ্টি এবং Ease of Doing Business Report এ বাংলাদেশের অবস্থান এগিয়ে আনার লক্ষ্যে কোম্পানি আইন, ১৯৯৪ এ কোম্পানির ব্যবহার্য কমন সিল/সাধারণ সিল/সিলমোহর সংশ্লিষ্ট ধারাসমূহ অবলোপন করে কোম্পানি (সংশোধন) আইন, ২০২০ মহান জাতীয় সংসদে পাস হওয়ায় আইনটি ২৫/০২/২০২০ তারিখে বাংলাদেশ গেজেটের অতিরিক্ত সংখ্যা হিসেবে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। আইনের সংশোধনীটি সংশ্লিষ্ট স্টেকহোল্ডারগণ অবগতি ও প্রয়োজনীয় কার্যক্রমের জন্য [www.roc.gov.bd](http://www.roc.gov.bd) ওয়েবসাইট হতে ডাউনলোড করে নিতে পারবেন।

বর্ণিত সংশোধনীতে কোম্পানি আইন, ১৯৯৪ এ কোম্পানির কমন সিল/সাধারণ সিল/সিলমোহর সংশ্লিষ্ট ধারাসমূহ অবলোপন হওয়ায় আরজেএসসিতে নিবন্ধন ও রিটার্ন দাখিলসহ যে কোন দপ্তর/সংস্থার সাথে কোম্পানি কর্তৃক কোন দলিল/কাগজপত্রাদি/ডকুমেন্টস ইত্যাদি সম্পাদনের ক্ষেত্রে কমন সিল ব্যবহারের আবশ্যিক হবে না।

জিডি-১৬৬১ কর্তৃপক্ষ

**বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়**

প্রশাসন শাখা

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

[www.parliament.gov.bd](http://www.parliament.gov.bd)

১.	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	: বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়।
২.	অর্ধের উৎস	: জিওবি।
৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ও তারিখ	: ১১.০০.০০০০.৬০৪.২৬.০০৭.২০/৫৪৪, তারিখঃ ১৫/১০/২০২০ খ্রিঃ।
৪.	দরপত্রের ধরণ	: ওপেন টেন্ডার।
৫.	মালামালের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	: জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ে বিনামান ডাটা সেন্টারের Cisco প্রোডাক্টসমূহের Con Activation এবং Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC)
৬.	সেবা সরবরাহের সময়	: ০৩ (তিন) বছরের জন্য অথবা চুক্তি অনুযায়ী।
৭.	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	: দরপত্রের সাথে ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থবছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ২০২০-২০২১ কর বর্ষের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (কোম্পানির ক্ষেত্রে সর্বশেষ আর্থিক বছরের পরিশোধিত আয়কর সনদপত্র), ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র (১১ ডিজিটেল)/বিন নম্বর, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট (সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ হতে), সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের ৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র প্রথম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। এছাড়াও দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী এক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে।
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	: প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য নয়)।
৯.	Tender security tender validity period	: Tender security (ফেরতযোগ্য)ঃ ১,০৫,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন থেকে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন।
১০.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	: সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (প্রশাসন) (উত্তর-পূর্ব ব্লক, লেভেল-১, কক্ষ নং-১০১), জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-১২২৫ এর বারবার ২ কপি আবেদনপত্র ও এনআইডি ফটোকপি সহ সিডিউল ক্রয় এবং দাখিলের সময় সাথে আনতে হবে।
১১.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	: ২২ অক্টোবর ২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০:০০টা হতে ০৮ নভেম্বর ২০২০ তারিখ অপরাহ্ন ৩:০০টা পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন।
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিল এবং খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	: দাখিলঃ ০৯ নভেম্বর ২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ৯:০০টা হতে বেলা ১২:০০টা পর্যন্ত। খোলাঃ ০৯ নভেম্বর ২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ১:০৫ মিনিট। স্থানঃ উপসচিব (প্রশাসন-১) অধিশাখা, কক্ষ নম্বর ৭৪১, পূর্ব ব্লক, লেভেল-৭, জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
১৩.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	: কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৪.	টেডার আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	: এ. এস. এম. হুমায়ুন কবীর, সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব, প্রশাসন শাখা, জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২২৫, ফোনঃ ৯১৩১০০/২১৮৮, ৫৫০২৯০০৭
২।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ের <a href="http://www.Parliament.gov.bd">www.Parliament.gov.bd</a> ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।	

এ. এস. এম. হুমায়ুন কবীর  
সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব  
ফোনঃ ৯১২৫৩৮৯

জিডি-১৬৬০





A pro-democracy protester uses a loudspeaker to address the crowd and gives the three-finger salute during an anti-government rally at Kaset intersection in Bangkok yesterday, as they continue to defy an emergency decree banning gatherings.

PHOTO: AFP

## Pak anti-govt protest gathers steam

Opposition alliance accuses govt of plotting to divide it after mass rally demands PM Khan to go

AGENCIES

Pakistan opposition parties yesterday accused the Prime Minister Imran Khan led government of plotting to divide their unity by dirty politics, a day after tens of thousands of opposition supporters rallied in Karachi as part of a campaign to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan, who they accuse of being installed by the military in a rigged election two years ago.

The mass demonstration in Karachi was the second in three days launched by Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), formed last month by nine major opposition parties to begin a nationwide agitation against the government.

Under Khan, Pakistan has experienced mounting censorship of the media and a crackdown on dissent, critics and opposition. But the campaign against him sought to tap into discontent over his handling of the economy, which was tanking even before the global coronavirus pandemic struck.

"You've snatched jobs from people. You have snatched two-time a day food from the people," Maryam Nawaz, the daughter and political heir of the former three-time premier Nawaz Sharif, told the rally.

In the early hours yesterday, police arrested her husband Muhammad Safdar following complaints from Khan's Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) party that he had raised political slogans at the mausoleum of Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, an action deemed illegal.

"Police broke my room door at the hotel I was staying at in Karachi and arrested Capt. Safdar," Nawaz tweeted yesterday morning. A spokesman of the provincial government said police had not acted on their orders.

Maryam Nawaz, also PML-N's vice-president, and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman claimed that Safdar was arrested with the aim of dividing the opposition's anti-government alliance.

During Sunday's rally she had shared the platform with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the PPP president whose party governs Karachi.

"Our farmers have hunger in their homes... our youth is disappointed," said Zardari.

The message struck a chord with their supporters, in a country now suffering double digit inflation and negative economic growth.

On Friday, the opposition held a mass rally in Punjab, a stronghold for Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (N). Addressing the rally via video link from London, Nawaz Sharif accused army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa of rigging the 2018 elections and orchestrating his ouster in 2017, saying the corruption charges brought against him were concocted.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### French police raid Islamist groups after beheading

French police yesterday raided the homes of dozens of suspected Islamist militants three days after the beheading of a teacher who had shown his pupils cartoons deemed inappropriate to Muslims, the interior minister said. The raids came a day after tens of thousands of people took part in rallies countrywide to honour slain teacher Samuel Paty and to defend freedom of expression. Gerald Darmanin said the swoop on Islamist networks was designed to send a message that "enemies of the Republic" would not enjoy "a minute's respite". Paty, 47, was murdered on his way home from the school where he taught in a suburb northwest of Paris on Friday afternoon. A photo of the teacher and a message confessing to his murder was found on the mobile phone of his killer, an 18-year-old Chechen man Abdullah Anzorov, who was shot dead by police.

#### Taiwan, Chinese officials scuffled in Fiji: report

A physical clash between Taiwan and Chinese officials at a diplomatic reception in Fiji left the rival powers trading allegations of assault yesterday. Taipei accused two Chinese officials of gatecrashing an event at the luxurious Grand Pacific Hotel in the Fijian capital Suva on October 8 and assaulting an employee, putting him in hospital. The Chinese embassy in Fiji confirmed its officials were in "public area outside the function venue" on unspecified "official duties" on the day of the incident. But the Chinese embassy claimed the Taiwanese mission's staff "acted provocatively" and caused "injuries and damage to one Chinese diplomat". Both sides said they had asked the Fijian police and other island authorities to investigate. A Fiji police spokeswoman told AFP the probe was ongoing and its officers were working on the issue with the Pacific nation's foreign affairs ministry. She declined to provide further details. China regards democratic Taiwan as a rebel province and has vowed to one day seize the self-ruled island.

#### New fighting over Karabakh

A new ceasefire agreed between Armenia and Azerbaijan to halt fighting over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh was again failing to hold yesterday as both sides accused each other of fresh attacks. The truce, backed by international mediators to put a stop to three weeks of fighting that has left hundreds dead, was supposed to have come into force at midnight Sunday but both sides immediately accused each other of violating the deal. UN chief Antonio Guterres on Sunday called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to "fully abide" by the new ceasefire, his spokesman said. The clashes over Karabakh that erupted on September 27 have left more than 700 dead, according to official tolls, but the real number may be much higher.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## PM vows to protect monarchy

Calls parliament session; probe launched against media over protest coverage

AGENCIES

Thailand's embattled premier yesterday vowed to protect monarchy and called for a special session of parliament as protesters planned more rallies to demand his resignation, the release of jailed activists, and reforms to the monarchy.

Tens of thousands of mostly young protesters have taken to the streets in the past week in defiance of an emergency decree banning gatherings of more than four people.

Police said around 20,000 people protested against the capital Sunday, although activists and local media estimated much bigger crowds.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha yesterday said parliament - currently in recess - would be recalled to discuss how to reduce tensions. "We support opening an extraordinary session to solve this conflict," he told reporters, warning protesters not to break the law.

"The thing the government must do is to protect the monarchy. This is the duty for all Thai citizens to perform," Prayut continued.

### THAI DEMOCRACY PROTESTS



"I would call for peaceful protests, the government has reasonably given in. We are avoiding using force as much as we can.

The largely leaderless movement is calling for the resignation of Prayut - a former army chief and mastermind of a 2014 coup - as well as the re-writing of the military-drafted constitution they say rigged last year's election in his favour.

Most controversially, protesters are also making unprecedented demands to reform the powerful and ultra-wealthy monarchy. They want the abolition of a draconian

defamation law that shields King Maha Vajiralongkorn from criticism, greater transparency of royal finances, and for the monarch to stay out of politics.

Prayut has said he will not quit.

The movement appeared to be gaining traction across the country with smaller protests taking place Sunday from Phuket in the south to Khon Kaen in the northeast.

Apart from arrests by police, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society said it had flagged more than 325,000 messages on social media platforms that violated the Computer Crimes Act, which critics say is used to muzzle dissent.

Thai police yesterday said they had ordered an investigation of four news outlets under emergency measures introduced last week and imposed curbs on messaging app Telegram to try to stop protests.

By midday, #SaveFreePress was the latest hashtag trending on Thai Twitter, one of several platforms being used by tech-savvy protesters to coordinate their activity.

### TENSIONS ALONG LAC

## India buys high altitude warfare kits from US

Chinese soldier detained in Ladakh

AGENCIES

As the tensions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at the eastern Ladakh ages for months with no sign of dissolution, the Indian side has bought high altitude warfare kits from the US on an urgent basis, reports suggest citing officials with the knowledge of the matter.

The step could be significant as the area of tension is very well known for its bone-chilling temperature and war at such place is dangerous.

The Indian Army used an agreement which allows the two militaries to take logistical assistance from each other such as buying fuel and spare parts for warships and aircraft, for the transaction, The Statesman reported citing the officials, who opted to remain anonymous.

Both sides have poured tens of thousands of troops into the border zone since fighting a pitched battle in June in which 20 Indian troops and an unknown number of Chinese soldiers were killed.

Meanwhile, India yesterday said that it had detained a Chinese soldier who strayed across the disputed frontier. The People's Liberation Army corporal was "apprehended" in the high altitude freezing desert area of Ladakh after crossing into Indian-controlled territory along their poorly demarcated border, an Indian army statement said.

India named the Chinese soldier who "strayed" as Corporal Wang Ya Long and said he had been given medical treatment against the extreme climate. India said the PLA had already made an approach and the corporal would be returned "as per established protocols".

Several rounds of talks have failed to significantly ease tensions and the neighbours - who blame each other for the standoff - are now digging in for a harsh winter at 4,200 metres in a region where temperatures regularly fall below minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit).



Riot police clash with demonstrators during a protest against Chile's government in Santiago, Chile, on Sunday. Two churches were torched as tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered Sunday in a central Santiago square to mark the anniversary of a protest movement that broke out last year demanding greater equality in Chile. The demonstration comes just a week before Chileans vote in a referendum on whether to replace the dictatorship-era constitution -- one of the key demands when the protest movement began in October 2019.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Trump risks losing Rust Belt counties

In 2016, he won these on the economy, in 2020, he might lose them over coronavirus

REUTERS

Tanya Wojciak, a lifelong Republican and suburban mom from northeast Ohio, is the kind of battleground state voter President Donald Trump can't afford to lose - but already has.

She is angry at Trump's handling of the novel coronavirus crisis that has killed more than 219,000 Americans, the largest death toll of any country. She lost a friend to Covid-19 in April.

Wojciak, 39, said Trump's spotty use of masks and repeated attempts to downplay the seriousness of the coronavirus - even after being hospitalized for it himself - is "not presidential at all." She said she regrets voting for him four years ago. A hand-painted Biden sign now graces her front lawn in Cortland.

Some 547 km east, in Bangor, Pennsylvania, Leo Bongiorno says he, too, is voting for Biden after sitting out the 2016 contest.

Customers at Bongiorno's brewery and eatery, Bangor Trust Brewing, remained scarce even after Pennsylvania began to ease its bar-and-restaurant restrictions in June. Daily Covid-19 infections in the state reached their highest totals since mid-April this month, and Bongiorno says many of his regulars are too nervous to go to bars.



The federal relief loan he received was less than he would have made collecting unemployment checks, and the brewery's monthly bills dwarf sales. He said the country needs a president who understands what small businesses need to survive a pandemic - and that isn't Trump.

Rust Belt battleground states including Ohio and Pennsylvania handed Trump the White House in 2016, and they will again help decide the Nov 3 election. Four years ago, Trump's

message of economic revitalization won votes from many white, working-class voters who had cast ballots for Democrat Barack Obama in 2012.

Many of those voters remain loyal to the president. Still, support for Trump is slipping in these states this year, and the pandemic is a big reason why. Reuters/Ipsos polling, conducted Oct. 9-13, showed 50% of likely voters nationwide feel Biden would be better at managing the pandemic response, compared to 37% for Trump.

Opinion polling in the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin shows that voters there, too, think Biden is the better candidate to lead on the coronavirus.

In 2016, many residents in these states liked Trump's protectionist trade philosophy, strong defense of gun rights and hard-line stance on immigration. Now some have had enough.

The Biden campaign has also have made major inroads among older voters, who are afraid of the virus. Trump won the 55-plus age group by 13 percentage points in 2016. The two candidates now split American voters aged 55 years and older almost evenly: 47% say they will vote for Biden, while 46% back Trump.

### POST-BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS

## UK, EU mull how to break deadlock following threats

AFP, London

Britain and the European Union held fresh meetings yesterday to try to unlock their Brexit impasse after London threatened to walk out and go its own way next year despite warnings of further damage to the Covid-hit economy.

The UK government launched an information campaign advising businesses that "time is running out" to be ready for a complex new trading chapter with a post-Brexit transition period expiring at the end of this year, deal or no deal.

But industry groups continue to warn of potential chaos for road hauliers and the possibility of drugs shortages, as vital preparations remain in the early stages ahead of Britain unwinding nearly five decades of European integration.

Senior minister Michael Gove said Sunday the door remained "ajar" for an overarching trade deal to remove much of the uncertainty if the EU shifts position,

despite Prime Minister Boris Johnson declaring last week he was ready to abandon talks.

Gove met European Commission vice president Maros Sefcovic in London yesterday morning to discuss the two sides' existing divorce treaty, which Britain has threatened to redraw through a new internal market bill to regulate post-Brexit trade within the UK.

The contentious law has passed Britain's House of Commons and was due later yesterday to come up for debate in the upper chamber, the House of Lords.

The two sides disagree on state subsidies, how rules on fair competition will be policed and how much access EU fishing fleets will get to UK waters.

Failure to strike a deal would see Britain and Europe revert to World Trade Organization terms, with tariffs and quotas for businesses, potentially devastating for economies already weakened by the pandemic.





## LAW INTERVIEW

# Combatting rape: A more effective strategy is to properly enforce existing laws

Mitali Jahan is an Advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh; she is currently working as the Programme Manager of Human Rights and Legal Aid Services (HRLS) Programme at BRAC. Previously, she worked as Project Coordinator of Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association (BNWLA). She has more than fourteen years of experiences of dealing with the issues of violence prevention, protection, law enforcement, policy/law reforms and changing practices. She has delivered technical assistance to the government for drafting and amending several laws and policies i.e. Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act 2010, the Children Act, 2013, National Plan of Action on violence against women and children. Mitali is a member of different national & international rights-based networks. In light of the rise in rape cases in recent times and the subsequent enactment of an Ordinance increasing the punishment of rape to death, Tahseen Lubaba from Law Desk talks to her on the following issues.

**LD:** What, in your opinion, are the reasons of the recent surge in incidence of rape?

**MJ:** Rape culture is nothing new; it has always existed. In the present pandemic situation, the incidents have gone up. There is not one specific factor that has resulted in the rise. When rapes happen on a large scale, it means that our social institutions have failed. Our surroundings, families, schools etc. collectively create a system of impunity and are not playing their respective roles in preventing these incidents of violence. Our literacy rate is improving but our perceptions have not changed. Moreover, the criminal justice system is not sufficiently equipped - conviction rate of rape is extremely low. As a result, most accused walk free. It is true that an accused cannot be convicted unless the crime has been proved beyond reasonable doubt. However, the low rate of conviction is a result of legal and social factors. One such factor is that the victims are reluctant to come forward out of fear of stigmatisation, isolation and further violence. Even in the instances where cases are filed, it becomes challenging to collect proper evidence and the burden falls on the victim to prove that they are of 'good character'. Although the laws state that cases must be disposed of within 180 days, to the best of my knowledge, there are almost no instances where this has been implemented.

A culture of impunity results in repeated offence by perpetrators and also encourages

We must continually challenge rape culture and this change must start from our families, schools and social institutions. These changes cannot be brought about overnight; advocacy must continue till necessary reforms are achieved.



others to engage in similar behaviour. The increase in rape is currently creating countrywide outrage, but it is important to remember that the advocacy cannot end here. We must continually challenge rape culture and this change must start from our families, schools and social institutions. These changes cannot be brought about overnight; advocacy must continue till necessary reforms are achieved. Political will of the government is crucial for the realisation of these reforms.

**LD:** What are the challenges of legal enforcement of the rights of rape victims?

**MJ:** Our laws are a continuation of the colonial legacy. Although the government has enacted the *Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain* in 2000 with stringent punishments, there is still a need to change the definition of rape. The definition in its current form excludes cases of rape of transgender persons, rape of male persons or marital rape when the bride is not aged below 13 years. The Evidence Act 1872 allows for the admission of character evidence of the prosecutrix which works as a huge barrier in

achieving convictions. NGOs and rights activists have been advocating for reforms in these areas. There have also been concerns raised regarding the need to train judges, prosecution, law enforcement etc. in order to facilitate gender-sensitivity in the justice system.

The national helpline for violence against women can be an effective first point of contact but a victim has to go through the existing justice system if they want to seek redress. We have seen that the national helpline as well as non-governmental legal aid services were open during the lockdown and incidence of violence had been reported. But we faced difficulties while providing them assistance. Moreover, the closing of the courts was also a challenge. Our court systems largely rely on physical presence; this has posed a lot of difficulties in accessing justice in recent times. To sum it up, the existing helpline and legal aid services should be appreciated for creating a response mechanism system but they have some limitations which must be evaluated.

**LD:** Do you think increasing the punishment of rape to death is an effective solution?

**MJ:** Arguments exist both in favour of and against the imposition of death penalty. On one hand, some countries have abolished death penalty and contrarily, a few countries have enforced death penalty for rape. However, to curb rape, it is important to ensure that the existing laws are being effectively implemented. The pre-existing provision of life sentence is in itself a harsh punishment but despite that, we have collectively failed to reduce the incidence of rape. Harsh punishments may or may not deter crimes, but they cannot be the solution. A more effective strategy is to properly enforce existing laws. Moreover, punishments are punitive and not restorative.

Compensation may be a remedial solution. Victims incur large expenses if they want to bring their cases before the court. Compensation may provide assistance in this regard. However, as the conviction rate itself is very low, many victims may not be able to benefit from the compensation unless it is provided independent of conviction. In India, there is a central rape victim compensation fund which supports the victims in accessing justice. Compensation may also help the victims in restoring their places in society.

**LD:** What role do you think NGOs can play in facilitating access to justice for rape victims?

**MJ:** The NGOs are like the shadow of the government, in my opinion. NGOs can play an assisting role but the ultimate responsibility of bringing about positive changes remains with the government. NGOs have worked in individual capacities and in cooperation with each other to advocate for change and create community engagement at the grassroots levels. They play a vital role in bridging the gap between communities and the formal justice system. They also conduct research and make recommendations for reforms. In short, NGOs have a vital role in the fight for gender-justice.

**LD:** Thank you for your time.

**MJ:** You are welcome.

## REVIEWING THE VIEWS

## On 'Death Penalty' and the need for other reforms in rape laws

BARRISTER SAYEERA TASHFIA AWWAL

The mistaken belief of patriarchal masculinity and the subjugation of women with the want of treating them as an object have spurred the number of rape cases in Bangladesh over the years. This article focuses on the significance of death penalty in rape cases and few other reforms that should be considered in the rape laws in Bangladesh for effective access to justice.

According to *Ain o Salish Kendra* (ASK), 975 women were raped, including 208 subjected to gang-rape, from January to September 30 this year. Of them, 45 were killed after rape and 12 others killed themselves. Besides, it said, 161 women were subjected to sexual harassment and 12 of them took their own lives during the period. While in the past years, 1,413 women fell victim to rape in 2019, 732 in 2018 and 818 in 2017 respectively, according to reports given by ASK.

With the upsurge in the number of rape victims, it has recently outgrown all its previous records during the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, unreported incidents by victims due to obvious reasons of social and cultural impunity had given the perpetrators way more opportunities than before. Amongst the many cases, the most preponderant are the recent incidents of gang rape in Sylhet and sexual violence in Noakhali which have been wake up calls for the law and policy makers of the country. Bangladesh Cabinet on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October speedily approved a draft law to include death penalty as the highest punishment for rape. To this effect, the *Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain* (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 has also been promulgated without further delay.

Earlier, the rape laws in the country were dominated by the regressive laws passed in the British colonial era. The punishment for rape as stipulated in section 376 of Penal Code 1860 ranged from a term of ten years with a maximum life imprisonment and fine. Only in extreme cases where the victim died as a consequence of committing rape, the defendant would have been convicted with death penalty.

It is believed that imposing death penalty for rape defendants will drastically decrease

the commission of crime due to the fear of extreme punishment. It should act as a preventive measure as well as serve the purpose of deterrence in the greater community. Therefore, it is a timely initiative for Bangladesh to walk in this line considering the uncontrollable rate at which rape is increasing.

However, there are also a number of other restraining reasons which as a whole are making the country unable to uproot this menace. These include questioning on the basis of character of the rape victim, lack of victim protection measures, reluctance of police officers to file the case, victim humiliation, political backing and of course a lengthy trial often resulting in the case being settled.

Section 155(4) of the Evidence Act 1872 allows questioning the character of rape victims to impeach her credibility. Hence if she can be proved to have a bad reputation or character in the court which is a very common scenario, the defendant can easily escape full liability. This is a recurring issue which needs amendment. Also, lack of victim protective measures precludes the victims from opening up about the incident in fear of threat and further injury. Section 14 and section 20 of the *Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain* 2000 prohibits the disclosure of identity of the victim and encourages examination within closed door room by the judge. However, lack of implementation of these provisions still persists vastly.

Absence of any victim and witness protection laws in Bangladesh also exposes the victims and witnesses to unwanted danger leading to further social repression. Neighboring countries such as Pakistan has already enacted the Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act 2017 while India is on its way with the approval of the Witness Protection Scheme 2018 by the Supreme Court of India.

To conclude, a holistic approach needs to be taken by the Government. Imposing death penalty as the maximum punishment for rape was much-awaited but this will not be enough to combat the crime if access to justice is not ensured in the coming days.

THE WRITER IS AN ASSOCIATE AT TASHMIA PRUDHAN & ASSOCIATES.

## BOOK REVIEW

## Of Atrocities and Obligation: Accusing Pakistan for 'Double-Edged' Violation?

LIMA AKTAR

Unlike its domestic analogy, International Criminal Law (ICL) has refuted the principle of 'non-retrospectivity', establishing the trial-based justice for the *jus cogens crimes* (genocide, war crime, crime against humanity etc). Moreover, to emphasise the trial for international crimes, ICL is now embarking on the *erga omnes* principle by virtue of which any state assumes obligation to bring the perpetrators under investigation and prosecution. The failure or unwillingness to prosecute the perpetrators gives birth to another wrongful act (omission) of the state that it must cease immediately.

Considering this perspective, Tapos Kumar Das, Assistant Professor and Chairman, Department of Law, Jahangirnagar University, has undertaken a provocative study in his recently published book *The Obligation to Investigate and Prosecute Past Atrocity: Examining State's Response to the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide* (published by ELCOP, July 2020). The major intervention of this work lies in that he accused Pakistan of the violation of substantive and procedural obligation arising out of the atrocities committed by the Pakistani Army in 1971. The author argues for a "double-edged" breach by Pakistan; one is the violation of *jus cogens* norms by committing such atrocities itself and another is the unwillingness to bring perpetrators under judicial measures.

The author developed this argument by dividing the book into four interrelated parts. It begins with a powerful construction of how Bangladesh's factual existence as a 'state' should be taken into consideration for determining the 1971 liberation war as International Armed Conflict (IAC). In doing so, the author strongly stands against labeling the past atrocities as merely an 'internal disturbance' by Pakistan which, as he argues, is a misrepresentation of facts. To

prove it as an International Armed Conflict (IAC), he sidesteps the self-determination criterion under the Additional Protocol II 1977 (as it was enacted after the 1971 atrocities) and argues for its basis in the Montevideo criteria.

The second part of the book discusses the legal basis of the crimes that took place in 1971's armed conflict arising out of the violations of relevant international laws. One pressing point that the author highlighted here is the pattern of 'partial and total' genocide committed against the Bengali and Bengali Hindus respectively. He argues that such an act of pulling down the Hindu religious group formed '*genocidal intention*' under the Genocide Convention while



claiming '[t]his geopolitical and religious enmity culminated in the Pakistani army's specific intention for the total annihilation of the Bengali Hindus in 1971'.

In the third part of the book, the author claims that the principle of *pacta sunt servanda* in article 26 of Vienna Convention on the Laws of Treaties, 1969 along with the *erga omnes* obligation binds Pakistan to undertake appropriate substantive and procedural measures for the violation of international laws. As a result, Pakistan's denial to the fulfillment of its obligations created a double-edged violation, not only for the crimes they committed but also for

the omission to undertake procedural obligations. To end the continuing wrongful act, he therefore demands that 'Pakistan needs to fulfill its procedural obligations... by pursuing appropriate investigative, prosecutorial, and remedial measures for the 1971 atrocities'.

The final part of the book reflects upon the response to the 1971-atrocities from different international organisations, states and the politics surrounding the two phases of post-war mechanism. He also focused on the formation of the International Crimes Tribunals Bangladesh as well as addressed some of the criticism regarding the tribunal's fairness and biasness. The author finally asked, albeit ambitiously, for minimal reparations as a form of 'apology'.

The aforementioned aspects make the book unique from many perspectives. However, there are some points that the author did not elaborate. For example, the author used the Montevideo criteria to prove the 1971-atrocity as an IAC but the relationship of these criteria with the IHL's purpose of defining IAC and NIAC has not been elaborated in the book. Further, the author discussed the external obstructions in initiating prosecution and the latter resumption mobilised by the people. But why these extra-legal factors are important in assessing the responsibility of any state to try such heinous crimes 'without excuse' are not addressed in the book.

It seems the author has to counterbalance the depth of the book with its breadth and the points as mentioned above are perhaps not elaborated for this constraint. In terms of its depth, the book is undeniably a masterful account of atrocities and obligations that may illuminate the readers interested in the study of crime and genocide across the discipline.

THE REVIEWER IS AN LL.M STUDENT AT JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY.

## LAW EVENT

## Dhaka University wins the BIAC Arbitration Contest

ALI MASHRAF

Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC), for the first time in the history of Bangladesh, organised an Inter University Arbitration Contest from September to October 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire month-long competition took place virtually on Zoom. After two nail-biting preliminary rounds, the teams representing University of Dhaka and Bhuiyan Academy advanced to the final round. The final took place on Saturday, 17 October 2020.

Barrister Ajmalul Hossain QC, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, was the chairman of the tribunal, and Barrister Sameer Sattar and Barrister Margub Kabir, Advocates, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, were the members of the



tribunal for the final round. The case of the final addressed complex legal issues on contract law, international commercial arbitration law, international petroleum and energy law, international environmental law etc. After extensive arguments, examination and cross-examination of witnesses, production of evidence and summation, the arbitration

panel adjudged University of Dhaka as the champion. The team consists of Ali Mashraf, Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Bushra Haque, Raihan Rahman, Sudipta Bhattacharjee and Nabila Rubaiyat. Jalal Uddin Ahmed also won the best participant award.

Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali, CEO, BIAC, delivered the closing remarks after the final. He emphasised that BIAC organized this virtual mock arbitration contest for the first time in Bangladesh's history to get the students acquainted with the procedure of international arbitration and to provide them the practical experience of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

THE WRITER IS A MEMBER OF THE CHAMPION TEAM.



# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2020, KARTIK 4, 1427 BS

## The pandemic has increased child marriage manifold

Original factors causing it must be removed

CHILD marriage has always been a huge obstacle to development for countries like Bangladesh that has one of the highest prevalence of it. Now with the Covid-19 pandemic, the situation is even worse with more parents, because of increased financial hardship due to income loss, getting their minor girls married. According to a Save the Children global report, an estimated 5,00,000 girls (globally) are at risk of being forced into child marriage with as many as one million expected to become pregnant this year. The report reveals that South Asia will be hardest hit with nearly 200,000 more girls at risk of child marriage in 2020. This is in addition to the previously estimated rates of child marriage that anticipated 12 million girls being forced into marriage this year.

For Bangladesh, the implications are ominous. We have already been burdened with the curse of child marriage—over 50 percent of women who are now in their mid 20s were married off before 18, with 18 percent being below 15. The pandemic has increased this number manifold. So where do we go from here?

As a society and as a country we must acknowledge the devastating effects of child marriage on young girls that ultimately affect the wellbeing of the entire society as well as the development goals of the nation. When children are forced to marry they are forced to drop out of school and deprived of their childhood. They face the trauma of forced sexual relations. They endure the health risks associated with early pregnancies that may lead to premature, stunted babies and even their own deaths. The long-term effects of child marriage include generations of girls and young women being denied education, health, the right to work and earn and the agency to escape domestic violence. It will also mean generations of children being malnourished or stunted with little opportunities for education. If they are girl children, the cycle of deprivation and violence will start all over again.

Against this grim backdrop we now have a pandemic that has intensified all the factors behind child marriage—poverty, lack of security of girls and the mindset that girls are a burden for parents. With more girls dropping out of school child marriages have increased extensively.

In terms of combatting child marriage we have not been very successful even before the pandemic. Now that we are confronted with the numbers we must act fast now. The special provision in the Child Marriage Act that allows child marriage “under special circumstances” must be scrapped. Financial incentives, income-generating opportunities can be given to families so that it is not poverty that pushes them to get their girls married off. Most of all the government and society must work together to ensure security of girls and women so that they are not harassed on the streets, subjected to sexual violence and that they can go to school and pursue their dreams. Child marriage is an abusive practice that must be stopped for good.

## No progress in relocating overflowing landfill in Gazipur

When will the city corporation wake up from its slumber?

IT is unfortunate that despite all the health hazards related to waste management, Gazipur City Corporation made no progress in relocating the perilous landfill at Baimail beside Dhaka-Tangail highway for the last eight years. With blatant disregard for their responsibility, the authorities resort to the only excuse they have been using—“We are looking for a piece of land.” Due to its location, waste continues to spill on to the highway, often hampering traffic. And when it rains, the garbage on the slippery road makes it a deathtrap. Despite the repeated attempts by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), requesting the city corporation authorities to resolve the issue, it remains ineffective. Unfortunately, the Department of Environment (DoE) had to meet a similar fate too as the city corporation did not comply with their repeated notifications.

When it is extremely important to dispose waste in protected landfill areas in order to minimise pollution of surface and ground water, soil and air and keep the environment safe, Gazipur City Corporation has been piling approximately 2,500 tonnes of garbage, including medical waste—it is a major threat to public health as it contains toxic chemicals, radioactive elements and pathological substances which are harmful for the human body—on a daily basis in the unprotected area. It has become a breeding ground for various insects like mosquitos. The residents of the area have been bearing the brunt of the unabated dumping, keeping their doors and windows shut to prevent the stench.

It is befuddling that Gazipur City Corporation has not taken any action for so many years to solve this problem. Why have they not been held accountable for such neglect? It is strange that the mayor declined to comment, asking our correspondent to talk to the waste manager instead. How long will the residents of the area and those commuting on the highway continue to suffer such misery? The city corporation officials must stop shifting the blame to others. They cannot shrug off their responsibility with such apathy towards the environment and public health which is totally unacceptable. The concerned authorities must address the lack of coordination and supervision professionally so that the city corporation complies with the rules and regulations and not drag their responsibilities year after year. Now, with the ongoing pandemic, proper waste management is more urgent than ever.



AK ABDUL MOMEN

“WE believe that the security of our people can be ensured not through the accumulation of expensive weapons but through education, ending segregation, the promotion of democratic values, and the realisation of human faculties by peaceful means.” — Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the General Assembly debate on Nuclear Disarmament in New York on September 26, 2013.

Disarmament is a hallmark of Bangladesh’s peace-centric foreign policy. Mandated by our constitutional obligation of seeking general and complete disarmament as well as settling disputes through peaceful means, Bangladesh has always intentionally restrained from arms race and armament. Bangladesh is a leading voice in global disarmament debate and has strongly advocated for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon free world.

We know the United Nations was created from the ashes of the Second World War. The devastation and human suffering caused by the nuclear bombing shook the world and the collective conscience of humankind. The UN, in its very first resolution, envisioned a world free of nuclear weapons.

Since then, 75 years have passed. In 2020, we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the UN and its achievements and contribution to the welfare of the people and the planet Earth; and also, global socio-economic progress. Yet, in stark contrast, our present and future generations continue to live under the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

And now, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented before us the long-established truth in a more glaring way, that the stockpiles of weapons fail to save human beings. We are convinced that investment in nuclear weapons can neither ensure nor guarantee our peace and security and thus

represents a colossal wastage of the world’s scarce resources. Rather, it is through the realisation of sustainable development goals that we can establish and sustain peace and stability.

Our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in his historic speech before the United Nations General Assembly in 1974, appealed to spare the world from the scourge of nuclear war. This forms the cornerstone of Bangladesh’s steadfast commitment and adherence to

prime minister’s consecutive terms in office from 2009 to 2020, Bangladesh signed and ratified an array of important disarmament treaties and conventions including the 1907 Hague Convention for Pacific Settlement of International Dispute (Accession, 2011); The Arms Trade Treaty, 2013 (Signature, 2013); Protocol 5 of CWC (accession, 2013); and the all-important Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Ratification, 2017).

We know that nuclear technology

“there are no right hands to handle these wrong weapons”. Therefore, Bangladesh steadfastly supports the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Second, nuclear weapon states need to take concrete steps to cease nuclear arms race and also to get rid of the risk of nuclear weapons falling in the hands of the wrong people such as terrorists.

Third, nuclear-weapon-free-zones need to be established in all parts of the world through ratification by the nuclear weapons states, they also must ratify the related protocols to all treaties establishing such zones. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has consistently advocated for the creation of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in South Asia, and even offered to mediate between India and Pakistan when the two countries were involved in a nuclear arms race.

Fourth, the potentials of nuclear technology for benefit of humankind and the inalienable rights of States for research, production and peaceful use of nuclear energy, without discrimination, must be fostered through effective international cooperation.

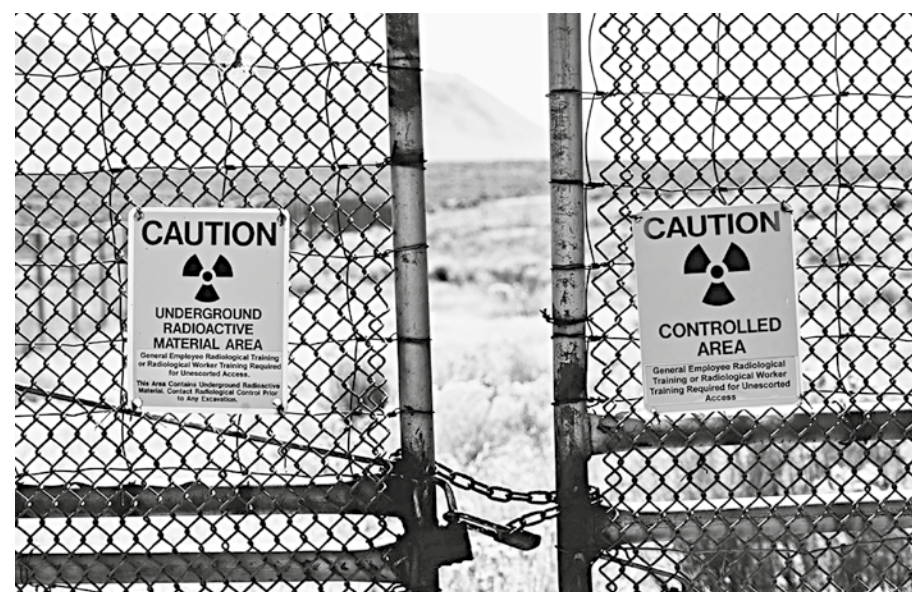
And finally, total elimination of nuclear weapons is a long overdue commitment. The pandemic has made it a rallying call more than ever before. Mass awareness and global advocacy need to be promoted and accelerated through effective partnership, including with civil society organisations.

We strongly believe that in a world of finite resources, realising the goals of disarmament means stopping colossal wastages of scarce resources dedicated to non-productive purposes and freeing valuable resources for saving millions of lives and addressing pressing development needs, and ensuring timely achievement of the SDGs

On this momentous 75th anniversary of the United Nations, let us re-commit to our scarce resources for realising sustainable development goals, and making this world safe and liveable for our present and future generations.

Dr AK Abdul Momen is the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. This write-up is adapted from his Statement delivered at the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons held on October 2, 2020.

# Disarmament a priority of Bangladesh’s foreign policy



Representational image.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

nuclear disarmament.

It is a remarkable fact that Bangladesh is a party to all major disarmament treaties. Bangladesh is among the 44 countries and indeed the first South Asian Country that have both signed and ratified the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s first term in office (1996-2001). In the same period, Bangladesh also acceded to the other important conventions on disarmament including Convention for the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC), and Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocol II and IV. During the

has been recognised as capable of both tremendous benefit and equally unimaginable destruction. Bound by our constitutional obligation to disarmament, Bangladesh rejects the use of nuclear technology for destructive purpose and supports its peaceful application for development and welfare of humankind. To harness the benefit of nuclear technology, Bangladesh is building nuclear power plants for peaceful uses.

On the day of commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons which was observed on October 2, I would like to flag a few points:

First, nuclear weapons themselves are the problems and as the former Secretary-General of UN Ban ki Moon stated

## Does supporting election justify exclusion of Rohingyas?

EU-Myanmar Human Rights Dialogue



KAMAL AHMED

THE European Union, barely three weeks before the general election in Myanmar, held a bilateral dialogue on human rights with the regime seeking re-election. Following the

dialogue, a joint statement issued on October 14 by the EU and Myanmar noted that the EU reaffirmed its strong support for Myanmar’s democratic transition, notably in the context of Myanmar’s upcoming general election, as well as for its peace and reconciliation process and inclusive socio-economic development.

In the 393-word statement, however, not once did the term Rohingya appear, which describes the distinct identity of the ethnic minority group that has been the subject of a prolonged persecution in Myanmar since the enactment of the Citizenship law in 1982 that stripped them of their nationality. It is quite shocking as it ignores the fact that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) earlier this year in its interim order affirmed Rohingyas as a distinctive ethnic group of Myanmar and ordered that country to protect the remaining Rohingya population.

The EU’s official press release only said that Myanmar and the EU discussed a wide range of human rights matters, including the situation in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States, humanitarian access and the situation of Internally Displaced Persons, accountability for alleged human rights violations, fundamental rights and freedoms, economic, labour and social rights, rights of women and human rights cooperation in multilateral fora. According to the EU release, the EU encouraged Myanmar to continue to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, and took note Myanmar’s efforts in the implementation of its National Strategy for the Closure of Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps. The Advisory Commission or the Kofi Anan Commission’s recommendations about reconciliation and rebuilding, predates the 2017 Clearance Operation.

It is also quite intriguing that the statement does not mention anything about the long overdue repatriation of more than a million Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh, among them the majority, over 700,000, had to flee their homeland following a security clearance operation carried out by the Myanmar military. The United Nation’s Human Rights chief likened the clearance

operation with a textbook case of ethnic cleansing. The UN fact-finding mission in 2019 also concluded that killings, rapes and gang rapes, torture, forced displacement and other grave rights violations by the country’s military had prompted some 700,000 Rohingyas to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh in 2017. It said hundreds of thousands of ethnic Rohingya who remain in Myanmar may face a greater threat of genocide than ever, amid government attempts to “erase their identity and remove them from the

agencies in Myanmar had expressed their “sadness” and “shock” over the killing of two boys allegedly used as human shields by security forces in the country’s northern Rakhine province, earlier this month.

Another disturbing development involving the EU is that it has funded an election app in Myanmar that helps incite “racial and religious vilification” in the country by profiling candidates’ ethnicity and beliefs, using derogatory terminology to designate those of Rohingya descent. The mVoter 2020 application has been

not based on their religion or outdated categories of ‘race’ which, in the case of the Rohingya, means denial of their identity.” Listing Rohingya candidates as “Bengali” on the app, was allegedly the reason for the election commission to disqualify at least one candidate from taking part in the upcoming elections.

Reports from Myanmar suggest the National Democratic League (NLD) and its leader Aung San Su Kyi face very little challenge in the elections. Unless the powerful military makes any surprise



A Rohingya refugee is seen in Balukhali refugee camp at dawn near Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh, March 28, 2018.

PHOTO: CLODAG KILOCYNE/ REUTERS

country.”

When the bilateral talks on human rights were taking place, reports were coming out from the troubled Arakan State of continuing indiscriminate attacks against civilian population including aerial bombing, arsoning and use of mines by the military in the name of tackling another alleged insurgent group, the Arakan Army. A leading rights group, the Amnesty International on October 12 called on the UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court, ICC. It seems that the EU is not willing to use all its tools and opportunities to press Myanmar on meaningful and visible behavioural changes. Or else, it is incomprehensible that they were not aware of those disturbing developments. It has now emerged that on the same day, UN

developed under the EU-funded STEP Democracy Project, which claims to support “inclusive, peaceful and credible electoral processes” in Myanmar, in order to assist the democratic transition in the country. According to rights groups, however, the app, exacerbates religious tensions and contributes to the discrimination of subjugated Rohingya minorities. The app listed Rohingyas as “Bengali”, a term that suggests these individuals are immigrants from Bangladesh. The Rohingya community believe the term is applied in a derogatory context, taking into account the human rights abuses and persecutions they have been subjected to.

Yadnar Maung, a spokesperson for the rights group Justice for Myanmar said, “According to democratic values, voters should judge candidates on their merits,

moves, renewal of her government’s mandate is almost certain. It is therefore, plausible that in the absence of a credible alternative, western powers are preparing themselves for a continuation of a working relationship with Su Kyi, despite all her shortcomings.

Her government’s continued complicity with the military, however, brings more frustration and anguish to the victims of the atrocities and dashes their hopes for justice. Hence, president of the Burma Rohingya Organisation in UK, Tun Khin, in an opinion piece in the *Washington Post*, calls Myanmar’s democratic election a sham and warns the international community not to be fooled by it. His concerns are not unjustified.

Kamal Ahmed is a freelance journalist based in London.



# A Long March to Brutalities



BADIUZZAMAN BAY

OF MAGIC & MADNESS

I could have been just another episode in the regular show of police and ruling party men merrily clamping down on the “disturbers of public peace” who love to play with people’s emotions with their pesky ideas and noisy chants of human rights abuses.

Usually, there would be the clean-up after that, with the cheerleaders stepping in and going through the ritual of handing out half-baked stories about who attacked whom first, and that would be the end of it. No subtlety would be expected, because there would be none.

But this particular episode went off the rails to become a farce so incongruous and so bleak that it tests the mind. It took place on Saturday, in Feni, although the story began a day earlier. On Friday, hundreds of demonstrators led by some left-leaning parties embarked on a two-day Long March from Dhaka to Noakhali to protest against the growing incidents of rape in the country. Their spray-painted slogans—“Silence is unjust when humanity is affected”, “End the culture of impunity”, “Rape and crossfire are the government’s weapons”, “Say no to victim blaming”, and “We want the resignation of the failed home minister” (*The Daily Star*)—offered a condensed history of yet another tumultuous week in Bangladesh which began after the brutal assault and gang rape of a Noakhali woman, on video, by men loyal to the ruling Awami League. For many in the crowd, it was the final spark to a reservoir of pent-up anger and despair.

At around 11:30 am on Saturday, the demonstrators came under attack allegedly from the activists of local Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League units after they had concluded a rally in the Shaheed

Minar area of Feni. According to media reports, the attackers used sticks and rods to beat the protesters and vandalised several buses carrying them. Police have given a different version of the story, however. Mainul Islam, an additional superintendent of police in Feni, told *The Daily Star* that it was not an attack but a “scuffle” that broke out after “derogatory comments” were made against the local MP at the rally.



At around 11:30 am on Saturday, the demonstrators came under attack allegedly from the activists of local Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League units after they had concluded a rally in the Shaheed Minar area of Feni. PHOTO: STAR

“In protest, his followers brought out a procession. Activists from the Long March chased the followers of the lawmaker and a scuffle ensued,” he said.

If you have seen the video clips that surfaced on social media following the attack, you may have different ideas about what really transpired, but the glib label of “scuffle” will surely not be one of them. One somewhat graphic clip takes us inside one of the buses where a protester lay unconscious, with several others with cuts and bruises, and blood stains visible on the floor of the bus. The camera then cuts to a scene in a hospital where you hear the wailing of the injured, and then to another scene showing shards of broken glass strewn

across the road near the buses. What police described as a scuffle initiated by anti-rape protesters ended up injuring at least 35 of them, 10 suffering severe injuries. Equally shockingly, it was the police that reportedly abetted the ruling party thugs to launch their attacks and ransack the buses.

With “friends” like these, who needs enemies, right? The juxtaposition of the three

protagonists of this episode—the protesters, the police, and the ruling party men—acquires special significance when we consider the following facts. First, what police officers, both uniformed and plainclothes, did is significant not just for the fact that they were supposed to aid peaceful protesters instead of their attackers but also for the timing of their unholy cameo performance. As it transpired, the day the police chose to crack down on the anti-rape protesters was also the day when Bangladesh Police held rallies in 6,912 beat areas across the country to “create public awareness against rape and violence against women!” The irony of the matter is inescapable. The

irony thickens when, the next day, the DMP commissioner claims that more than 95 percent of people “expressed satisfaction with the police service in filing GDs and cases with police stations”, although police have yet to file a case against Saturday’s attackers in Feni. All this throws into sharp relief the enormous divide between what the police say and what they do in terms of law enforcement.

Moving onto the next protagonist—men from the Extended AL Universe, particularly Chhatra League. No one would like to hold Chhatra League to its word, but if you closely observe its responses during the last three nationwide movements—road safety, quota reforms, and now rape—a chilling pattern emerges. Let me just lay out the facts and you can have your own conclusion.

The organisation that was allegedly behind the assaults on anti-rape protesters in Feni and has had allegations of rape slapped against many of its members is also one that, just last week, brought out a “celebration rally” after the cabinet’s approval of an amendment to our central law on women and children repression (with the provision for death penalty as the maximum punishment for single perpetrator rape). In August 2018, this same organisation allegedly caused immense sufferings to the students involved in the movement for safer roads, and yet it had the nerve to bring out a celebration rally after the cabinet’s approval of the draft of Road Transport Act 2018, which literally ended the movement. In April 2018, this very organisation again allegedly tried to derail the quota reform movement, and yet it was the one that brought out a celebration rally after the provision for quota in government jobs was abolished.

What do these facts tell us about this organisation? There can be many explanations. But several stand out to me: first, its moral and ideological fluidity; second, its proclivity to simultaneously sabotage (through attacks) and hijack (through organising

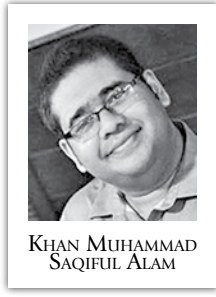
celebration rallies) the biggest student and sociocultural movements of our time; third, its strategic position as the first line of defence against any movement involving students; fourth, its lack of concern for the well-being of general students; fifth, its eagerness to use force and lack of tolerance for critical thoughts; and finally, its immunity as an organisation, regardless of what crimes its members and operatives commit. From the frequent collaborations of law enforcement agencies with the organisations affiliated with the ruling party, it would also appear that the state is outsourcing part of policing tasks to these unruly groups, which is a disturbing development in and of itself.

The Saturday attack marks a dangerous turn in the so far largely peaceful trajectory of protests to end our pervasive rape culture. It lays bare the truth behind the fiction, and portends a long and difficult journey for the anti-rape activists. Some have questioned Chhatra League and Jubo League’s moral organisational stand on rape following the attack. But I think it’s immaterial to the wider question of violence against women, and has more to do with men as individuals.

By announcing the provision of the death penalty for single perpetrator rape in response to the anti-rape movement and then allowing attacks on those protesting rape the government is giving mixed messages to the people. The government has made its sincerity to stop the rape culture clear. Statements by ministers and state officials will attest to that. But we need more in the way of action. Can it walk the rest of the path by bringing in necessary legal and institutional reforms necessary to prevent rape from happening, give boost to rape trials and protect the victims and witnesses? The contrasting pictures that are coming out of its camp do not leave much room for hope.

Badiuzzaman Bay is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*. Email: badiuzzaman.bd@gmail.com

## Present challenges and future steps for e-commerce in Bangladesh



KHAN MUHAMMAD SAQIFUL ALAM

ON noticeable change during this Covid-19 pandemic has been the shift of consumer behaviour. The contactless economy has

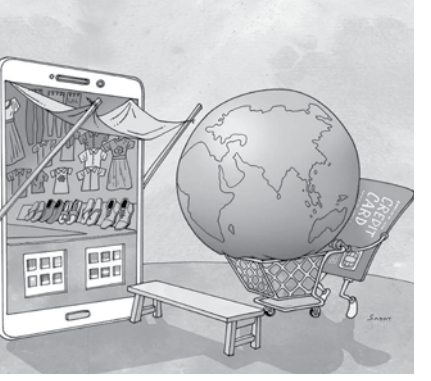
become a necessity for survival, and though once we thought it is the younger generations who will effortlessly shift to e-commerce markets, now even our parents and grandparents have bKash wallets and are ordering through Facebook shops or from ChalDal.com. In fact, the e-commerce retail sector is a significant source of foreign investment, raising approximately USD 41 million and is now the third highest funded sector in Bangladesh, based on the Bangladesh Startup Ecosystem: Funding Landscape dashboard of LightCastle Partners. Though this shows a lot of promise for the future of the e-commerce sector, it also highlights the fact that businesses, platforms, and regulators need to understand the overarching negative issues and challenges with this sector and need to consider potential approaches to go about addressing them at present and in future.

To start with, let’s look at the reason why this boom in e-commerce platforms occurred. Even before the pandemic, there was a demand for these platforms for a few reasons. One key reason is convenience—due a hectic schedules, coupled with traffic jams and long

distances, sometimes it is much more convenient to just order a product online, especially if it’s not an experience product and the brand has a constant reputation of safe and proper delivery. And this sector expanded thanks to the help of secure and easy online payments, with the help of banks and companies like Sskommerz and now mobile wallets such as bKash. At the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, online transactions peaked due to the nature of the disease and the fact that contactless economy was no more a luxury but a necessity for survival. And as the world slowly moves to the new normal after the pandemic, it is evident that the e-commerce sector will play a major role in the economy.

So, what are the pressing issues in this sector? One key issue is that of trust. Just as there has been an increase in online consumerism, there has been a significant increase in problems related to fake products, broken products, bad quality, unnatural delay, and severe lack of customer service, at times bordering on rudeness towards the customer. And these issues have increased proportionately during the pandemic. And these led to a significant drop in trust in many of the e-commerce portals and traders. The problems are mostly focused on either retailers who are small, Facebook shops, and at times with larger organisations as well. And though many small (sometimes large) organisations have opted to take advantage of the situation and the need for a contactless economy to offer sub-par services, they need to understand that the damage done will not only have a short-term repercussion, but will echo in the longer

terms as well. To ensure the growth of a healthy and reliable e-commerce sector, action is required from three different parties. The first and the most important role needs to be played by the online shops or merchants. Both the merchant and the platform need to build trust with the customer, and not just be happy with a completed sale of sub-par quality or customer service. And there are two



reasons to do so. Common wisdom in the field of strategy is that for any policy/decision to be effective, you need a carrot and a stick approach. The carrot stands for incentive and the stick for punishment. The stick, if companies fail to build trust, is that there is an undeniable increase in online consumerism, and the barrier to entry for a new player is not very high. This sector does not need specialised resources or a specific location advantage. With decent funding, any organisation can enter the e-commerce sector. At the same time,

for most of the products which are purchased online, the customers don’t have very high switching costs. Brand loyal customers still prefer to buy from a physical store or the online shop of the brand. So for e-commerce platforms, the customers are mostly buying something that is not too brand specific. So, if a new player comes in to ensure customer service and establish trust, then the platform which is lagging will lose most of the customers at a breakneck speed.

To avoid this, the present E-commerce merchants and platforms need to build trust. In terms of the carrot—the incentive—these organisations should build trust because that is the preliminary step of building lasting brand value, and if we have seen the history of business in the last hundred years, brand value can be a considerably important factor (Apple can be a prime example of that).

For platforms, which connect buyers to sellers, such as Daraz, it is also important to have a “carrot and stick” approach towards their sellers. Bad service and bad quality will not harm only the merchant but will reduce faith in the platform. So, it is very important to improve the ecosystem of the platform. They can create an incentive mechanism through promoting and pushing the products of those merchants and sellers who had high ratings from verified purchasers (purchaser accounts which have been confirmed by the platform that has not been created by the seller to improve ratings). Similarly, seller accounts with complaints can be downranked and showed less when a consumer searches for a product. This

simple mechanism can encourage sellers to be more professional, work on customer service, and reach out to larger markets. At the same time, just like the idea of Amazon Choice, these platforms can have their team of product evaluators recommend some of the sellers’ products, or the sellers account, another incentive to come up with really good products and services.

Finally, a considerable role needs to be played by regulators and policymakers in our country. In a fast-changing entrepreneurship ecosystem, with many challenges, policy aid and enforcement can help a sector to flourish. One key issue can be to establish an online consumer protection act and create an infrastructure to enforce such an act. At present, many of the platforms are trying or develop their versions of consumer protection policies, but unless a regulatory policy level drive is taken to create a uniform set of laws protecting online consumer, scams and frauds will still flourish. This suggestion is further strengthened by the fact that there is a large portion of F-commerce (Facebook based shops) in our e-commerce sector.

These suggestions are neither a complete list of things that can be done, nor are they effective on their own. As mentioned, to ensure a flourishing e-commerce sector, steps need to be taken by multiple parties together. But if these steps succeed, the future of online consumerism and e-commerce is sure to contribute to a healthier economy.

Khan Muhammad Saqiful Alam, Commonwealth Scholar, National University of Singapore, is Analytics Adviser, Intelligent Machines Limited.

**QUOTABLE Quote**

**WAYNE DYER**  
(1940-2015)  
American spiritual author and a motivational speaker.

*If you believe it will work out, you'll see opportunities. If you believe it won't you will see obstacles.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Chest muscles, for short
- 5 Drink, dog-style
- 10 “Luther” star
- Elba
- 12 Singer Cara
- 13 Easy task
- 15 Greek vowel
- 16 Termite’s cousin
- 17 Tylor of “The Lord of the Rings”
- 18 Take offense at
- 20 Heredity unit
- 21 Judi of “Chocolat”
- 22 Says further
- 23 Actions
- 25 Devious trick
- 28 Most high

**DOWN**

- 1 Pan, for one
- 2 Fixed copy
- 3 Fold
- 4 Attack command
- 5 Elevate
- 6 Pendulum path

**7 Rang out**

- 8 Mean
- 9 Irritates
- 11 Spooky gathering
- 14 Accepting bribes
- 19 Finished
- 20 Neon and helium
- 24 Stop
- 25 Tusked mammal
- 26 Clarifier’s words
- 27 Ray of “Goodfellas”
- 29 Make void
- 30 Excited
- 33 Flower parts
- 35 Winter glider
- 38 Light metal
- 39 At present

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

**YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS**

G	M	A	N	C	H	A	R	M
R	E	P	O	R	E	R	E	A
O	D	O	R	A	R	C	A	D
W	E	S	T	E	N	D	L	E
N	A	T	H	A	N	S	T	I
R	A	G	E	S	T	S	O	R
I	D	E	A	L	O	N	O	R
P	O	T	E	A	S	T	M	A
P	R	O	P	I	E	H	O	L
E	N	V	I	E	R	P	O	L
R	E	E	L	E	D	A	R	O
D	R	E	S	S	W	E	T	S

**BEETLE BAILEY** BY MORT WALKER

**BABY BLUES** BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



## The Netherlands

FROM PAGE 12  
discriminatory policies which caused influxes of the Myanmar's ethnic community people to Bangladesh.  
Following a public hearing on The Gambia's case on December 10-12 last year, the ICJ in January this year issued an order asking Myanmar to take provisional measures to prevent genocidal acts against the Rohingya Muslims during the pendency of the case, and to report regularly on its implementation of the order.  
The court also set a deadline for The Gambia's memorial submission on October 23 this year, while Myanmar's date for submission was set on July 23, 2021.

The Netherlands' letter assuring its determination to support the Gambia's case ahead of its submission of the memorial is significant, said a diplomatic source in Dhaka.

"The Netherlands has a tradition of dealing with international law and working against international crimes. Therefore, the country has taken a strong position against the genocidal acts by Myanmar," the source said.

During the call on, Harry Verweij also assured the Bangladesh foreign minister of continuing humanitarian assistance for some one million Rohingyas living in the camps in Cox's Bazar. He stressed on justice and accountability for a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

Momen said Bangladesh was focusing on safe and sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas.  
He requested the Netherlands to coordinate with the European Union member countries and create a conducive environment back in Rakhine state for the return of Rohingyas.

## 4,315 women

FROM PAGE 12  
46,521 were women and 26,124 children.  
The survey found 4,428 incidents of domestic violence took place in August and September.

Of the victims, 1,980 faced mental abuse, 1,244 were victims of physical abuse, 1,164 faced economic abuse, and 40 were victims of sexual abuse.

During the survey period, 1,081 children, both girls and boys, became victims of domestic violence.

The report added that 1,767 women and 872 children were new victims of violence.

MJF conducted the survey through 96 of its partner organisations, the release stated.

## China denies report it may detain Americans

REUTERS, Beijing  
China yesterday denied that foreign nationals are under threat of arbitrary detention, following a newspaper report that Beijing had warned Washington it might arrest Americans in China.



Ocean Rebellion protesters demonstrate outside the Albert Embankment on the first day of the International Maritime Organisation climate conference in London, Britain, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Covid cases top

FROM PAGE 12  
In Belgium, where hospitalisations rose 100 percent in just the last week, bars and restaurants were closed yesterday for a month and a curfew will be reinforced overnight.

"Managers, chefs, dish-washers, everyone is suffering," Angelo Bussi said as he put the key in the lock of his Brussels restaurant late Sunday.

"We don't feel like anyone cares. It breaks my heart," he told AFP before shrugging and walking off into the night. "Ah, well there we are, see you in a month."

Belgium's second major lockdown comes after Prime Minister Alexander de Croo warned the situation was "much worse" than in March when there was an almost complete confinement.

Italy, the initial epicentre of Europe's outbreak, also announced fresh curbs including earlier closures for bars and restaurants and a push to increase working from home.

"We cannot waste time," Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said, also flagging bans on amateur team sports and local festivals.

In Poland, where around half the country is now designated as a coronavirus "red zone", the government said the national stadium would double as a field hospital to help ease the strain on overwhelmed health care facilities.

Switzerland meanwhile made mask-wearing compulsory in indoor public spaces and put limits on public gatherings after infections doubled over the last week.

"The second wave is here, earlier and stronger than we expected, but we

are prepared," Swiss Health Minister Alain Berset said.

France imposed its own overnight curfew from the weekend in nine cities including Paris, affecting 20 million people, with a record 32,400 new infections reported on Saturday.

About 6 million more people in the United Kingdom will face tougher lockdowns in coming days as Wales and Manchester, the country's third largest city, mull additional restrictions as the outbreak accelerates.

Wales First Minister Mark Drakeford yesterday announced that the country would impose a full "firebreak" lockdown for two weeks from Friday in a bid to reduce soaring coronavirus cases.

In England, about 28 million people - half of the population - have been already subjected to tight social restrictions.

Meanwhile, Slovenia declared a 30-day state of emergency after cases more than doubled in the past week from the previous week. Austria is limiting gatherings to a maximum of six people indoors and 12 outside.

While European nations imposed new restrictions, a lockdown as eased in Australia's second-biggest city of Melbourne yesterday, as residents flocked to reopened hair salons and golf courses that had been closed for more than 100 days.

The number of daily cases rose to 700 in August in the state of Victoria of which Melbourne is the capital, but following months of a strict lockdown it has fallen as low as one, with four recorded yesterday.

## Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 12  
today that the Draft Constitution has failed to reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people and ensure their basic rights to food, shelter, medicare, education and employment. It has also failed to provide provisions for the proportionate representation of the workers and the peasants in the assembly, although the government is committed to establishing the "Krishak Sramik Raj" in the country. Addressing the extended meeting of the Central Working Committee of NAP (B) at Santosh Bhashani calls upon the government to hold a referendum on the draft constitution and assess the public opinion. He says that if the people accept the constitution, then his party should not have any objection to it.

### \$14M SWEDISH AID FOR BANGLADESH

The government of Sweden has fixed an indicative planning target of 14 million dollars for Bangladesh for the fiscal year 1973-74. This is disclosed by Gus Edgren, leader of the eight-member delegation of the Swedish International Development Authority, now visiting Bangladesh. He says that the Swedish government gave 21 million dollars to Bangladesh under an agreement signed in April, 1972 for the current fiscal year which has already been placed at the disposal of the Bangladesh government for national reconstruction and development.

SOURCES: October 21, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

## 21 more die

FROM PAGE 12  
The 15,146 samples tested yesterday was 10.81 percent.

With this, the overall positivity rate stands at 17.91 percent.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,627 patients have recovered raising, the total number of recoveries to 3,05,599 in the country, with the recovery rate now at more than 78 percent.

Among the 21 deceased yesterday, 14 were male and seven were female.

One was aged under 10, while one was between 31 and 40, one between 41 and 50, five between 51 and 60 and 13 above 60, added the release.

## Condemned

FROM PAGE 12  
humanity during the Liberation War.

According to the prosecution, a group of Jamaat leaders and activists led by Azharul during a procession on September 19 2011 in front of the capital's Kakral Super Market vandalised cars, hurled bombs on policemen and prevented them from discharging their duties.

A number of policemen were injured, the case statement said.

After an investigation, Sub-Inspector Mohammad Saiful Islam Khan of Detective Branch of police on August 22 last year submitted a chargesheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka. Azharul was produced before the tribunal during yesterday's hearing.

## Restaurant

FROM PAGE 12  
attraction in central Budapest.

"It is now especially important for people to be able to be separate from other guests to be safe, and the ferris wheel is ideal with its separate cabins."

As of Sunday, Hungary had reported 46,290 COVID-19 cases with 1,142 deaths and the economy is heading towards a 5-7% contraction this year.

## Murder case plaintiff

FROM PAGE 12  
him to a house, said the victim.  
After he was released at dawn, Farid was admitted to Rowmari upazila health complex with injuries.

While talking to our correspondent at the health complex, Farid said he was on his way to Rowmari Police Station as he was called by Tuhin Mia, a sub-inspector of the police station and also the investigation officer (IO) of the case filed over the death of his father.

When he reached Jhagrachar, five to six men abducted him.

"They kept me in a house and tortured me overnight. They allowed me to leave the house early in the morning after taking my signature on a blank paper. Later, I was admitted to Rowmari hospital with injuries," he said.

"I know all those who abducted me. I gave their names to police," he said, adding that he would file a case with the police station after being treated at the hospital.

Dr Mokhtarul Islam Selim, a resident medical officer (RMO) of Rowmari upazila health complex, said the victim had suffered injuries to various parts of his body, including hands and feet.

Contacted, SI Tuhin Mia said Farid was supposed to meet him on Saturday

night, the day of the incident, but he did not come.

After hearing of the incident on Sunday morning, the SI went to the hospital, met Farid and heard about his abduction in detail, he said.

Rowmari Police Station Officer-in-charge Abu Md Dilwar Hasan Inam said legal action would be taken if a complaint is filed with the police station in this regard.

Farid's father Rafiqul Islam was murdered over a land dispute at Char Baraikandi village of Rowmari upazila around noon on May 13 this year. He lodged a murder case with Rowmari Police Station accusing 10 persons on the same day.

The accused in the murder case are Mukul Mia, 45, Abul Hossain, 50, Shakhawat Hossain, 38, Saidur Rahman, 32, their father Naibar Ali, 80, Saiful Islam, 28, Asad Ali, 27, Rasedul Islam, 25, Ashrafur Islam, 18, their parents Abul Hossain and Sabiya Begum, 48. All are of the same residence at Baraikandi village.

OC Dilwar Hasan Inam said the main accused Mukul Mia was arrested and is now in jail. Sabiya Begum got bail from the court, while the eight other accused are absconding.

## Early voting begins

FROM PAGE 12  
The state's prize of 29 electoral votes is tied with New York for third most, behind only California and Texas, in the race for the 270 Electoral College votes that determine the presidential winner under the US system.

The Oct 7-14 Reuters/Ipsos poll showed Biden with 49% of the support and Trump 47%, within the survey's credibility interval of 4 percentage points.

Both campaigns have poured advertising money into Florida, although Biden, who has significantly outperformed Trump since the summer while setting consecutive monthly records for a US candidate, has outspent his Republican rival.

Harris, who was given a clean bill of health after an aide tested positive for Covid-19, will participate in early-vote rallies in Orlando and Jacksonville, the campaign said.

Trump will stage rallies first in Prescott and later in Tucson, Arizona, another state for which both his campaign and Biden's are competing.

The 27.9 million Americans who have already voted either by mail or in person, according to the US Elections Project at the University of Florida, is a far greater number at this point in the campaign than previous years. Voters have now cast about 20% of the overall total in 2016, when more than 136.6 million cast ballots.

Democrats account for 55% of

the 10.9 million ballots cast in states that report party registration data, compared with 24% for Republicans.

At a rally in Carson City, Nevada on Sunday, where voting began the day before, Trump implored his supporters to "get out and vote" to help him flip a state that he lost narrowly to Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Despite his recent recovery from his own bout with the virus, Trump also mocked Biden in Nevada for his cautious approach toward the pandemic.

"Listen to the scientists!" Trump said in a mocking voice. "If I listened totally to the scientists, we would right now have a country that would be in a massive depression."

Trump also lashed out at "stupid" critics from within his own party and called for unity after growing Republican criticism and warnings of a "bloodbath" in the November 3 election.

He particularly attacked Republican Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska, who recently told his constituents that Trump "kisses dictators' butts," mistreats women and uses the White House as a business.

Other Republicans have warned of electoral losses in the polls, including Senator Ted Cruz, who like Sasse said there was a risk of a "bloodbath." Even one of Trump's closest Senate allies, Lindsey Graham, recently said Democrats have a "good chance" at winning the White House.



### Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
www.tcb.gov.bd

#### IMPORT SECTION

### Invitation For Tender (International) of

(a) Brown Color Chick Pea  
(b) Onion

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce.		
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.		
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable.		
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	(a) Brown Color Chick Pea (b) Onion		
7	Invitation Ref. No.	(a) 26.05.0000.016.10.083.20.702 (b) 26.05.0000.016.10.083.20.705		
8	Date	19-10-2020		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	TCB's Own Fund.		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
11	Package No.	(a) TCB/Imp-17/Chick Pea/2020 (b) TCB/Imp-17/Onion/2020		
12	Package Name	(a) Brown Color Chick Pea (b) Onion		
13	Tender Publication Date	20-10-2020		
		<b>Date</b> <b>Time</b>		
14	Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	01-12-2020 17:00 P.M.		
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	02-12-2020 12:00 P.M.		
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	02-12-2020 12:15 P.M.		
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	<b>Address</b>		
	- Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column.	(1) Sonali Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka (2) Trust Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, and (3) Accounts & Finance Division, TCB's Principal Office at Dhaka.		
	- Receiving Tender Document	In front of TCB's reception (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor), TCB Bhaban, I, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
	- Opening Tender Document	Board Room, TCB.		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
18	Eligibility of Tender	Bonafide Suppliers/Manufacturers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the Tender documents.		
19	Brief Description of goods	Import of (a) 4,000 (±5%) (Four Thousand Plus Minus Five Percent) M.Tons Brown Color Chick Pea. (b) 5000 (±10%) (Five Thousand Plus Minus Ten Percent) M.Tons Onion.		
20	Price of Tender Document	(a) Tk.4,000 (Four Thousand) only Per Set. (b) Tk.5,000 (Five Thousand) only Per Set.		
	Lot No	Lot		
	Identification of Lot	Location		
		Tender Security Amount (USD/TK)		
		Shipment Schedule		
21	1. (a) Brown Color Chick Pea (b) Onion	Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chattogram (Previous name Chittagong) by Sea.	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: (a) USD 59,000.00 (US Dollar Fifty Nine Thousand) or BDT 50,00,000 (BDT Fifty Lac) Only. (b) USD 35,000.00 (US Dollar Thirty Five Thousand) or BDT 30,00,000.00 (BDT Thirty Lac) only in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee. The Successful Tenderer is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee.	Entire quantity of Goods is to be shipped within (a) 45 (Forty Five) days (b) 45 (Forty Five) days (Including L/C correction & grace period) from the date of opening L/C.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Shekhabur Rahaman		
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) I, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No. 02-8180074 Fax No. 880-2-8180057 E-mail: tcb@tcb.gov.bd, tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd		
26	<b>Special Instructions</b>			
	a. Incomplete, conditional Tender and alternative offer shall not be considered.			
	b. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any/all Tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason.			
	c. Tenderer who was awarded the Notification of Awarded (NOA) earlier but could not submit Performance Security (PS) in due time, will not be eligible for the Tender			
	d. Tenderer who's Performance Security (PS) was partially or totally forfeited earlier will not be eligible to participate in the Tender.			

Chief Officer (Commercial)  
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

GD-1668

### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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নং-৫৭.০০.০০০০.০৫৩.০৪.০০৩.১৯-১৪২

**বিষয়ঃ সরকারি কর্মচারী (শুজলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর বিধি ৭ এর উপবিধি (৯) অনুযায়ী ২য় কারণ দর্শানো নোটিশ।**

যেহেতু, আপনি জনাব বিজয় কৃষ্ণ বেপারী, চিফ ইনস্ট্রাক্টর (ড্রেসমেকিং এন্ড টেইলারিং), গোপালগঞ্জ টেকনিক্যাল স্কুল ও কলেজ গত ১৭/০৬/২০১৭ তারিখ হতে অননুমোদিতভাবে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত রয়েছেন;

০২। যেহেতু, উক্ত অনুপস্থিতির কারণে আপনার বিরুদ্ধে বিভাগীয় মামলা নং-০১/২০১৯ রুজু করে আপনার বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা অভিযোগনামা ও অভিযোগ বিবরণী প্রেরণ করা হয়;

০৩। নির্ধারিত সময় অতিবাহিত হওয়া সত্ত্বেও আপনি কোন জবাব প্রেরণ করেননি;

০৪। যেহেতু, বর্ণিত কারণে আপনার বিরুদ্ধে রুজুকৃত বিভাগীয় মামলা নিষ্পত্তির লক্ষ্যে সরকারি কর্মচারী (শুজলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর বিধি ৭ এর উপবিধি (৩) মোতাবেক তদন্তকারী কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগ করা হয়; এবং

০৫। যেহেতু, এতদুদ্দেশ্যে নিয়োগকৃত তদন্তকারী কর্মকর্তার তদন্ত প্রতিবেদনে অননুমোদিত অনুপস্থিতির ধারাবাহিকতায় অননুমোদিত সময়ের অতিরিক্ত ১৭ জুন ২০১৭ হতে ০১ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২০ তারিখে তদন্ত চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত ০২ বছর ০৭ মাস ১৪ দিন কর্মে অনুপস্থিত থাকার অভিযোগ সন্দেহাতীতভাবে প্রমাণিত হয় (তদন্ত কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক দাখিলকৃত তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন সংযুক্ত): এবং

০৬। যেহেতু, সরকারি কর্মচারী (শুজলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর বিধি ৩ এর উপবিধি (খ) অনুযায়ী "অসদাচরণ" এবং বিধি ৩ এর উপবিধি (গ) অনুযায়ী "পলায়ন" (Desertion) এর অভিযোগ প্রমাণিত হওয়ায় সরকারি কর্মচারী (শুজলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর বিধি ৪ এর উপবিধি (৩)(ঘ) অনুযায়ী গুরুদণ্ডের আওতায় "চাকরি হতে বরখাস্ত" করা যুক্তিসঙ্গত মর্মে প্রতীয়মান হয়।

০৭। সেহেতু, সরকারি কর্মচারী (শুজলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর বিধি ৩ উপবিধি (খ) অনুযায়ী "অসদাচরণ" এবং ৩ এর উপবিধি (গ) অনুযায়ী "পলায়ন" (Desertion) এর অভিযোগ প্রমাণিত হওয়ায় একই বিধিমালার বিধি ৪ এর উপবিধি (৩)(ঘ) অনুযায়ী গুরুদণ্ডের আওতায় কেন আপনাকে "চাকরি হতে বরখাস্ত" করা হবে না তা উক্ত বিধিমালার বিধি ৭ এর উপবিধি (৯) অনুযায়ী নোটিশ প্রাপ্তির ৭ (সাত) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে লিখিতভাবে কর্তৃপক্ষ বরাবর ২য় কারণ দর্শানোর জন্য নির্দেশ দেয়া হ'ল। নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে কোন জবাব না পাওয়া গেলে উল্লিখিত বিষয়ে আপনার কোন বক্তব্য নেই বলে ধরে নেয়া হবে এবং বিধি অনুযায়ী পরবর্তী কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সংযুক্তি বর্ণনামতেঃ ২৭ (সাতাশ) পাতা।

০১/১০/২০২০  
মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম খান  
সচিব

**প্রাপকঃ বর্তমান ঠিকানাঃ**  
জনাব বিজয় কৃষ্ণ বেপারী  
চিফ ইনস্ট্রাক্টর (ড্রেসমেকিং এন্ড টেইলারিং)  
গোপালগঞ্জ টেকনিক্যাল স্কুল ও কলেজ, গোপালগঞ্জ

**স্থায়ী ঠিকানাঃ**  
জনাব বিজয় কৃষ্ণ বেপারী  
গ্রামঃ মালিয়া, পোষ্টঃ জনতা  
উপজেলাঃ শরণখোলা, জেলাঃ বাগেরহাট  
মোবাইল নম্বরঃ ০১৯১২-৯৪৩১৯৫

জিডি-১৬৬৫



## Rubel leads pacers' party

SPORTS REPORTER

Perhaps the most positive aspect of the ongoing three-team BCB President's Cup is the pace bowlers stepping up and making a huge impact for their sides.

The wicket-takers' chart of the fifty-over tournament is dominated by pacers, with the likes of Rubel Hossain, Al Amin Hossain, Ebadot Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Mohammad Saifuddin and young Shoriful Islam regularly outperforming the spinners.

As important as the wickets they have taken has been their consistency in line and length and their efforts to extract some life from the Mirpur wicket, which has been sporting throughout the tournament.

The experienced Rubel certainly stands tall among the lot as he is at the top of the wickets list, having picked up 10 wickets in four games at an economy rate of well below four runs per over, including his



Rubel Hossain, like most of the pacers of the national team and the ones on the fringes, continued to be destructive with the new ball during the BCB President's Cup in Mirpur.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

*The cricketer from Bagerhat tends to hit the deck hard and has tried to get something from the pitch at good pace and a perfect line and length, which has made him a lethal force in this tournament.*

brilliant four-wicket haul against Tamim XI yesterday.

The cricketer from Bagerhat tends to hit the deck hard and has

tried to get something from the pitch at good pace and a perfect line and length, which has made him a lethal force in this tournament.

The 30-year-old pacer has been instrumental with the new ball and managed to get early breakthroughs for Mahmudullah XI consistently and yesterday was no exception.

Rubel, right from the start, tempted the batters by maintaining a tight channel on the fourth and fifth stump line and got the reward immediately. He started off by picking young Tanzid Hasan Tamim with a banded-in three-quarter length delivery which rose sharply and took the left-hander's edge through to the slip fielder.

Credit should also be given to another pacer, Abu Hider, who was bowling from the other end

as the left-arm seamer kept the pressure on from one end, which helped Rubel pick up wickets as the batsman chased the right-arm seamers' away going deliveries.

His next victim was Anamul Haque Bijoy, who was caught in two minds over whether to play the shot or not and offered up a simple catch to cover off a Rubel delivery well outside the off stump.

The pacer was brimming with confidence and also used variations like the slower ball and at times tried to bowl in the blockhole, keeping the batsmen guessing all the time.

Mohammad Mithun also paid the price as he became Rubel's third wicket, courtesy of an outside edge to the keeper as Tamim XI were struggling on 17 for four inside

nine overs.

Much like with the new ball Rubel was also instrumental with the old cherry as well and coming into his second spell the pacer managed to give the all-important breakthrough for his side by picking up the wicket of Maidul Islam Ankon for 57.

Courtesy of Rubel's magnificent figures of four for 34 from his 10 overs, including three maidens, Tamim XI could only post 221 for eight in 50 overs.

As the Tigers head coach Russel Domingo said before the tournament, he is focusing on creating a group of seven to eight pacers who could play in all three formats both home and away, the BCB President's Cup will undoubtedly encourage the South African.

## Booters welcome Nepal friendlies

SPORTS REPORTER



The national footballers are eagerly waiting to return to the ground through friendlies against Nepal -- slated for November 13 and 17 in Dhaka -- despite questions remaining about their preparedness to take the challenge following a long coronavirus-induced break.

Footballers had been training at home as per instructions from head coach Jamie Day till early August after the country's sports activities were suspended since mid-March and deferment of all international engagements due to the pandemic. The booters even started outdoor training at Gazipur from early August for the World Cup Qualifying fixtures in October and November but FIFA/AFC on August 12 again deferred the matches to the next year, leaving the national players, except the booters of Bashundhara Kings, sitting idle for the last one month.

In such circumstances, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has invited Nepal to play two international friendlies on the November FIFA Window.

Though the players have not yet been officially informed about the friendlies by the BFF or coach Day, the players are well aware of the friendlies due to media reports. And the booters seemed to be excited to return to action despite the lack of preparation.

"We have not been informed about the friendlies yet but Jamie always asks us to be ready because the training camp may get started anytime. Since the lockdown, Jamie has been in touch with all of the national players and recommended us to follow the training schedules," said midfielder Sohel Rana.

"We have been training individually but there is a huge difference between individual training and team training. It's a fact that we have to gain [match] fitness

as much as possible within a three-week period to play these matches because we don't have alternatives." The Abahani midfielder is however ecstatic with a hope that they will return to the action in November after a long eight-month gap.

"Arranging such international matches is needed because all of us are out of action for a long period. Our football will return to the ground through these two international friendlies and the footballers will not only get a taste of football after a long gap but also the spectators and other stakeholders will also get the taste of football," said Sohel.



More than half of the national players including Sohel are perhaps out of training since mid-August. However, a dozen national players have been in the club training for Bashundhara Kings till October 15. The club management also asked the players to join the camp on October 30 before resuming training from November 1.

"The players of Bashundhara Kings won't face much problem to regain their fitness because they have been in training for the last one-and-a-half months but the players outside Bashundhara may face difficulties to get fit within a short period of time," said right-back Bishwanath Ghosh.

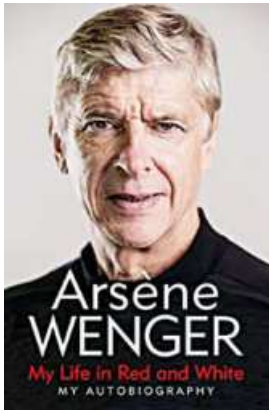
"We really want to return to the ground immediately and we are obviously happy with such an initiative that will also give us a platform to get prepared for December's domestic competition," said Ghosh.

## 'I feel like being in kindergarten with Jose'

REUTERS

Arsene Wenger has brushed off Jose Mourinho's reaction to being left out of the Frenchman's autobiography despite their fiery touchline clashes over the years, saying that dealing with the Portuguese made him feel like he was in kindergarten again.

Wenger's autobiography, "My Life in Red and White", looks at his 22 years at Arsenal but failed to mention his duels with Mourinho, whose Chelsea side dethroned the Frenchman's 'Invincibles' in 2004-05. Mourinho had said the reason he was not mentioned in the book was, "Because he never beat me." "It doesn't bother me. It's permanent



provocation." Wenger told Canal Plus. "I feel like I'm in kindergarten with him. But that's part of his personality."

Mourinho's rivalry with Wenger reached boiling point in 2014 when they physically clashed on the touchline in a Premier League game at Stamford Bridge.

It took Wenger 14 attempts to finally beat Mourinho, who once called him a "specialist in failure", and he managed only two wins in 19 meetings.

"We beat him twice. We won, and there were also a lot of draws," Wenger added. "It's not 'you' who wins, you only participate in the victory. It's 'us' who win. The manager is there to get the most out of a team."



## THREE SUPER OVERS IN A DAY!

Sunday night was a historic one for IPL, witnessing three Super Overs in a single day. Debutant Lockie Ferguson's destructive bowling saw Kolkata Knight Riders edge Sunrisers Hyderabad in a Super Over in the first match before Chris Gayle's towering six all but sealed Kings XI Punjab's win over Mumbai Indians in the second Super Over of that particular match.

PHOTO: IPL

## Virus shakes up big leagues

REUTERS, BERLIN

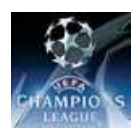
Fans assuming that Bayern Munich would already be cruising towards their ninth consecutive Bundesliga crown or that English champions Liverpool would have started to shake off their rivals early in the season could not be wider of the mark.

The Covid-19 pandemic has mixed up the traditional balance of power across Europe's major soccer leagues, with heavyweights Liverpool, Real Madrid and Juventus trailing behind the likes of Everton, Real Sociedad and Sassuolo.

A disrupted 2019/2020 season due to the global spread of the virus meant any regular pre-season preparation went out of the window, with leagues stretching into June and July to finish.

The Champions League did not end until a month later, forcing teams such as Bayern, PSG and Manchester City to make do without virtually any training before the new campaign.

AGENCIES



The Champions League group stage kicks off on Tuesday with Bayern Munich beginning their defence of the trophy won in Lisbon in August. Here are some of the storylines to watch over the next few weeks.

### Pirlo up against his old master

In 1995, Mircea Lucescu gave midfielder Andrea Pirlo his Serie A debut at 16. Some 25 years on, Lucescu will be on the opposite bench when Pirlo makes his UEFA Champions League coaching debut with Juventus. The 75-year-old Dynamo Kyiv boss remembers the young Pirlo as: "Incredible, mature; mature like he is now." Can the 41-year-old outfox his old mentor in Ukraine, even with star striker Ronaldo absent?

### All eyes on Camavinga

Like Pirlo, midfielder Eduardo Camavinga was 16 when he made his top-flight bow, and the Rennes man subsequently became France's youngest senior international debutant since 1914 when he featured in the UEFA Nations League in September at 17. He should catch the eye in Rennes's group stage debut against Krasnodar, as his old Rennes youth coach Landry Chauvin put it: "He has this simplicity that brings the ball to life."

### Will Messi close the gap?

With Ronaldo isolating, Lionel Messi

has a chance to narrow the 15-goal gulf between the two megastars at the top of the all-time UEFA Champions League rankings. Ferencvaros visit Camp Nou, but Messi will not remember his only past meeting with a Hungarian side fondly. At 18, he made his Argentina debut in an August 2005 friendly against the Magyars. He was sent off within two minutes of coming on.

### Can Immobile show Dortmund his worth?

Outscoring Robert Lewandowski to win last season's ESM Golden Shoe with 36 league goals will have brought a certain satisfaction for Lazio's Ciro Immobile.

The forward replaced Lewandowski when the Pole left Dortmund for Bayern in 2014, but underperformed in his only season in Germany: ten goals in 34 games in all competitions. As Lazio welcome Dortmund, the 30-year-old has a chance to get some closure.

### PSG v United: The revenge mission

On 6 March this year, Marcus Rashford posted an Instagram to mark one year since his late penalty in Paris completed a stunning round of 16 comeback, the Reds Devils overturning a 2-0 home defeat to progress with a 3-1 success at Parc des Princes. "What a night," wrote Rashford. Neymar, who watched both legs from the sidelines, will be anxious to help PSG get their own back.

### Lewandowski v Suarez

With 15 goals over the course of Bayern's stunning campaign -- 11 games, 11 wins -- Robert Lewandowski was the star of last season's UEFA Champions League, and a clear winner in the UEFA Men's Player of the Year vote. He will seek to maintain that striking form in this season's group stage, but an opener against miserly Atletico means he could be upstaged by Los Colchoneros' new arrival Luis Suarez.

### Like the first time for Ramos

Matchday 1 could easily feel like Groundhog Day for Sergio Ramos; Real Madrid's game against Shakhtar marks the start of the defender's 17th successive UEFA Champions League campaign. However, no one sums up the spirit of the competition quite like the 34-year-old. As he put it: "You have to reset every year and start from scratch; to live each triumph, every trophy win, as if it were a completely new thing."

### Liverpool v Ajax: Battle of the giants

Perhaps the most remarkable thing

about this matchday 1 fixture is that it is only Ajax and Liverpool's third European encounter. Their first two tussles came in the 1966/67 European Cup second round; Johan Cruyff scored three across two legs as Ajax won 5-1 in Amsterdam then drew 2-2 at Anfield. Having netted in four of his side's last seven European away games, might Salah be the star this time around?

### An Olympian struggle for Valbuena

"Marseille and me, we're linked for life," tweeted Mathieu Valbuena after his current club, Olympiacos, drew OM in the group stage. The midfielder spent eight seasons at Marseille before leaving for Dinamo Moskva in 2015, so fans were not exactly delighted when he returned to France to join Marseille's rivals Lyon two years later. Expect that relationship to remain complicated as the 36-year-old lines up on Wednesday.

### Underdogs aim to prove themselves great Danes

Four teams make group stage debuts on matchday 1: Basaksehir, Krasnodar and Rennes kick off on Tuesday, while Midtjylland meet Atalanta in their opener on Wednesday. Denmark's champions have had the longest journey; they made it through two qualifying rounds before beating Slavia Praha in the play-offs, coach Brian Priske saying: "Getting to the group stage is the ultimate."



Defending champions Bayern Munich will be looking to race off the blocks when they host Atletico Madrid on Wednesday.

PHOTO: BAYERN MUNICH

2020-21 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	Edition: 66	Teams: 32	Midtjylland and Rennes will make their debut appearances. *This will be the first time three Russian clubs will play in the group stage.
	Defending champions: Bayern Munich	Final: 29 May, 2021	
	Schedule: 20 Oct 2020 - 29 May 2021	Venue: Ataturk Olympic Stadium, Istanbul *Istanbul Basaksehir, Krasnodar,	



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# Covid cases top 40m globally

More European countries impose new curbs; UN to stockpile syringes for vaccine

AGENCIES

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases worldwide passed 40 million yesterday, as fresh measures to combat the spread of the virus came into effect in several European countries.

The latest global milestone came just hours after the number of people who have died from Covid-19 passed 250,000 in Europe, as the pandemic rampages across much of the continent.

Worldwide, the virus has claimed 1,114,860 lives since it first emerged in China late last year. Since then, at least 40,064,580 cases of coronavirus have been registered, of whom at least 27,549,400 are now considered recovered, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 11:00 GMT yesterday.

On Sunday, 4,198 new deaths and 323,553 new cases were recorded worldwide. Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were India with 579 new deaths, followed by United States with 509 and Iran with 337.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 219,676 deaths, followed by Brazil with 153,905, India with 114,610, Mexico 86,167 and Britain 43,646.

A raft of European nations including Italy, Switzerland and Belgium took desperate new measures to try to combat a second wave of coronavirus infections.

Many governments are seeking to avoid the full-on lockdowns imposed in the first wave as they battle to keep their economies going but in some countries, people are chafing against the new restrictions on daily life.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Gas bubbles in open sewer-water in Karwan Bazar. Locals allege that gas has been leaking there for over a year. They informed Titas gas authorities about the leak at different times, but to no avail. The Titas headquarters in only a few buildings away. Recently, a gas leak explosion killed around 30 people in Narayanganj.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE 4,315 women and children suffered in 2 months: MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 4,315 women and children in the country became victims of violence during the months of August and September, said a new report of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Of them, 99 percent were victims of domestic violence -- 56 percent of whom were abused by close family members, the report said.

It found that among perpetrators of this violence, 89 were addicts, 72 miscreants, and 53 employers. Political party activists, students, supervisors, and socially powerful people were also among the perpetrators.

MJF interviewed 72,645 people in 174 upazilas of 59 districts over August and September to find out how women and children were faring in the current Covid-19 situation, said a press release sent yesterday.

Of the respondents, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



# Early voting begins in crucial Florida

28m Americans already cast ballots

AGENCIES

Early voting for the Nov. 3 presidential election began in the crucial battleground state of Florida yesterday as a record 28 million Americans have already cast ballots with barely two weeks remaining in the campaign.

President Donald Trump, running out of time to change the dynamics of a race that polls show him losing, was scheduled to visit Arizona yesterday after holding a rally in Nevada on Sunday and urging his supporters to vote amid signs that Democrats are leading the surge in early voting.

His Democratic challenger Joe Biden, who campaigned in another key state of North Carolina on Sunday, will spend the day at his home base in Delaware, while his running mate, Senator Kamala Harris, heads to Florida to encourage supporters to vote early.

Florida is widely seen as a must-win for Trump, whose path to victory becomes razor-thin if he loses the southern state.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

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

## Bangabandhu felicitated



Students of Dhaka Medical College congratulate Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his being awarded the Joliot-Curie Peace Medal on October 20, 1972.

October 20, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### STUDENT BODIES GREET BANGABANDHU

Representatives of different hall unions of the Engineering University today call on Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to felicitate him on being awarded the Joliot-Curie medal of the World Peace Council. They garland him at the Gono Bhaban. They also hand over to Bangabandhu a memorandum containing their problems and grievances.

A group of students of Dhaka Medical College also calls on the prime minister today to congratulate him.

BHASHANI DEMANDS REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION

National Awami Party (Bhashani) Chief Maulana Bhashani says

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# Condemned Azhar sued in bomb case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday took cognisance of charges against Jamaat leader ATM Azharul Islam and 149 others in a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka passed the order after scrutinising case dockets and other documents.

The tribunal issued arrest warrants against 14 accused who were mentioned as fugitives in the chargesheet.

The tribunal also directed the officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station to submit the report on execution of arrest warrants by January 20 next year.

On December 30, 2014, International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced Azharul, an assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, to death for committing crimes against

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# Restaurant reinvents ferris wheel in pandemic



REUTERS, Budapest

Hit by a plunge in turnover after foreign tourists vanished, Michelin-starred Hungarian restaurant Costes has staged a skyline dining event on the Budapest Eye ferris wheel to generate sales in a coronavirus-proof environment.

Costes owner Karoly Gerendai said that turnover at one of his reopened restaurants is down to about a tenth of pre-lockdown levels, forcing him to look for new ways to do business.

"Now that there are not many people either on the wheel or in the restaurant because there are no tourists, the opportunity arose that we could do this," he said of the event at the landmark

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# 21 more die, 1,637 infected with Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one people have died from Covid-19 in the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services.

With this, the total number of deaths to Covid-19 rose to 5,681, which is 1.46 percent of all confirmed cases in the country since March 8 this year.

In the same period, a total of 1,637 people tested positive for the virus taking the total number of confirmed cases to 3,90,206, added the release.

With this, Bangladesh is currently 17th on the list of worst affected countries in the world in terms of the total number of conformed cases.

The country's position is one step behind Italy and one step ahead of Germany, according to worldometers. info.

The positivity rate of SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# Murder case plaintiff 'abducted, tortured'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The plaintiff of a murder case was allegedly abducted on Saturday, tortured overnight and forced to sign on a blank paper in Kurigram's Rowmari upazila.

Sheikh Farid, 23, son of Rafiqul Islam of Jhagrachar area in Showmari union of the upazila, filed the case with Rowmari Police Station following the death of his father.

The perpetrators picked up Farid from Jhagrachar area of the Rowmari-Dhaka highway around 7:30pm on Saturday and confined

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A garbage truck trying to overtake a bus that stopped in the middle of a bridge at Amin Bazar on the outskirts of the capital to pick up passengers. Disregard for traffic rules often causes tailbacks and accidents on streets and highways. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# MYANMAR'S ACCOUNTABILITY The Netherlands commits to ensuring it

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Netherlands has expressed its strong commitment to ensuring accountability of Myanmar, which is accused of committing genocide against the Rohingyas, at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Dutch Ambassador Harry Verweij handed a letter, written in this regard by their Foreign Minister Stef Blok, to Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen during a call on at the state guesthouse Padma in the capital on Sunday.

It comes just before the Gambia is scheduled to file its full submission of memorial on the Rohingya genocide case to the ICJ, the top UN court headquartered at The Hague.

In a joint statement on September 2, Canada and the Netherlands had made a commitment to providing overall cooperation supporting the Gambia's case against Myanmar at the ICJ.

They also expressed their joint intention to intervene in the matter of The Gambia versus Myanmar, a contentious case alleging violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention).

The case was filed against Myanmar's treatment of the Rohingyas, including mass killings, rapes, and destruction of their homes that forced some 750,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh in 2017.

The Rohingyas, who were denied citizenship in Myanmar since 1982, faced many other basic rights violations and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:50	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:15
JAMAT 5:25	1:15	4:15	5:39	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION