

3-DAY ULTIMATUM TO PM TO QUIT Protesters return to Bangkok streets SEE PAGE 6

The Daily Star



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"They're playing with the nation in the name of elections."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL ISLAM ALAMGIR AT A PROTEST RALLY

"This is the culmination of a worldwide movement to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons."
UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES HAIL TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO ENTER INTO FORCE

"We are changing the map of the Middle East."
ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU AFTER SIGNING NORMALISATION ACCORDS WITH ARAB STATES

PREVENTING SECOND WAVE

No mask NO SERVICE

Govt asks public, private organisations not to provide services to those without face coverings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has asked public and private organisations not to provide services to people without a face covering as it aims to curb a possible second wave of Covid-19.

A "no mask, no service" policy will be implemented and all organisations will be monitored because the government made masks mandatory in all institutions, markets, schools, and social and religious gatherings.

The directives came yesterday during a virtual cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The PM joined the meeting from the Gono Bhaban and the cabinet members from secretariat.

"No one will be allowed to enter government offices without a mask. There will be large cautionary posters at the entrance of offices," Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam told journalists after the meeting.

"We've given the instructions... to all levels including social, organisations and formal institutions," he said.

The instructions came amid repeated calls from the PM to always wear face masks outdoors. She also stressed this at the last cabinet meeting on October 19.

Yesterday, she asked the authorities concerned to be prepared to tackle the possible second wave of Covid-19 this winter.

The National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC), formed to advise

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PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

WHY IS THE KILLER FREE WHEN MY SON'S IN THE GRAVE?... Salma Begum, mother of Rayhan Ahmed, holds up a sign that aptly portrays her sense of acute injustice during a protest outside Sylhet city's Bandarbarazar Police outpost. Rayhan was allegedly tortured to death in the early hours of October 11 at the outpost. This photo was taken before noon yesterday.

PK Halder yet to return, cites fever as reason

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proshanta Kumar Halder, director of International Leasing and Finance Service Limited (ILFSL), who allegedly embezzled crores of taka from NBFIs, did not return to Bangladesh though he was supposed to yesterday.

ILFSL's lawyer Mahafuzur Rahman Milon informed the Attorney General's office and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) via e-mail on Saturday, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

In a letter to ILFSL on Friday, PK Halder wrote, "I am feeling feverish and physically unwell. With the present Covid-19 situation, this looks like a symptom and it will be unwise and not possible for me to travel at this point of time."

He added that he will inform the authorities

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PROTECTING HILSA 25 cops hurt as fishermen attack them

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

At least 25 river police personnel were injured when fishermen attacked the law enforcers conducting a drive against hilsa catching and selling at Chandpur's Laxmirchar in the Meghna yesterday.

The injured took primary treatment at Chandpur 250-bed General Hospital.

The government has imposed a 22-day ban on catching, selling, hoarding,

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Shun unethical journalism

PM tells journos at DRU programme

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged journalists to write reports based on facts and perform their duties to the country and the nation, shunning unethical journalism.

"We want neutrality in journalism, reports based on facts, dutifulness towards the country and the nation. Unethical journalism cannot bring any good for any country as it causes harm... let there be no unethical journalism," she



said. The prime minister said this virtually while speaking at the Silver Jubilee programme of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) held at InterContinental Hotel. She was speaking from her official residence the Gono Bhaban.

She urged all to maintain the neutral policy of journalism for the welfare of all.

The prime minister called upon the journalist community of the country to

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'We can make things better'

Biden, Obama slam Trump's Covid response; president blames rise of cases on more testing

AGENCIES

An energized Joe Biden and Barack Obama on Saturday accused Donald Trump of a massive screw-up in his handling of the coronavirus, but the US president remained ebullient despite trailing in polls with 8 days to go until the election.

More than 56.5 million Americans have already voted in person or by mail, a pace of early voting that could lead to the highest voter turnout rate in more than a century, according to data from the US Elections Project.

Trump plowed through three campaign rallies in one day, targeting separate battleground states as he sought to close the gap with Biden.

But the president's efforts have been inescapably overshadowed by a grim reality: the US set a daily record for new Covid-19 cases for the second day in a row on

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The majority has returned to KSA

Biman, Saudia ferried over 31,000 stranded Bangladeshis in 31 days

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines have ferried over 31,316 stranded Bangladeshi migrant workers to their workplaces in Saudi Arabia in 31 days since September 23.

Managing Director and CEO of the country's national flag carrier Mokabbir Hossain yesterday said they have arranged four special flights to Saudi Arabia late this month for those who returned to Bangladesh from the Gulf country on airlines other than Biman and Saudia.

Different airlines that used to operate flights to Saudi Arabia via stopovers in their respective countries are yet to resume operations to the country from Dhaka amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The return of Bangladeshi migrant workers, who had come home on airlines other than the two national flag carriers, to Saudi Arabia became uncertain as Biman and Saudia did not issue any new tickets amid the huge rush of their own passengers to return to their places of work.

Around 55,000 Saudi-bound Bangladeshi expatriate workers have been waiting to return to their workplaces in Saudi Arabia since resumption of regular flights to the Gulf country from September 23.

Talking to The Daily Star, MD and CEO of Biman said they have already carried 14,316 Bangladeshis to Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam through 40 flights.

A top official of Saudia yesterday said they have already carried over 17,000 Bangladeshi expatriates to different destinations in Saudi Arabia through 48 flights since September 23.

Sources at both Biman and Saudia said that Bangladeshi workers with return tickets will have no problem reaching the Kingdom as there are

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Two held in connection with rape in Noakhali

STAR REPORT

Two people were arrested in cases filed over rapes of a teenage girl and housewife in Noakhali's Begumganj and Hatiya upazilas yesterday.

Besides, two others were sent to jail on charges of raping a housewife in Kishoreganj yesterday, and a quack was sued for rape in Gazipur on Friday.

Quoting the case statement, police said a youth named Sumon broke into the victims' room in Noakhali's Begumganj around 2:30am Saturday.

He then raped her at gunpoint. When the victim's parents went to the room, Sumon, who also the victim's neighbour, managed to flee.

Later, her father filed a case against Sumon, who was arrested yesterday, said Md Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Begumganj Police Station.

In another incident, a

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We Deeply Mourn



Barrister Rafiq-Ul Huq
(1935 - 2020)

We grieve the passing away of former Attorney General of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. A luminary, a respected lawyer and a noted philanthropist.

Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. May his soul rest in peace.

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AK Fazlul Huq and Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Muslim League Council Meeting in Bombay in the early 1940s. PHOTO: DAWN / WHITE STAR ARCHIVES



The Working Committee of the Lahore Resolution in 1940. Prime Minister AK Fazlul Huq is standing beside M. A. Jinnah.



AK Fazlul Huq's short lived cabinet in East Bengal, 1954, which included Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

147TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

SHER-E-BANGLA IN SEARCH OF A NATIONAL SOUL

ABUL MANSUR AHMAD

Sher-e-Bangla was an institution rather than an individual. So say his critics as well as his admirers. And rightly so. But it seems very few have really appreciated the deeper significance of the epithet given him by themselves. It appears that many regard him as an institution just in a conventional way. They do so because his colourful personality, his phenomenally eventful life, his apparently conflicting ideologies, his incomprehensible contradictions, his bold and unapologetic inconsistencies, his recklessly magnificent obsession of secret munificence, his monumental successes interspersed by abysmal failures, his childish mistakes in the context of his prodigiously sharp intellect, in short, the ocean-like expanse of his stormy life full of gems and jewels on the one hand and mud and dirt on the other, could not be explained except on the theory of an institution. But their assessment of Fazlul Huq's life, otherwise quite correct, appears to have overlooked two very important traits of his character viz: One, his confident and unfaltering insistence that in all his quarrels it was his opponents who were mistaken and not he; two, his candid confession that he never tried to be the master of his fate but allowed chance to play her part in his life. This is very significant. Indeed in my view these two traits taken together is the key to the secret chamber of Fazlul Huq's life.

It clearly implies that Fazlul Huq was led more by intuition than by intelligence. In judging Fazlul Huq we have always talked of his being guided more by heart than by brain, more by impulse than by deliberation. But we have never thought of intuition. An intuition is no mere instinct or impulse. It is that esoteric channel through which men can approach the portals of truth or rather truth may glint in men's mind in flashes. Most of Fazlul Huq's uncommon and eccentric behaviour referred to above become crystal clear if seen through this prism light or intuition. Thus interpreted Fazlul Huq's life can only mean that he was destined to fulfil a mission. At least he felt he was. It was his intuition, and he believed in it.

On his recovery from a death illness in 1935 he solemnly asserted: 'The fact of my miraculous recovery from such mortal disease indicates that Allah wishes me to fulfil a noble mission.' He may have expressly said so on that occasion but in reality he must have started feeling it decades earlier. He might not himself have any clear idea as to what that noble mission was. Most probably he had not. His mind at that time might have been too much engrossed in his quarrel with the Congress over the Mayoralty of Calcutta Corporation and of his dual with Governor Anderson over the latter's nominee Sir Nazimuddin whom he was to fight at Patuakhali for any such spiritual evaluation. These two events in and by themselves were no doubt great events serving as turning points in the political history of Bengal, but compared to Fazlul Huq's life's mission even these events pale into insignificance.

What was the mission?

But what was that mission? A little reflection on the salient traits of Fazlul Huq as a public man will supply the answer. Let us see what those traits were. To the Muslim Intelligentsia he was the champion of all round renaissance of Muslim Bengal. To the educationist he was the patron saint of education in Bengal second only to his teacher Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee. To the Hindu intelligentsia he was the most beloved of the Muslim leaders in spite of the fact that amongst the latter Fazlul Huq was the most ruthlessly outspoken in his attacks against the Caste Hindus. To Dr. Sir P.C. Roy, the great scientist-philosopher, who typified a catholic Hindu mind with broad outlook, Fazlul Huq combined in himself a true Muslim and a true Bengalee and thus constituted an ideal Bengalee of the future. To the teeming and starving millions of the peasant Bengal he was the Messiah of their Dal-bhat. Last of all he was Sher-e-Bangla, the people's lion of Bengal, in spite of or rather because of, the various esteems he was held in by their cross sections. On the whole, he belonged to the people and the people belonged to him. This has been very succinctly epitomized in the aphorism that

Fazlul Huq was Bengal and Bengal was Fazlul Huq. The one really belonged to the other. To Fazlul Huq the people was not a vague term to be interpreted according to political exigencies. To him it was the peasantry, the common man, of Bengal.

So, if democracy could be defined by Abraham Lincoln as 'the government of the people, for the people and by the people', we can as well describe Fazlul Huq as the 'Sher-e-Bangla of the common man for the common man and by the common man.'

Many a politician has spoken and written democratically, but no one has lived democratically as Fazlul Huq has done. Many a statesman has spoken and written of the common man, but no one has lived like a common man in the midst of the common man as Fazlul Huq has done. The one trait of his character which has completely identified him with the common man was the ups and downs, lights and shades, the sun and the rain of his own life. In the case of the common man this instability in life was entirely to the social and economic inequities which he had been suffering. But what about Fazlul Huq? If he wanted, he could have led a successful and happy career and got at the top in any sphere of life, as success and happiness are understood by an average wise man, and thereby could have lived in a station far above the common man. But he seemed not only not to have wanted such a life but to have deliberately avoided it. If he so wanted he could, much earlier in his life, have adorned all the high offices he ultimately occupied in the ripe old age when he could and should have retired from an active life and led a peaceful one. But he did not. He would not accept anything unless it was a gift from the common man. To him no office was attractive enough to separate him from his people. And he did not want to lead a peaceful life. Peace seemed to be the last thing he wanted. If normal political life meant peace he would prefer an abnormal one. In all disputes he was the aggressor. He quarrelled with the Congress at a time when it was the most influential political party in the country and left it. He quarrelled with Governors and left ministership. He quarrelled with Quaid-e-Azam and left the Muslim League after he himself made it the most powerful party in the country.

So it was always the stronger party that he picked up to quarrel with and never with the weaker.



AK Fazlul Haque with Rabindranath Tagore

In all these quarrels, however, he claimed to be in the right and his opponents in the wrong. It was in these quarrels again "if he was ever sorry for what he had done, he was far more remorseful for what he had left undone."

Search for a national soul

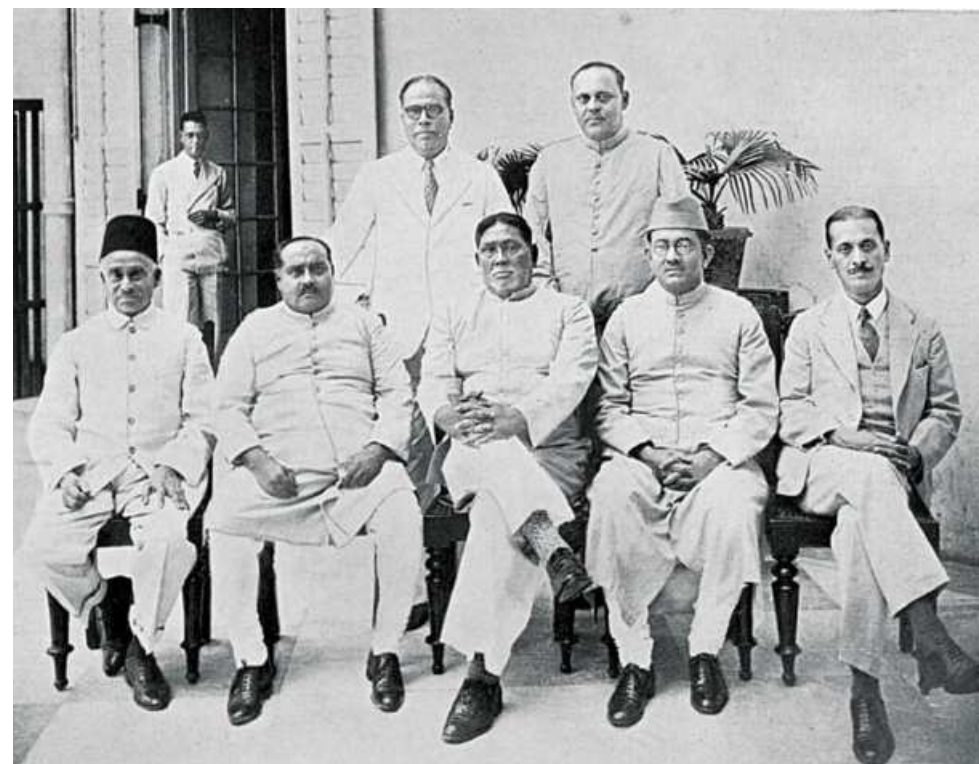
Now, if we examine these traits and the popular appellations attached thereto in the context of the respective events and quarrels which brought them into play, the following deductions follow:

Fazlul Huq was possessed with a restless soul. This restlessness was due to his search for a national soul.

Fazlul Huq's concept of this national soul passed through different, various and even contradictory formative stages. A national soul has all the elements of an individual one. If an individual soul is not just a philosopher's dream, neither is the national soul a dream of the statesman. It is a reality.

Like an individual a nation has a self. This self is not just a behaviourism. It cannot merely

be objective. It must be subjective also. For a Bengalee Muslim of Fazlul Huq's time it was extremely difficult to find such a subjective feeling of a national identity, not to speak of a national soul. The very idea of nationhood throughout the world had already been passing through a revolutionary transformation as a result of the French and American revolutions. Indian Muslims in general and Muslims of Bengal in particular, were groping in darkness as to what their future and national identity would be. All chances of their revival had been dashed to pieces in consequence of the abortive war of independence miscalculated Wahabi Movement and Sepoy Mutiny. Now the only question was that of survival. Thus the entire Muslim India was bleeding. This bleeding was the profusest in Bengal because in no other province of British India were the Muslims so ruthlessly denuded of all semblance of life, liberty, and culture as in Bengal by systematic brutal, unjust and illegal maltreatment meted out to the ex-rulers by the new ones.



AK Fazlul Huq and his cabinet, 1937.

SOURCE: BANGLADESH ON RECORD

Just imagine a people who only about a century ago were the enlightened rulers of the country not as foreigners but as those belonging to the country: the people who only 50 years ago were the teachers of the people in the arts and literature not only in the language of state but also in the language of the people, were, now, in the course of only fifty years, reduced to an illiterate mob passing their wretched life in the hovels of destitution. Imagine also the cruelty of the revengeful rulers who had been inflicting wounds after wounds on the bleeding heart of the Muslim Bengal by successive illegal steps and measures like Resumption Policy and the Permanent Settlement. Lastly, imagine the heartless addition of insult to injury by creating new Muslim province of Eastern Bengal and Assam with Dacca as its capital in belated recognition of the enormity of the treacherous breach of faith with the Muslim Bengal and then most unceremoniously annulling it within five years of its inauguration. This was in 1911. This event coincided with Italy's aggression on Tripoli. The Balkans were soon snatched away from Turkish hands. Iran and Afghanistan were virtually occupied by Britain and Russia.

Now by the end of the First World War the subjugation of almost all the Muslim countries by the Christian powers of Europe under the leadership of Great Britain was complete. The Indian Muslims were, therefore, convinced that the anti-Muslim attitude of the British Government in India was not an isolated affair but an integral part of their global and imperial policy. This realisation on the part of the Muslims was responsible for all their subsequent political activities based and to be based on the Hindu-Muslim understanding including Lucknow Pact, Khilafat and Non-cooperation

movements, Jinnah's 14-points, boycott of Simon Commission and Round Table Conference, culminating in the Communal Award. All these were undoubtedly attempts to maintain the separate identity and national soul of Muslim India from extinction by merger with the vast ocean of an All-India soul, the soul of Viswa-Bharati of Rabindranath's conception. Fazlul Huq was prominently in the thick of all these movements and parleys. Almost all the prominent Muslim leaders of Bengal participated in them in one form or another at one time or another.

The callous indifference to the annulment of the Muslim province of Eastern Bengal and Assam and their agreement in the Lucknow Pact to the permanent reduction of the Muslims of Bengal to a minority by other Muslims in exchange of weightage of a few Muslims seats in other provinces disillusioned him. It must have pained Fazlul Huq that all-India Muslim leadership did not raise its little finger of protest when Deshbandu's Bengal Pact was

a concrete shape. He was demonstratively the happiest man at that time.

But his happiness was only transitory. The Lahore Resolution, his pet child in which independent Bengal of his life-long dream was enshrined, very soon started being distorted and disfigured in the course of tumultuous and misdirected propaganda for Pakistan. He could clearly visualize the ultimate result. He could see that official propaganda of the Muslim League was bound to end in the ultimate partition of Bengal producing a truncated East Pakistan to be ruled by Western Muslim Marwaris from a distant foreign land like the Punjab. He resolutely stood up against such catastrophe. Sher-e-Bangla started protesting to, quarrelling with and writing letters, including open letters, to Quaid-i-Azam and ultimately quitted the Muslim League. As a last resort to save Bengal from being divided he formed a Progressive Coalition ministry excluding the Muslim League but inclusive of all the Parties including Congress and Hindu Sabha. But then it was too late to save Bengal as the Hindu, themselves, in the meantime, had decided to partition it. There ended Sher-e-Bangla's search for a national soul in the undivided Bengal.

But did his search for a national soul end there? It definitely did not. The defeated Lion of Bengal spent some time in licking his wounds; but did not meet 'his Waterloo'. He resumed his pilgrim's journey in search of his ideal in which he had immense faith. His failure did not make him wise. To him to be wise was not the only wisdom. It was impossible for him to close his eyes on the inward vision of the soul of his nation. So it was chance again that impelled him to continue its search. If undivided Bengal did not prove to be the reservoir of that soul, East Bengal, which was the real Bengal, certainly would. So he began the search with renewed energy and vigour. In the Language Movement, spear-headed by the students and youths, he found the spark of that soul. It ignited the fire. The Lion roared again. It resoundingly reverberated. The echo came from the core of the heart of the masses. It shook the earth. The Lion of Bengal appeared to have assumed a national identity and a spiritual personality. It seemed Sher-e-Bangla's dream was about to be fulfilled.

But no! It was only a false dawn, a Subeh Kazeib, not a Subeh Sadeq! The light receded. The darkness thickened! Storms raged. Fazlul Huq was again disappointed. But "these disappointments did not cure him" of his hunger for a national soul which he modestly called his "ineradicable romanticism." This was so because he "never tried to make himself the complete master of his fate." He intuitively knew that it was not his individual fate that he was striving for. It was the fate of a nation. Intensely religious, Fazlul Huq believed in the immutability of the destiny any immortality of the soul of his people as well as his own. He, therefore, continued upto the end, to "let him be up and doing with a heart for any fate, still achieving still pursuing." He did "learn to labour and to wait".

Thus the great pilgrim died in the midst of his quest for the soul of his nation. His old body fell, but not his young heart. His hands dropped, but not the unextinguishable lamp they held. The restless soul that for half a century yearned to fulfil itself in a national identity and could not do so during his lifetime is, still, after his death, beckoning his people from a way side grave to go on with the quest. The fact that this he is doing from the precincts of the High Court of Judicature of the realm and that his two great comrades have joined him there, is symbolic of the sign—justice and his erstwhile comrades are on his side.

Will the new generation fail him and the nation?

Abul Mansur Ahmad (September 3, 1898-March 18, 1979) was an eminent litterateur, journalist and politician.

The article was originally published in The Observer on April 27, 1966.

Explore all possibilities for procuring Covid-19 vaccines

We must not lag behind in the global race for a vaccine

IN the midst of hopes that a coronavirus vaccine could be ready by early next year, the government of Bangladesh has asked for more than USD 1.5 billion from development partners to procure and distribute the vaccine when it becomes available. According to estimates from the finance ministry, Bangladesh might need between USD 1.65 billion and USD 2 billion to vaccinate the country's 165 million people. As a part of this call for assistance, the finance minister held a virtual meeting with the World Bank Vice President on Thursday and sought USD 500 million from the World Bank to purchase, store, transport and distribute the vaccines.

It is reassuring to see that the government is taking concrete steps and seeking financial assistance to ensure that Bangladeshi citizens have access to a Covid-19 vaccine as soon as it hits the markets. As the World Bank management is currently mulling the approval of additional financing of USD 12 billion to help low- and middle-income countries with acquiring the vaccines, it is a good time for Bangladesh to be reaching out. However, we hope the authorities will also be looking elsewhere for financing—while talks have already been initiated with Japan, we also hope that other friendly nations will step forward. Since the government has plans to seek loans from the Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank as well, there must be careful consideration of the economic risks of too many loans at a time when the stimulus packages to keep our economy afloat are still being distributed. The entire process of acquiring funding as well as using it for the sourcing of vaccines must be completely transparent, and all parties involved must be held accountable in order to discourage any corruption or misuse of funds.

However, financing is only one part of the process of acquiring vaccines, and we urge the authorities to explore all options with regard to the actual sourcing of the vaccine. Last week, the government decided not to co-fund the trials of a Chinese vaccine, and although we are meant to be in talks with the makers of five front-running vaccine candidates, there have been no updates from the authorities in this regard. While we should definitely aim to use the COVAX Facility to acquire vaccines through the WHO and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, we must also explore cutting deals with governments and global pharmaceutical companies in order to not lag behind in the global race for a coronavirus vaccine.

Path to economic recovery must be inclusive and sustainable

Govt must put people and productivity in key sectors at the centre of attention

TO say that it has been a difficult journey for us over the last seven months of Covid-19 would be an understatement. Nearly six thousand people have died so far. Nearly four lakhs have been infected. But the number of people hit by the pandemic's impact on life and work runs into many millions. There are, however, indications that the economy is on the rebound and it gives us hope. Recent figures point to a slow, painful but assured recovery, provided the current momentum holds and progress made after the lifting of the lockdown is not undone by the second wave of coronavirus expected in winter. But there are also legitimate concerns about the "quality" of this recovery and whether or not it will be inclusive and sustainable—questions that have always haunted Bangladesh's policymakers. Experts at a recent webinar organised by the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem) also highlighted this concern, stressing the need for "a parallel recovery of social conditions and the economy".

Some of the issues they raised deserve appropriate attention. Of particular note is a readjustment of priorities, especially by shifting the focus away from GDP growth to other performance indexes, which could show us the real state of the economy. So far, the return of work orders for the RMG sector and increased inward remittance have acted as catalysts in driving our economic recovery. But unless productivity in other key sectors is also increased and the pre-existing challenges of inequality, poverty, employment generation and institutional weaknesses are addressed efficiently, the marginal recovery achieved so far may flatten out in the face of a second wave and its effects. We also need initiatives to address the sluggish demand in domestic market, low private investment, and slow disbursement of the government's stimulus packages which, if left unaddressed, could prove to be a major drag. There is also a need for specific interventions to increase employment.

The main objective, as one expert has highlighted, should be to help citizens recover from the pandemic's impact on health, education, poverty and social discrimination, among other indicators, with the same urgency as boosting macroeconomic indicators like the GDP. The need for inclusive growth that benefits all and leads to a sustainable economy cannot be overestimated. The government must design and pursue policies keeping this in mind. It must put people—especially the newly poor and traditionally marginalised groups whose lives have been battered by the pandemic—at the centre of all activities.

Getting the best out of a changing rural economy



MACRO MIRROR
FAHMIDA KHATUN

RURAL Bangladesh is changing. This change has been happening rather fast during the last two decades. Rural activities are changing and the types of occupations are changing. So is the lifestyle of the rural population. This has been driven by income opportunities of a large number of rural population beyond agriculture. Hence the rural nonfarm sector has emerged as an important source of employment generation.

Over time, significant structural changes have taken place in the Bangladesh economy. During the last five decades the

stagnant.

The Labour Force Survey and the Household Income and Expenditure Survey of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics indicate that in the fiscal year 2016-17, the share of rural nonfarm employment in total rural employment was 48 percent. This has increased from 37 percent in 2000. Rural people are engaged in several types of physical labour-based work such as self-employed cottage industries, handicrafts, wage-based employment in rural businesses, transport and construction work, repair, etc. There are also human capital-based professions which include monthly salaried employees in public and private offices, school and college teachers, lawyers, rural doctors, mid-wives, etc. Yet another type of work such as micro, small and medium businesses, contractors, shopkeepers, etc. require both financial and human capital.

rural nonfarm sector. With large population and limited land, pressure on land is very high. The average farm size is also reducing. Besides, there is landlessness among many rural families. Hence for many, income opportunities from agriculture is shrinking. This has led the rural families to find activities beyond agriculture. Many have migrated to the cities in search of work and have been engaged in various informal activities. But not of all them can get a job. So, they try to find work in the rural non-agricultural sector.

Education among the new generation is another factor for rural people to move out of the agriculture sector. Many families have been able to increase agricultural productivity through the use of technology despite small land size. They invest this income on children's education so that their future generation can move towards human capital-based activities instead

also made significant changes in the rural areas. Rural electrification has facilitated the creation of several new employment and income opportunities. People could work at night and shops could remain open at night due to electricity availability in the villages.

Third, remittances sent by non-resident Bangladeshi workers have been invested in the nonfarm activities. Remittances have also increased the purchasing power of rural people. Rural wages have gone up due to the inflow of remittances, though productivity has not increased by equal measure. Indeed, labour productivity in the agriculture sector is comparatively lower in Bangladesh than in many other countries. In addition to remittances, expansion of the manufacturing sector in the cities where migrated rural workers have been engaged has also pushed rural wages up. Export-oriented readymade garments sector is a major source of employment for the rural population, including women.

Fourth, access to technology has created new opportunities. Cable television, computer, mobile phone and internet have brought radical changes in the rural areas. Rural people can connect with the large cities and the world. They can access information on markets for their products, weather, jobs, healthcare facilities and much more through technology.

Much of the potentials for further transformation of the rural economy is still untapped. Through higher investment the sector can be further diversified and developed. During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic reverse migration has been observed in Bangladesh. Many people who had earlier migrated to the cities have returned to villages as they lost their jobs and incomes. Ironically, large cities could not accommodate them, but they could somehow survive in the villages. Not only is the cost of living lower in the villages, they have a place to stay, and they have a social support mechanism.

The pandemic has reminded us of the importance of the rural economy. Also, the need for financial support to the small businesses has been felt more strongly. Most businesses in the rural areas are very small in size, and focused on services and trade. Many of them are not registered and rely on local markets only. Very few could expand their businesses outside their areas. Since many operate informally, they cannot take loans from the financial institutions. This has also been observed in case of the stimulus package for the small businesses announced by the government. Micro and small businesses do not have banking records which is discouraging banks to provide loans to them. However, if these businesses are not supported, many will not be able to survive. Therefore, special measures for disbursement of credit under the stimulus packages are needed. Besides, the role of the micro finance institutions in making the rural economy more dynamic and modern is also crucial.

A stronger and larger rural economy is crucial for employment generation and poverty reduction. This will in turn help reduce inequality and achieve sustainable development.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. Views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of her organisation.



In Bangladesh more than 40 percent of the total labour force is still engaged in agriculture though the sector contributes only 13.65 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) of Bangladesh as of 2019.

PHOTO: OXFAM

agriculture sector has been surpassed by industry and services sectors in terms of its contributions to the economy. Many developed countries have experienced similar structural transformation in their economies. Agriculture plays much less of an important role compared to the other sectors there. As a result, the sector is no more a major source of employment in those countries.

However, in Bangladesh more than 40 percent of the total labour force is still engaged in agriculture though the sector contributes only 13.65 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) of Bangladesh as of 2019. This implies that there are surplus labour in the agriculture sector who are underemployed. On the other hand, employment in the manufacturing sector whose share in GDP is 35 percent, has not increased as expected but rather remained

Most villages in Bangladesh are now linked with the cities as economic needs have increased. Improved connectivity has facilitated this. This has changed the rural landscape too. New activities and services including tea stalls, coffee shops, restaurants, salons, beauty parlours, kindergarten schools, coaching centres, health clinics, diagnostic centres, photocopying, printing, cybercafé, communication, processing, and many other vocations are available in and within the periphery of the villages. This diversification also indicates the increased purchasing power in the rural areas. Moreover, this suggests that the quality of human resources and the entrepreneurship of rural people have improved now than before.

Limited land is an important push factor for the rural people to be engaged in the

of labour based activities. So, children of agricultural families are making a transition from agriculture towards non-agriculture sector-based livelihoods.

Many initiatives have also facilitated the expansion of the rural nonfarm economy. First, programmes by both non-government and government organisations have helped nonfarm activities flourish. Organisations such as, Grameen Bank, Brac, Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation and similar ones have played important roles in helping the rural people with finance for their businesses.

Second, improved infrastructure had an important role to play in creating more employment opportunities in the nonfarm sector. Since the mid-eighties improved roads, culverts and bridges have increased the speed of lives by several times. So, the required time for completing activities has gone down. Besides, access to electricity has

A crisis like no other: But what have we learned?



RMG NOTES
MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

WE are still here and still fighting, even though the past few months have been tough. Myself, and many of my contemporaries running garment factories in Bangladesh are well qualified, experienced, we have the training and we have the knowledge. But absolutely nothing could have prepared us for the past few months. It has been a rollercoaster ride like no other.

In the midst of the battle, it has been difficult at times to sit back and take stock. We've all been fire-fighting and it has been all hands on deck pretty much since March. Sleepless nights and regular trips to the bank have become the norm for many of us.

Despite this, even in these incredibly challenging times, a few clear dynamics have presented themselves. Without doubt, we have learned a lot in the past few months, about ourselves and the industry in which we operate.

So what are the key lessons? Here are five things that stood out during the coronavirus pandemic.

One, we are resilient. We probably always knew this but this pandemic has shown that, as an industry, we are capable of digging deep and drawing on amazing reserves. There are factories still operating now which I would not have given a prayer a few months ago. But somehow, they have clung on, from week to week, and month to month. No factory owner wants to go down without a fight, and this pandemic has highlighted the incredible, indomitable human spirit which is alive and well in our industry.

Two, sometimes it takes a crisis to show people just what they are capable of. Look back to early on during this pandemic when our factories quickly adapted to producing personal protective equipment, despite having little experience in this area. Look at how factories across the industry have shown agility and flexibility, altering their layouts and introducing stringent cleansing programmes to ensure they remain Covid bio-secure. And look at how operations managers have somehow managed to cut costs even further, operating on a shoe-string budget at times so that they can retain as many staff as possible and, more importantly, remain in the game for when things pick up. Many of the lessons learned can surely be carried forward to better times.

Three, there is over-capacity. Before Covid struck, it was clear there was an over-capacity issue in the Bangladesh RMG sector. The past few months have simply brought this into further focus. With global demand for clothing down by more than 50 percent in the first half of 2020, it was fairly obvious there would be too many garment makers fighting over too few orders this year. Unit prices are down significantly, but don't let the pandemic muddy the waters here. Unit prices have been falling for apparel from Bangladesh for years. There are too many factories supplying the same, homogeneous produce and this is allowing brands to simply play one factory off against another. As painful as it may be, our industry needs a rationalisation at some point, and now might be the time to think about what shape our industry will take moving forwards, especially with a global recession forecasted.

Four, supplier relationships must improve. We have learned who our friends are during the pandemic. And, let's be honest, we don't have many of them.

There is a lot of talk about partnership in our industry but the reality, as we have learned, is that when push comes to shove, it is generally every man for himself. Some major brands committed to supporting suppliers by honouring all orders in the early days of the pandemic. But these were the exception rather than the rule. Most used the pandemic to squeeze large discounts out of suppliers, delay payments and in some cases, walk away from orders without looking back.



We probably always knew this but this pandemic has shown that, as an industry, we are capable of digging deep and drawing on amazing reserves.

Supplier relations cannot continue like this—it is literally not sustainable. We need a more equal balance between supplier and retailer, one built on transparency, trust, openness, honesty and mutual benefit. Surely that is to all our benefit.

Five, we need a broader strategy for our industry. This final point is one for our leaders and government. As we move towards the end of a year like no other,

more than ever I feel we need a clearly laid out strategy for our RMG industry. This needs to set short, medium and long-term goals for the industry and it has to be holistic—considering how industry, academia and other stakeholders can work together to make our industry world class. As I have said repeatedly in my column, this pandemic represents an opportunity as well as a threat. Everything is up in the air right now, and it is clear that now more than ever brands and

retailers are seriously looking at shifting more and more production out of China. This will be the biggest sourcing shake-up our industry has seen in a generation and, once it has unfolded, we all have to work together to ensure Bangladesh RMG is sitting pretty.

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE). Email: mostafiz@denimexpert.com

147TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SHER-E-BANGLA

The champion of the Bengali Muslim peasantry

TARIQ OMAR ALI

AK Fazlul Haq burst into an all-Indian national political scene through the 1937 elections for the Bengal Legislative Assembly.

AK Fazlul Haq and his political party, the Krishak Praja Party represented the interests of the Bengali Muslim peasantry, against the pro-landlord and pro-capitalist Muslim League.

The 1937 elections, from contemporary accounts, carried the excitement and festive air that we associate with elections in our country today.

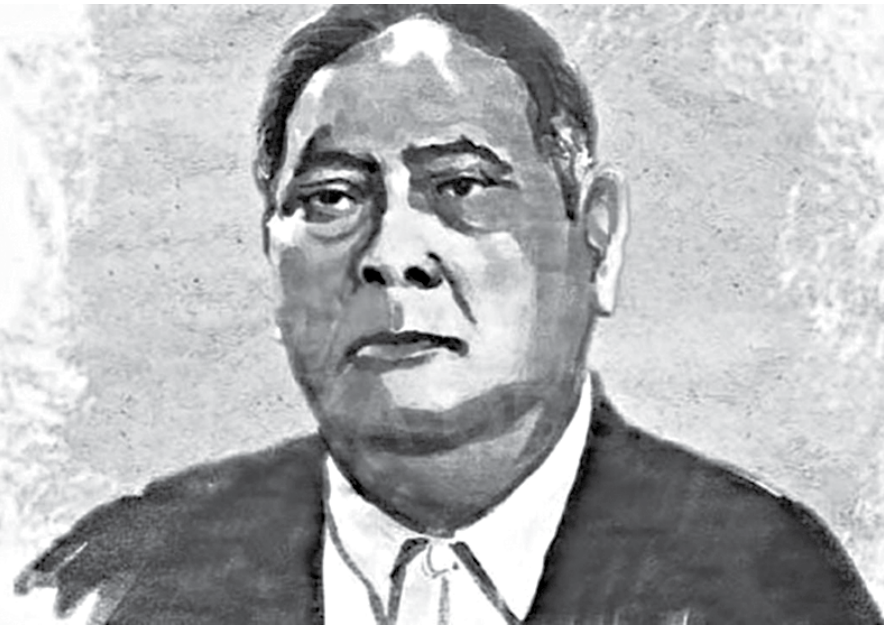
The election also had its signature contest,

Fazlul Haq against Khwaja Nazimuddin, the champion of the Bengal peasantry versus the aristocratic scion of the Dhaka nawab family.

The elections were not an outright victory for the Krishak Praja Party. The League had won more seats province-wide (39-36), though its alliance with the Tippera Krishak Samiti gave the KPP a slight lead (41-39).

The Krishak Praja Party's victories were almost exclusively in East Bengal, today's Bangladesh. The party naturally dominated in Barishal, Fazlul Haq's home district, but also in Khulna, Jashore, Rajshahi, Bogura, Mymensingh, and, after its alliance with the Tippera Krishak Samiti, in Comilla.

Politically, this movement took on the form and shape of the Krishak Praja Party, albeit in the context of the limited forms of electoral



Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haq (1873-1962)

and representative democracy under British imperialism. In the 1937 election, the KPP and its leader, AK Fazlul Haq, transformed the movement into a 14-point election campaign, into rallies, slogans, and speeches.

AK Fazlul Haq was premier of undivided British Bengal from 1937 to 1943, when he was dismissed by the British governor and replaced by his old rival, Khwaja Nazimuddin.

ouster, killing between 3 and 4 million through starvation during 1943 and 1944.

The Krishak Praja movement did not die with the famine, but the belief in the possibility of a pro-peasant government under the conditions of colonialism was extinguished.

movement... the Praja movement has been fully realised in the Pakistan movement." The Muslim League, as champions of the ideas of Pakistan, achieved a thumping victory in the 1946 elections, winning 87 percent of the rural Muslim vote.

AK Fazlul Haq did not create the movement that he represented. The movement had much deeper roots in the formation of a new community of Bengali Muslim peasantry under the conditions of colonial capitalism.

When the idea of Pakistan as peasant utopia was, in turn, betrayed by the Pakistani governing and capitalist classes, Sher-e-Bangla continued his lifelong fight for the Bengali Muslim peasantry.

Tariq Omar Ali is Associate Professor of South Asian history at the School of Foreign Services, Georgetown University, and the author of A Local History of Global Capital: Jute and Peasant Life in the Bengal Delta, published in 2018.

US Presidential Election 2020

Biden leads the polls, but can he win?



SHAMSHEER M. CHOWDHURY, BB

NOW that the Presidential debates are over, the public debates on whether there will be a change in the White House come November gathers momentum.

Joe Biden a sizeable lead, importantly, in what the Americans call, "battleground" states. These are the ones that made the difference for current incumbent Donald Trump in 2016.

America today is torn by an unprecedented degree of toxic social and political polarisation amidst a massive pandemic that shows no sign of letting up.

Past American presidential elections have usually been dominated by the promises the candidates made on what impact their respective socio-economic policies would have on the lives of the average citizen.

At the beginning of the year when the Democratic Party was in the process of nominating its candidate to take on President Trump in November, the common belief, both in the US and outside, was that the president would have little difficulty in winning a second term.

severe divisions in the American society, that he was hell bent on doing away with President Barack Obama's popular Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, that he had already angered the mainstream US media, that key administration personnel were being rotated or removed at a pace that made the White House resemble a fast moving revolving door, that he had weakened America's historical close ties with its traditional allies abroad, that he had pulled the US out of any dialogue on critical issues like the Iran Nuclear Deal, climate change and had publicly ignored the real

young, white non-college educated groups who constituted a very decisive part of the voters in some key States. His strong resistance to strengthen gun control laws despite a sharp rise in gun related violence, made him a hero with America's powerful gun lobby.

the threat and publicly pronounced it would disappear soon, ignoring the fact that by then the situation in Europe was already assuming alarming proportions. Trump also claimed that America was too strong to be seriously afflicted by it. But within days and weeks the virus began to spread like wildfire almost all across the country.

While President Trump could not be blamed for the outbreak of the pandemic itself, he was nevertheless coming under increasing criticism for continuously trying to play down the pandemic and its potential negative impact on the country, not just on the economy, but importantly on its over stressed healthcare facilities.

His opponents began a systemic campaign to focus on the president's "uncaring" attitude, manifested by his refusal to advocate wearing basic protective items like face-masks or maintain social distancing.



Joe Biden addresses supporters at his South Carolina primary night rally in Columbia, South Carolina, February 29, 2020.

PHOTO: JIM URQUHART/REUTERS

threats posed by global warming.

His strength had been a sustained growth of the country's economy, his dogged commitment to reshaping existing US trade agreements and arrangements with a number of countries, importantly, China and, to a lesser extent, Canada and Mexico.

white supremacists. His appeasement of the powerful Jewish lobby led him to move the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, thereby validating Israel's policy of military occupation and annexation of Palestinian land.

Then the dreaded coronavirus landed on America's shores in March, although reports now suggest that signs of the virus had already become evident in America as early as January and February.

The Democrats seized on this and put the president on the defensive. As opinion polls began to turn against him, President Trump began showing signs of desperation, made worse when he himself, and the First Lady, tested positive shortly following a disastrous first presidential debate performance and the president needing a brief period of hospitalisation.

With the elections being only a few days away, Joe Biden has sharpened his attack on the Trump Administration's inability to effectively combat the wild spread of Covid-19 and has called this election as one for "retaking the soul of America" and the imperative need to erase the corrosive socio-political polarisation in the country.

Trump is already trying to convince his base that early and postal voting is a flawed process and is saying that the election will be rigged against him. He has also not stated clearly whether he will concede if the results went against him and has not ruled out the possibility of referring the matter to the Supreme Court for a ruling.

The answer to the question in the title is, yes, Joe Biden can win. For that to happen though, the Democratic Party strategists need to remain focused, not lull into a state of complacency and to target the Electoral College votes in States that Hillary Clinton needed to win in 2016.

Shamsheer M Chowdhury BB is the former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and former Ambassador to the United States.

QUOTABLE Quote



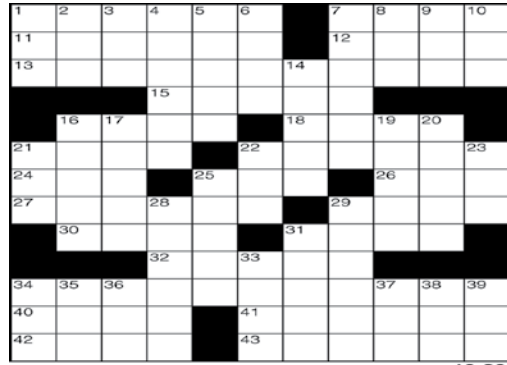
NELSON MANDELA (1918-2013) President of South Africa.

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS 1 Fishing line weight 7 Theater unit 11 Dive 12 Emmy winner Alan 13 Act of taking turns 15 Release 16 Shaker sprinkle 18 Sign of disuse 21 Citi Field team 22 Casino patron 24 Sense of self 25 Take to court 26 Bullring cry 27 Unprovoked 29 Blue cheese feature 30 Canada flag feature 31 Boston symphony 32 Powerful beam 34 Noisy argument 40 Before long 41 Thorny shrub 42 Fourth-down play 43 Just DOWN 1 Mud bath site 2 Under the weather 3 Squirrel's snack 4 Rings out 5 Snowy bird 6 Tenant's fee 7 Didn't participate in 8 Yale rooter 9 Hoopla 10 Shoe shade 14 Be of one mind 16 "Love Story" writer Erich 17 Make amends 19 Small porch 20 Bridge costs 21 Kitten call 22 Hot dog holder 23 Spectrum color 25 To this time 28 Natural gift 29 Mason's material 31 Treaty goal 33 Con man's con 34 Nile serpent 35 Singer Rawls 36 Great weight 37 Drink cubes 38 Gusher's gush 39 Opposing vote

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



BEETLE BAILEY



BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES





Pacer Sumon Khan celebrates the wicket of Mushfiqur Rahim. After Sumon's five wickets for 38 runs, Liton Das hit 68 off 69 balls as Mahmudullah XI posted a seven-wicket victory against Najmul XI chasing down 173 runs in the BCB President's Cup final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Not perfect, but enough value

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI



Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo recently downplayed performance issues during the BCB President's Cup, citing the lack of cricket in the last seven months as having played a big role in players struggling to get going. However, there were familiar patterns in the performances especially of the top-order batsmen throughout the tournament while the flux of youthful energy in the bowling department may have also piqued national selectors' interest.

Rather than neglecting performance issues of the cricketers following a break, it appears to be more prudent to look at the bright specks in this BCB-arranged tournament since some of the young players who played the tournament may very well form the backbone of the national team in the near future. It essentially became an opportunity

to the competitive structure, one that makes BCB's first tournament since the coronavirus outbreak a success as match situations tested batters' resilience.

The tournament served as a notice to top-order batsmen as the likes of Tamim Iqbal, Liton Das, Naim Sheikh, Soumya Sarkar, Nazmul Hossain and Mominul Haque failed to fire even though earlier on in the tournament, the Mirpur wicket had good bounce on offer for batsmen to play shots. The trend was not an unfamiliar one as the national team too have often struggled to get the top order to fire in recent years. Rust was an important factor and one also has to consider that one good delivery can upend a batsman, but the consistency of early debacles should be cause of headache and it may also raise doubts about how hard the bowlers actually had to work to trouble underperforming batsmen. All things considered, the tournament did provide an opportunity to evaluate performances as any competitive setting does and national selector Habibur Bashar was keener to focus on the bowlers' performances rather than disappointing batting displays.

"There is time before our next international assignment in January, so there will be time for batsmen to rectify things. The way I see it, the bowlers performed exceptionally and that is why the batsmen struggled. Both pacers and spinners have been bowling very well and kept a tight leash on batsmen," he said.

"Obviously we didn't expect the batsmen to underperform but it wasn't easy on the slow surface and because of the rust associated with playing after a long time," he added. But in terms of evaluating the future stars? "We're definitely looking at the performances and with the future tournaments coming before next year, we will get to see a lot more," Bashar concluded.

Rust was a key factor but if one looks at the ongoing IPL, it appears that players' preparation has been far from ideal. The key lay in how to mentally prepare to play the game, as Chris Gayle showed after coming back from sickness and hitting a crucial fifty to give his side Kings XI Punjab a much-needed win. Getting cricket back onto the field was BCB's priority but the team selections and balance of the three teams also gives them good ground to evaluate what they saw in this tournament.



Lesser lights grab the spotlight

SPORTS REPORTER



Young pacer Sumon Khan's five-wicket haul laid the platform for Mahmudullah XI to bundle out Najmul XI for a total of 173 runs. In reply, a clinical batting display, led by a fifty from Liton Das, helped Mahmudullah XI clinch the BCB President's Cup title with a seven-wicket win at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

While the intent and attitude from many of the established cricketers was absent, it was the lesser known ones who managed to grab all the limelight in yesterday's final.

All eyes were on the likes of Rubel Hossain and Ebadat Hossain in the pace bowling department for Mahmudullah XI when they sent

HIGHLIGHTS

- PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
Mushfiqur Rahim
- BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
Irfan Shukkur
- BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
Rubel Hossain
- PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
Rishad Ahmed

Najmul XI to bat first. However, young Sumon Khan, who had his way into the team due to an injury to Hasan Mahmud, stepped up and grabbed the opportunity.

Neither tall nor stocky, Sumon used his line and length with a bit of swing to great effect. The 20-year-old, who has been part of the High Performance squad, announced himself by picking three wickets in the first game before his five-for-38 in yesterday's game.

Rubel Hossain gave

Mahmudullah's side the early breakthrough by removing Saif Hasan before Sumon, who was struck for two boundaries early, had his revenge and got the biggest scalp of Mushfiqur Rahim.

Sumon's ability to shape the ball into the right-hander worked well as Mushfiqur, batting on 12, was beaten by the late swing and got trapped leg-before while trying to work the ball on the leg side.

The right-arm pacer got the outside edge of another in-form batsman Afif Hossain before he got Soumya Sarkar edging while playing at a delivery going away from his body.

The pacer from Manikganj used his intelligence and tried to bowl at the stumps against the tail-enders and dismissed Nayeem Hassan and Nasum Ahmed late in the innings as Najmul XI were bundled out for 173 with 17 balls to spare.

Much like Sumon, another cricketer who is lesser known to many cricket fans was left-hander Irfan Shukkur. Irfan's innings was the only highlight with the bat for his side in this game.

Irfan showed promise throughout the tournament as he displayed a great amount of adaptability coming into bat in different situations. Coming in at five-down, the 75-run knock was his second half-century of the tournament and eventually he ended as the second-highest run-getter of the tournament with 214 runs behind Mushfiqur's 219 runs in five games.

The selectors will surely provide more opportunities in future to players like Sumon and Irfan, who generally do not get enough opportunity compared to the established players so that a healthy competition for places in the national team ensues.

'Madrid's life insurance' makes the difference

REUTERS, BARCELONA



Talking points from Saturday's action in La Liga after Real Madrid won 3-1 away to Barcelona in the 'Clasico' and Atletico Madrid beat Real Betis 2-0.

STREETWISE RAMOS PROVES THE DIFFERENCE

Real coach Zinedine Zidane was unable to explain how his side could beat Barca so comfortably after pitiful defeats to Cadiz and Shakhtar Donetsk but there was in fact a simple explanation: Sergio Ramos.

Madrid's captain got injured against Cadiz and was not risked against Shakhtar, meaning he was at his all-powerful, bloody-minded best for the game that mattered the most and once

Ramos continued to thrive in the pressure-cooker situation of a penalty, scoring a 25th consecutive spot kick and racking up his 100th goal for the club.

KOEMAN LOSES TACTICAL BATTLE
A veteran of Clasico encounters as a player, Barca coach Ronald Koeman had a disappointing first experience of Spain's biggest fixture from the dugout and got the big decisions wrong.

He made a bold call in benching Antoine Griezmann, but giving a start to 17-year-old Pedri in his place proved misguided as the youngster looked out of his depth and fazed by the occasion.

The Dutchman also took far too long to change things around even as his side continued to be overpowered in the second half, not making any changes until



again the towering centreback proved the difference.

Ramos restored power and concentration to Madrid's defence but above all embodied the winning mentality that runs through the club, which was underlined when he made the most of a tug by Clement Lenglet to win the penalty in the second half from which he put Madrid back in front.

"The smartest kid in class, he brought home the bacon for Madrid by falling over and reacting far quicker than any other player would," said newspaper AS, adding that Ramos was 'Madrid's life insurance'.

the 81st minute.

After the match, he chose to focus on Real Madrid's penalty which he argued was soft, insisting that his side played well and would have got a different result were it not for the decision, even though they were out-played in the latter stages.

There are also two questions: Can Griezmann find a way back after latest snub? Can Atletico grind their way to the title?

With Real and Barca looking far from their peak powers, Diego Simeone's side are starting to look like a consistent, solid side after seeing off Real Betis.



ON TARGET

[L-R] Moise Kean scored his first goal for Paris St Germain as the French champions recovered from their Champions League defeat by Manchester United to move top of the Ligue 1 standings with a 4-0 home victory against lowly Dijon on Saturday. Romelu Lukaku struck again, his fifth league goal of the season and seventh in all competitions, as Inter Milan ground out a 2-0 win away to Genoa in a lacklustre Serie A match. Robert Lewandowski took his Bundesliga tally to a record 10 goals in the first five games this season with a hat-trick as Bayern Munich thumped Eintracht Frankfurt 5-0. Sadio Mane congratulates Diogo Jota, who elevated to head home Mane's perfect cross from the left flank as Liverpool came from a goal down to beat Sheffield United 2-1 in their Premier League clash at Anfield on Saturday night and extend their unbeaten run at home to 62 games in the top flight.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Sri Lanka to tour South Africa in Dec

REUTERS, COLOMBO



Sri Lanka will travel to South Africa in December to play a two-Test series, a local media report said on Sunday, marking their return to international cricket after a 10-month gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since hosting West Indies for a limited-overs series in February, Sri Lanka cricketers have seen a number of fixtures, including test matches against England and a limited-overs series against India, postponed because of the pandemic.

The team will play a two-Test series beginning on Dec. 26 though venues have not been finalised yet, the Island newspaper reported, quoting Sri Lanka Cricket officials. The first match is set to be played in Durban or Port Elizabeth, with Cape Town the likely venue for the New Year test.

Sri Lanka last toured South Africa in 2019, becoming the first Asian team to win a test series there. Most of Karunaratne's team-mates will be seen in action in the Lanka Premier League Twenty20 competition beginning on Nov. 21.

FIRST ROUND: MATCH 4

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GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES
World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

Security officer gone rogue

JU community and outsiders accuse official of assault and abuse; admin takes no action

MUNTAKIM SAAD and MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

More than a dozen complaints of assault, blackmail and extortion, and verbal abuse of female visitors have been submitted to Jahangirnagar University authorities against its chief security officer Sudipta Shaheen in the four years since he took office.



Sudipta Shaheen

His activities created a menacing atmosphere on campus among students and staff as well as small traders, several of whom have been assaulted by him.

However, the university authorities have taken no action against Shaheen so far despite the numerous allegations against him.

After these incidents took place, all they said is, "Investigation is going on."

The Daily Star obtained copies of most of these complaints against the 45-year-

old, who did not even spare university teachers.

Written complaints were submitted to the authorities over two separate incidents -- one where Shaheen misbehaved with two teachers of the chemistry department who were with some alumni of the university and another with a former student of the university who runs a shop near JU's main gate.

Some also verbally complained to the administration against Shaheen; many didn't even report the incidents out of fear, students said.

Some were brutally beaten, tortured and threatened with dire consequences if they reported what they faced, the victims mentioned in their complaints.

The latest victim is a van-driver named Nahid Hossain, who had his leg broken

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Chattogram Development Authority is demolishing some buildings at Muradpur to make way for canals. Work of canal re-excavation, expansion, renovation, and development is going on to ease waterlogging in Chattogram city. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

DIGITAL SECURITY ACT DU teacher sued over comments on religion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A professor at Dhaka University has been sued under the Digital Security Act for making "derogatory" comments on religion during a talk show on a private television channel.



Ziaur Rahman

Two cases were filed with the Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka against Md Ziaur Rahman, professor of DU's Criminology Department, yesterday.

Shamim Al Mamun, bench assistant of the tribunal, confirmed this to The Daily Star.

Md Imrul Hasan, a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Lee Kun-hee

Man who made Samsung a global powerhouse dies

REUTERS, Seoul

Lee Kun-hee, who built Samsung Electronics into a global powerhouse in smartphones, semiconductors and televisions, died yesterday after spending more than six years in hospital following a heart attack, the company said.

Lee, who was 78, grew the Samsung Group into South Korea's biggest conglomerate and became the country's richest person. But he was also convicted of bribery and tax evasion, and he and the empire he built were vilified for wielding huge economic clout, and for opaque governance and dubious transfers of the family wealth.

"Lee is such a symbolic figure in South Korea's spectacular rise and how South Korea embraced globalisation, that his death will be remembered by so many Koreans," said Chung Sun-sup, chief

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust set up

October 26, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ANOTHER STEP FOR FREEDOM FIGHTERS' WELFARE Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's government has formed a trust with an initial fund of about Tk 4 crore in both cash and industrial units for the benefit of freedom fighters who had made supreme sacrifices with their blood, sweat and tears for the liberation of Bangladesh. An eight-member board has been formed for the Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust with Relief and Rehabilitation Minister AHM Kamruzzaman as chairman and Maj Gen (Retd) A Rab as the managing director.

A total of seven industrial units and establishments have been placed under the disposal of the Trust. These are all profitable concerns and will generate money for disbursements for the benefits of the freedom fighters. The welfare trust would be a permanent source of income for freedom fighters or their descendants and beneficiaries of Shaheeds of the Liberation War.

BANGLADESH TO OPEN EMBASSIES IN IRAQ, ROME The government of Bangladesh has decided to open two embassies, one in Iran and the other in Rome, shortly. This is disclosed by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad today prior to his departure on a 16-day tour of Eastern European countries.

OFFICIALS ASKED TO FIGHT PEST ATTACK

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Dhaka seeks Tokyo's help in Rohingya repatriation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday sought Japan's strong support in resolving the Rohingya crisis.

In another development, Bangladesh Ambassador in Greece Ashud Ahmed sought support from Greece for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees who fled persecution in their homeland in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Stressing the need to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region, the foreign minister urged Japanese Ambassador Naoki Ito to use his government's leverage with Myanmar to create a

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US man hits jackpot twice in one year



CNN ONLINE

The chances of winning the lottery are slim to none, but one man's luck has defied the odds.

Michael Christiansen of Norfolk, Nebraska, hit the jackpot for a second time this year.

Earlier this month, Christiansen won \$100,000 after purchasing a 20X The Money Scratch ticket. He collected his winnings on October 15 at the Nebraska Lottery's office in Lincoln. It was his second trip to the office this year because he won \$50,000 from a Money Clip Scratch ticket in March.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

SHUVRA MURDER Another held, confesses before judge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Detective Branch of Mymensingh police on Saturday arrested Khairul, 35, of Kawrat Paschimpara in the district's Gouripur upazila, for allegedly killing the upazila's

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 26

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Players of Mahmudullah XI celebrate with the BCB President Cup's trophy after beating Najmul XI in the final by seven wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The third team, Tamim XI, was eliminated in the group stage.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

WHO reports 3rd straight daily record

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization's coronavirus dashboard yesterday showed a third consecutive daily record high in the number of new confirmed cases.

The WHO's complete figures for Saturday showed that 465,319 cases were confirmed to the UN health agency during the day, topping the 449,720 recorded on Friday and the 437,247 logged on Thursday.

The WHO has warned that some countries are on a "dangerous track", with too many witnessing an exponential increase in cases. Within each week, the pattern of cases being reported to the WHO tends to spike towards Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and dip around Tuesday and Wednesday.

According to the WHO's figures, there have been more than 42.3 million confirmed cases of the respiratory disease, while nearly 1.15 million people have lost their lives, including 6,570 on Saturday.

Nearly half of Saturday's new cases were registered in the WHO's Europe region, which logged a one-day record high of 221,898 cases.

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Father-in-law 'has Qatar expat killed'


Allegedly to grab Tk 1 cr, 3 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali


Police arrested a man on charges of killing his son-in-law with hired assassins in a bid to obtain Tk 1 crore from his bank accounts.

Dilip Gazi, 45, who worked in Qatar for years, was drugged before he was asphyxiated to death at his home in Lalua area of Kalapara, Patuakhali, on Wednesday night, said Moinul Hasan, superintendent of police in the district.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
এসএমই এন্ড স্পেশাল প্রোগ্রামস্ ডিপার্টমেন্ট
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা



মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী ঘোষিত ২০ (বিশ) হাজার কোটি টাকার সিএমএসএমই আর্থিক প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের আওতায় ঋণ/বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা

- আপনি কি একজন সিএমএসএমই (কটেজ, মাইক্রো, স্মল এন্ড মিডিয়াম এন্টারপ্রাইজ) উদ্যোক্তা? কোভিড-১৯ এর বিরূপ প্রভাবে আপনার উদ্যোগ/প্রতিষ্ঠান কি ক্ষতির সম্মুখীন?
- তাহলে, মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী ঘোষিত সিএমএসএমই এর জন্য ২০ (বিশ) হাজার কোটি টাকার আর্থিক প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের আওতায় চলতি মূলধন ঋণ/বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা পেতে আজই আপনার নিকটস্থ ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন;
- প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের আওতায় ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক সিএমএসএমই উদ্যোক্তা/গ্রাহকদের ৪% সুদ/মুনাফায় অর্থায়ন করা হচ্ছে;
- এতদসংক্রান্ত সার্বিক সহায়তা দিতে ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিটি শাখায় স্থাপিত 'হেল্প ডেস্ক' রয়েছে আপনার পাশে।

প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের আওতায় সিএমএসএমই ঋণ/বিনিয়োগ পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের এসএমই এন্ড স্পেশাল প্রোগ্রামস্ ডিপার্টমেন্টের প্রবলেম সলিউশন সেন্টারে যোগাযোগ করুন

ফোন নম্বর: +৮৮০২-৯৫৩০২২০, ই-মেইল: gm.smespd@bb.org.bd

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