

## Damages

FROM PAGE 12  
among the enlisted members.

Notwithstanding this, a member can violate party discipline and draw the attention of the speaker and earn the right to speak, Bangabandhu remarks. The leader of the house notes with a great deal of annoyance that the members are wasting invaluable time of the house by persistently raising irrelevant points. Time so wasted could have been profitably utilised, he adds.

**UN SURVEY**  
The first ever official survey on damage and repairs in Bangladesh following the Liberation War estimates a loss of about Tk 930 crore for the new nation, according to an official report released in Dhaka today. The survey carried out by SK Dey, special consultant to the UN Relief Operation and a former minister in the government of India, places the estimated loss very close to the preliminary and unofficial estimate by the Bangladesh government at over Tk 1,000 crore. SK Dey in his report says the survey has covered only tangible damages which could be estimated from ledgers and on the spot.

“Behind the tangible damages lie a world of damages, assessment of which is a near impossibility,” he adds.

*SOURCES: October 28, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.*

## Scientists

FROM PAGE 12  
This had the effect of skimming the photon across the two electrons. Electrons behave like particles and waves simultaneously, and as such when one electron was ejected, the waves moved the second electron.

The waves from the second electron merged with the first, and the photon could move across this interference pattern.

By measuring this pattern using a Cold Target Recoil Ion Momentum Spectroscopy (COLTRIMS) reaction microscope, and with the knowledge of where the hydrogen molecule was, the scientists could record the time it took the photon to move.

“Since we knew the spatial orientation of the hydrogen molecule, we used the interference of the two electron waves to precisely calculate when the photon reached the first and when it reached the second hydrogen atom,” said Ph.D. candidate Sven Grundmann in a statement.

“And this is up to 247 zeptoseconds, depending on how far apart in the molecule the two atoms were from the perspective of light.”

## Pompeo starts

FROM PAGE 12  
technology, officials said.

Esper will also be discussing ways to increase cooperation between the two countries’ military forces.

This could include intelligence sharing, stepping up joint exercises, and arms sales -- including possibly US F-18 fighter jets.

Pompeo will go on from India to Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia, all of which have a key role in Indian Ocean maritime traffic where China has cast a greater shadow.

The secretary of state said ahead of the trip that his meetings would “include discussions on how free nations can work together to thwart threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party”.

## Swetchhasebak

FROM PAGE 12  
A few days ago he was released from jail on bail. His elder brother Jewel Chandra Das, 35, is also a known criminal in this area, with nine cases against him.

“I have visited the spot. We identified a group from the upazila Jubo Dal, working under a former convener, as the murderers.”

Contacted, Shuvashish Podder Liton, president of the district Jubo League, told The Daily Star that Somrat was the main accused in the murder of a Jubo League leader.

“We are conducting drives to detain those are involved in the murder. The dead body was sent to hospital for autopsy. No case has yet been filed in this regard,” said the OC.

## Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 12  
bridge and fell into a canyon about 25 feet deep at Dele area of the Central African Republic.

The accident took place around 12:30am local time yesterday.

They were going to Bangui from Kaga port.

ISPR said Abdus Samad and Mokhlesur Rahman are being treated at the Level 2 UN Hospital at Bangui and would be shifted to Uganda for better treatment.

Other Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers are safe in CAR, it added.



An Iraqi demonstrator reacts during anti-government protests in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday. Dozens of Iraqi protesters again clashed with security forces in Baghdad yesterday, a day after a rally marked the first anniversary of the start of nationwide mass anti-government demonstrations. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Oxford vaccine gives hope to all age groups

FROM PAGE 12  
The news that older people get an immune response from the vaccine is positive because the immune system weakens with age and older people are those most at risk of dying from the virus.

The Financial Times reported earlier that the vaccine, being developed by Oxford and AstraZeneca, triggers protective antibodies and T-cells in older age groups - among those most at risk from the virus.

The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is expected to be one of the first from big pharma to secure regulatory approval, along with Pfizer and BioNTech’s candidate.

If it works, a vaccine would allow the world to return to some measure of normality after the tumult of the pandemic.

Called AZD1222 or ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, the vaccine was developed by Oxford University scientists and licensed to AstraZeneca in April, which took on the task of scaling trials and production.

The vaccine is likely to provide protection for about a year, CEO Pascal Soriot said in June.

The British drugmaker has signed several supply and manufacturing deals with companies and governments around the world as it gets closer to reporting early results of a late-stage clinical trial.

The news came as the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Sunday called for global solidarity in the rollout of any future coronavirus vaccine, as the number of cases soared across the world.

In a video address at the opening of the three-day World Health Summit in Berlin, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the only way to recover from the pandemic was together and by making sure poorer countries had fair access to a vaccine.

“It is natural that countries want to protect their own citizens first but if and when we have an effective vaccine, we must also use it effectively. And

the best way to do that is to vaccinate some people in all countries rather than all people in some countries,” he said.

“Let me be clear: vaccine nationalism will prolong the pandemic, not shorten it.”

Apart from the vaccine news, the picture was unrelentingly grim in Europe as a string of countries reported record increases, led by France, which posted more than 50,000 daily cases for the first time on Sunday, while the continent passed the threshold of 250,000 deaths.

At least 43,080,500 cases of coronavirus have been registered since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT on Monday. Of these, at least 29,194,100 are now considered recovered.

On Sunday, 4,313 new deaths and 408,969 new cases were recorded worldwide. Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new

deaths were India with 480 new deaths, followed by the United States with 461 and Iran with 337.

Governments have been desperate to avoid the lockdowns which curbed the disease at the start of the year at the cost of shutting down their entire economies. But the steady rise in new cases has forced them to ratchet up controls steadily.

In Spain, which has had more than 1 million cases of the disease, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez warned the country was facing an “extreme” situation as he announced a new state of emergency on Sunday, imposing local nighttime curfews and banning travel between regions in some cases.

Italy, the country worst hit in the early stages of the crisis in March, also imposed new curbs, ordering restaurants and bars to close from 6 pm and shutting down cinemas, and gyms and imposing local curfews in several regions.

# Waiting for re-entry

FROM PAGE 12  
return because of the restrictions imposed have to obtain an exceptional entry permit allowing them to return to the Gulf country, effective from August 1.

The employer must apply for an entry permit for the respective expatriate worker, using Qatar Portal, an official website of the Qatar government.

Contacted, Monsur Ahmed Kalam, president of the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh, said around 4,000 to 5,000 Bangladeshis with return tickets were waiting to go back to their workplaces in Qatar.

Of them, workers employed at private companies are mostly having problems getting re-entry permits. The exact number of such workers could not be known.

The Bangladesh Embassy in Doha has already submitted a list of stuck workers to the Qatar authorities.

Miraz Hossain, a private company worker in Doha, said he came home on February 1 on a two-month

vacation and was supposed to return to Qatar on April 1.

Aside from the two-month vacation, he had permission for an additional four months’ stay outside Qatar. His employer applied for his re-entry permit in August.

“But it was turned down,” said Miraz, who is from Dhaka. Another application filed in September was also rejected.

Md Abdullah, 29, who works as a salesman for a company in Qatar, is facing a similar problem.

The migrant worker from Sylhet’s Kanaighat said he came home on March 5 on a 45-day vacation. His employer had applied for his re-entry in July but it was rejected immediately.

Abdullah said his employer applied again in August but the website Qatar Portal still shows his application to be “under process”.

“I have been unemployed at home. My family sold two CNG-run autorickshaws we owned to meet our financial needs.”

During their protest, the

migrant workers demanded that the government should look into their matter and address it to the Qatar government for an immediate solution.

According to the embassy, Qatar hosts around 4 lakh Bangladeshis, mostly migrant workers. More than 80 percent of Bangladeshi male workers there are involved in the construction sector.

The Gulf country is a major remittance-generating country for Bangladesh -- with migrant workers remitting \$1.1 billion from Qatar last year, government data shows.

On October 15, Bangladesh Ambassador Jashim Uddin, during a meeting with the Qatar foreign ministry’s Head of Asia Affairs Khalid Ibrahim Al-Hamar, sought Qatar’s support in facilitating the return of stranded Bangladeshi expatriates, according to a social media post of the embassy.

In response, the Qatar official assured Ambassador Jashim of extending all possible cooperation.

According to the post, both

expatriate Bangladeshi workers and a good number of Qatar-based Bangladeshi businessmen remain stranded at home.

Contacted, FM Borhan Uddin, director general (West Asia wing) of Bangladesh foreign ministry, said they will verify the matter of stranded expatriate workers.

He said for workers’ re-entry to any of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries -- including Qatar -- the sponsor needs to apply to the local authorities for clearance.

Otherwise, the automated system will not allow the worker and the relevant embassy in Bangladesh will also not issue a re-entry visa, he told this newspaper recently.

It cannot be correct that stranded workers did not get re-entry permission despite the sponsors’ applications maintaining due procedure, he said, adding the problem could be elsewhere then.

Asked about the memorandum submitted by the stranded workers to the foreign ministry, he said he was unaware about the matter.

# First stage of Egypt parliament elections wraps up

AFP, Cairo  
Polls closed in Egypt Sunday after the first phase of parliamentary elections in which candidates loyal to President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi are expected to sweep to victory.

Some 63 million voters out of Egypt’s more than 100 million people are eligible to elect 568 of the 596 lawmakers in the lower house, widely seen as a rubber-stamp body for executive policies.

be held on November 7-8, will cover Egypt’s 13 other governorates including Cairo.

Run-offs are scheduled to take place in November and December, and the newly elected lawmakers will begin their terms in January.

The new parliament will be the second to convene under Sisi, who took office in 2014 after the previous year leading the military ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi.

The outgoing legislature, elected in

2015, was packed with Sisi supporters and featured only a small opposition bloc known as 25/30.

Over 4,000 candidates, believed to be mostly pro-government, are competing for 284 of the 568 seats reserved for individuals. Eight party lists are running for the remaining 284 seats.

Many of the candidates also stood for election five years ago in a political landscape marked by the presence of dozens of parties but with little weight and influence on the ground.

# Fury after Qatar ‘forcibly examined’ women at airport

AFP, Doha  
Female passengers flying from Qatar were subjected to invasive searches after a premature baby was found abandoned in an airport bathroom, in procedures the Australian government yesterday described as “grossly disturbing” and “offensive”.

A number of women -- including from Australia -- were removed from their flight and examined for signs of childbirth after the baby was found in a bathroom at Hamad International in the Qatari capital.

Australia’s government on Monday condemned the October 2 incident, which only came to light after Australian

passengers spoke out, and said concerns had been lodged with Qatar.

“This is a grossly, grossly disturbing, offensive, concerning set of events. It is not something that I have ever heard of occurring in my life,” Foreign Minister Marise Payne said.

“We have made our concerns very clear to the Qatari authorities at this point,” she said, adding that the matter had also been referred to Australian Federal Police.

A source in Doha briefed on the incident told AFP that officials “were forcing women to undergo invasive body searches -- basically forced Pap smears,” an internal examination of the cervix.

Passenger Wolfgang Babeck told AFP women returned to his flight from Doha to Sydney in a “shell-shocked” state, having been told to remove clothing from the lower half of their bodies for an examination by a female doctor.

“All of them were upset, some were angry, one was crying, but basically nobody could believe what happened,” the commercial lawyer said, adding he thought the incident could be “a violation of international law”.

That flight, Qatar Airways’ QR908 to Sydney, was four hours late departing Doha as a result, according to air traffic website Flightradar24.

# Biden no lover of UK’s ‘Trump clone’ Johnson

AFP, London  
The political bromance between Boris Johnson and Donald Trump leaves Britain and its transatlantic “special relationship” exposed if Joe Biden wins next week, just as the country needs all the friends it can get.

The UK is divorcing the European Union and looking to revitalise partnerships elsewhere, but has managed to antagonise Trump’s Democratic opponent over its Brexit plans for Northern Ireland.

French President Emmanuel Macron has at times also strived to keep Trump close. But the British prime minister is more closely associated with his fellow convention-shredding populist in Washington.

“There is a lot of frantic repositioning going on at the moment here in London by this administration in Britain,” former Conservative finance minister George Osborne told CNN on Sunday.

“But I don’t think Joe Biden will feel particularly warmly toward this British government, and they’re going to have to work very hard to change that,” he said.

Last December, as Johnson closed in on a general election victory, Biden showed his disdain in describing the Conservative politician as a “physical and emotional clone” of Trump.

The president has himself praised Johnson as “Britain(’s) Trump”, and the prime minister’s own long trail of provocative comments has come back to haunt him.

Biden was vice president to Barack Obama when Johnson, in 2016, wrote that Obama was anti-UK owing to his “part-Kenyan” heritage and “ancestral dislike of the British Empire”.

That remark was highlighted recently on Twitter by Obama’s deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, who sees Johnson as Trump “with better hair” and a higher IQ. Many veterans of the Obama administration are likely to populate a Biden White House.

## Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12  
Nine of yesterday’s deceased were males.

One died at home and the rest in hospitals, said the press release.

One was aged between 21 and 30, three were between 51 and 60, and the highest 11 were over 60 years old.

One each was from Sylhet and Barishal divisions, three from Chattogram division and 10 from Dhaka division.

As 1,493 people recovered from their illnesses in the same 24 hours, the number of recoveries rose to 3,016,600.

This is more than 79 percent of all confirmed cases.

As of yesterday noon, 2,358 Covid-19 patients were undergoing treatment in general beds and 260 in ICU beds in coronavirus designated hospitals across the country.

On March 8, the DGHS reported the first three confirmed cases while the first death was reported on March 18.

## ACC to seek

FROM PAGE 12  
it will be unwise and not possible for me to travel at this point,” the letter reads.

Contacted, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan said, “Halder’s failure to return to Bangladesh is a willful violation of court order.”

Halder didn’t provide any medical document proving his ailment, said Khurshid, adding the HC bench is supposed to hear the matter next Thursday.

“Since he is absconding in a graft case, we’ll plead to the court to give directives to the Inspector General of Police to bring back Halder with the help of Interpol,” he said.

Halder, a former managing director of NRB Global Bank and Reliance Finance Limited, had earlier shown willingness to return home and repay the embezzled money.

He also submitted his flight schedule and ticket number to the court, said Khurshid.

In August, he wrote to ILFSL -- one of the four non-banking financial institutions (NBFI) -- saying he would return home and settle the liabilities with the firms if he was provided with proper security.

On September 7, ILFSL’s counsel Mahfuzur Rahman Milon submitted the letter with an application to the HC bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar for its directive in this regard.

The HC then ordered the firm to inform it when Halder would return to Bangladesh for settling his transactions and liabilities with the firm.

On October 21, the HC directed law enforcement agencies to arrest Halder immediately after he landed at Hazrat Shajalal International Airport.

At the same time, the HC bench asked law enforcers to give Halder the opportunity to refund the money to the organisations from which he embezzled the money.