

US ANNOUNCES \$2.4B  
SALE OF COASTAL  
DEFENSE SYSTEMS TO  
TAIWAN  
SEE PAGE 6

# The Daily Star

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## Clear, yet not seen

Questionable DB raid caught on CCTV;  
probes go nowhere in 4 years as officers  
responsible face no action



MUNTAKIM SAAD

The CCTV camera of Hotel Bondhu captured it all.

Its footage shows a group of men in civilian clothes handcuffing hotel manager Hasan Majumdar and chef Sohel Rana.

Before leaving with the two, a member of the team was seen gesturing for a hotel staffer apparently to turn off the CCTV camera and it was complied with.

The previous footage, however, remained.

The two detainees, who were taken on a microbus to the DB office on Minto Road from the hotel in the capital's Paltan, said those men were plainclothes officials from the Detective Branch.

It was on November 6, 2016.

At least 20 people at the market told The Daily Star that they witnessed the incident that day. This newspaper has also obtained and reviewed the CCTV footage.

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## TARGET FOREX RESERVE

Orion Group desperate to manage loan from  
restricted forex coffer; experts ring alarm

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The burgeoning forex reserve, now hovering around \$40 billion, is turning a lot of heads, alarmingly though, as big borrowers shift their eyes from exhausted public banks to the secured coffers.

Orion Group is the first business conglomerate to make an official dig at the reserve for a \$906.17 million (Tk 7,684.32 crore) loan to set up a coal-fired power plant, a development seen by experts as risky, uncertain and beyond the existing practice.

Though a loan has never been given to a private company from forex reserve for implementing a project, the state-owned Rupali Bank, through which the group made the move, and Bangladesh Bank primarily entertained the proposal.

"It's highly risky, and under no circumstances this should be allowed," Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, a respected banker and former deputy governor of the central bank, told The Daily Star.

"Both the central bank and the government should consider the issue with the utmost importance."

Named Orion Power Unit-2 Dhaka Ltd, the coal-fired plant is to be set up on the bank of Meghna River (near Meghna Bridge in Gazaria upazila, Munshiganj) for generating 700 megawatt of electricity.

The conglomerate has proposed to shore up only 20 percent of the \$1,138.43 million (Tk9,653.88 crore, \$1 =Tk 84.80) project from its own sources, hoping the remaining 80pc will come from the forex reserve, according to Rupali Bank documents prepared following the Orion Group proposal on July 26.

This newspaper has obtained a copy of the documents.

Prominent economist Professor Anu Muhammad thinks that the attempt to use the forex reserve for setting up a dirtyenergy plant should be treated as a criminal act.

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### DESPERATE STEPS

**JULY 26:** Orion Group applied to Rupali Bank for a loan from forex reserves

**AUG 13:** Rupali considered the proposal positively at its board meeting. Bangladesh Bank observer for Rupali opposed it

**AUG 19:** Rupali sent a letter to BB with a positive response to the proposal, ignoring the observer's opinion

**AUG 31:** BB accepted the proposal and asked Rupali to submit a detailed plan

**SEP 30:** Rupali backtracked from its previous decision. It decided not to take any financial responsibility, but to act as a dealing bank for managing the fund

**OCT 6:** Orion promptly moved to Agrani Bank, submits the same application to it

**OCT 19:** After a meeting, Agrani asked Orion to submit a detailed proposal

**OCT 20 ONWARDS:** Agrani is preparing to forward the case to its board, BB

### Safeguard it

Noted personalities warn govt against loan-seekers

Noted experts have cautioned the government against giving loans to any business entity from the forex reserve, saying that such a move would be highly risky and go against public interest.

**KHONDKAR IBRAHIM KHALED**  
Ex-deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank

The central bank should not allow any private company to take a loan from the foreign exchange reserve under any circumstances, observed Khaled.

"Giving a private company loans from the foreign exchange reserve is highly risky," he said.

If the company fails to pay back the loan on time, Bangladesh Bank will face big



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## Bangladesh-India flights to resume from today

RASHIDUL HASAN

Air communication between Bangladesh and India resumes today after a seven-month suspension due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, India is yet to respond to Bangladesh's proposal for resuming road and rail communications considering the majority of the country's people use those two modes to travel to and from the neighbouring country, sources at the foreign ministry said.

"We have agreed with the Indian proposal to resume air communication [under an air bubble agreement] between the two countries. But we have also proposed that India open the road and rail links, as most of our people travel to India through these modes," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told The Daily Star recently.

"We have stressed on the resumption of road communication... But they are yet to give us any clear idea about it," he said.

According to Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation, India has created an air travel agreement with Bangladesh, effective from today. This agreement is valid till January 31.

In order to travel between the two

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## Building on father's murky legacy

ERFAN SALIM

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

After Monday's arrest of Erfan Salim, son of Awami League leader Haji Md Salim, law enforcers have unearthed tales of his lavish lifestyle, which included 12 bodyguards and 30 to 40 young men at his beck and call.

Erfan, councillor of Ward-30 under Dhaka South City Corporation, took over the throne of Haji Salim, lawmaker of Dhaka-7, after he fell sick in 2018.

Speaking to The Daily Star, law enforcers, who interrogated Erfan Salim and one of his bodyguards Zahidul Islam, disclosed details of his luxurious lifestyle. They also found a personal surveillance network that included close-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and smuggled walkie-talkies that Erfan used to monitor his business empire.

Erfan first appointed 12 bodyguards and also had a team of around 30 to 40 men, who were a constant presence in his nine-story-building -- Chan Sarder Dada Bari -- at Debidasbhat Lane in Chawkbazar.

When appointing bodyguards, Erfan -- also son-in-law of an MP from Noakhali -- chose only those who hailed from Gopalganj district and who, in his eyes, had a "smart outlook".

When going about on his Land Rover, Erfan was usually accompanied by three or four bodyguards, who were suspected to have been carrying illegal firearms.

Like a special security force, these body guards also carried a special briefcase and handcuffs.

### A RISE BACKED BY HIS FATHER

According to sources, AL-backed candidate Haji Mohammad Hasan Pillu -- who is a nephew of Haji Salim -- was the DNCC Ward-30 councillor.



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## RIFAT MURDER CASE Children's court jails 11, acquits 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Barguna court yesterday sentenced 11 juveniles to different jail terms in the much-talked-about Rifat Sharif murder case.

It also acquitted three other juveniles of their crime.

Of the 11, six were awarded 10 years of imprisonment, four were awarded five years each and one was awarded three years.

Barguna Children's Court Judge Md Hafizur Rahman delivered the verdict from 1:00pm to 2:45pm, with all 14 accused present in court after they were brought in from Barguna jail in the morning.

Of 75 witnesses, 74 testified against the 14 juveniles in court, sources said.

After delivering the verdict, Barguna Children's Court Public Prosecutor

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As part of our ongoing series of interviews of political party leaders, today we are running the interview of Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Md Shah Alam. It will be followed by Oikya National Awami Party President Pankaj Bhattacharya.

## All democratic institutions destroyed

Says CPB General Secy Shah Alam

GOLAM MORTOZA

Md Shah Alam has been the general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) since May 2017. He has been involved with politics since he was a student and played a key role during the mass upsurge in 1969. The valiant freedom fighter was the commander of the joint guerrilla force of NAP-Communist Party-Student Union during the 1971 Liberation War. Recently, he spoke to The Daily Star about the country's politics and other contemporary issues.

The Daily Star (DS): Many people have been confused about CPB's political stance. What is your reaction to that?

Shah Alam (SA): Our party has come this far with a long history, tradition and glory. You all know about our role during the Liberation War. I think there is no reason to be confused about CPB's political stance.



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## MYANMAR ELECTIONS UN decries discrimination against the minorities

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN has expressed serious concerns over the human rights violations, including the right to political participation of minority groups such as the Rohingyas and Rakhines, ahead of the general elections in Myanmar on November 8.

While the elections represent an important milestone in Myanmar's democratic transition, the civic space is still marred by continuing restrictions on freedom of expression and access to information, it said in a statement yesterday.

"Myanmar's discriminatory citizenship and electoral laws confer different sets of political rights to different classes of citizens, affecting most clearly the Muslim minorities who are largely

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## COVID-19 UPDATE 20 more die, 1,335 test positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty people died from Covid-19 in the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, taking the total number of deaths from the virus to 5,838.

The death rate is 1.45 percent of all confirmed cases in the country, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A total of 12,617 samples were tested during the same 24-hour period and 1,335 of them tested positive. The positivity rate was 10.58 percent.

With the latest detections, the total number of coronavirus cases in the country rose to 401,586. The total positivity rate now stands at 17.58 percent.

Bangladesh is currently in 18th position in the list of Covid-19 affected countries in the world in terms of most number of cases, according to the worldometers.info.

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Police transport detainees in a pick-up truck without following health safety guidelines. Such transportation of suspects put them and law enforcers at risk of contracting the novel coronavirus. The photo was taken at Kakrail intersection in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## US stands with India to deal with any threat

Says Pompeo in New Delhi as pact to share sensitive satellite and map data signed

STAR REPORT

Amid Indo-China border tensions, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday declared that Washington stands with New Delhi to deal with any threat as the two countries tightened their mutual strategic embrace by signing a pact to share sensitive satellite and map data.

Pompeo, who arrived in New Delhi on Monday along with Defense Secretary Mark Esper, said after talks with their Indian counterparts that the two countries had to work together to confront the threat China posed to security and freedom.

The annual US-India strategic dialogue comes at a time of heightened tension in the region, with Indian troops confronting Chinese forces on their disputed Himalayan border.

The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), which gives India access to classified geo-spatial data as well as critical information having significant military applications from the US, was signed as Pompeo and Esper held hourlong in-person talks with Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for the third edition of the 2+2 talks in New Delhi, reports our correspondent in New Delhi.

Emerging from the talks and BECA signing, which came a week before US presidential elections, Pompeo, in a joint

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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**1,335**  
New cases in 24hrs



**4,01586**  
Total cases



**5,434**  
Deaths



**3,18,123**  
Recoveries



**1,166,931**  
Deaths



**43,957,856**  
Total cases



Members of Islami Andolan marching towards the French embassy near Kakrail yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Police foiled march towards French embassy

STAR REPORT

A group of leaders and activists of Islami Andolan staged demonstrations in front of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday morning, protesting recent comments made by French President Emmanuel Macron.

Later, they brought out a procession that headed towards the French Embassy in Dhaka.

As the procession reached Shantinagar intersection, police obstructed it.

Earlier this month, Macron pledged to fight "Islamist separatism", which he said, was threatening to take control in some Muslim communities around

France.

He also said the government would present a bill in December to strengthen a 1905 law that officially separated church and state in France, reports Qatar-based Al Jazeera.

On Friday, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned what it said was France's continued attacks against Muslims by insulting religious symbols.

The secretariat of the Jeddah-based organisation said in a statement it is surprised at the official political rhetoric issued by some French officials that offend French-Islamic relations and fuels feelings of hatred for political party gains.

"It will face the same situation once again if any private company is permitted to build coal-based power plants by using the forex reserve.

"We don't need coal-based power plants anymore as the production capacity of the country's power plants is much higher than the existing requirement," he noted.

For instance, the country's electricity demand is now a maximum of 12,000-13,000MW against the production capacity of 20,383MW, he said referring to Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) data.

In 2010, the government planned to meet half of its total electricity requirement by 2041 from coal-based power plants, but it revised the roadmap in 2016 and decided to meet 35 percent of the requirement from such plants.

Last month, the Power Cell suggested that the government produce only 5,500MW electricity from coal-based power plants, Badrul said.

Only two coal-based power plants -- Payra and Barapukuria -- have so far gone into production. Another 14 such plants are now at various stages of construction, which is too many given the size of the country, he pointed out.

Seven of the 16 projects are being bankrolled by private companies, according to the BPDB data.

Once these coal-based power plants start generating electricity, they will cause severe pollution damaging the environment, he noted.

**DR IFTEKHARUZZAMAN**

Executive director of TIB

The government has recently decided not to set up more coal-based power plant, responding to the local and global calls for moving towards sustainable energy, said Iftekharuzzaman.

"No commercial bank should even finance any coal-based power plant project as the government now seeks to encourage renewable energy," said the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

But it is surprising that Bangladesh Bank responded positively to the credit proposal of Orion Group, he said.

"The central bank should have scrapped the proposal at the primary stage," Iftekharuzzaman said.

Both the BB and Agrani Bank should consider the Rupali Bank's concern about financing the project, he said.

"There may be a collusion between a section of the central bank officials and the business entity. This might have helped Orion manage the initial positive response from the central bank to bag the fund," he said.

## Clear, yet not seen

FROM PAGE 1

Another camera on the ground floor of the seven-storey market, where the hotel is located, had captured moments of the two being taken away around 12:25pm.

But the first information report (FIR) prepared by the police a day after the incident, on November 7, gives a completely different story, contradicting the clips of both cameras and multiple witness accounts.

According to the FIR filed with Motijheel Police Station, officers arrested Hasan and Sohel from an alley near Fakirapool Fish Market area around 4:15pm. The duo was caught while fleeing the spot with Tk 25 lakh worth of fake notes, it mentioned.

Hasan alleged that the FIR and subsequent case had been cooked up by the DB.

"We have been framed in a false case as I refused to give Tk 3 lakh that the police officers at the DB office on Minto Road had demanded for our release," he told The Daily Star recently.

Out on bail in April 2017, Hasan also said he was in police remand for two days before a court sent him to jail. He was behind bars for five months and 17 days.

"It was just the beginning of my long sufferings," said Hasan, who has explored multiple avenues of justice these last four years, to little success.

**MULTIPLE PROBES, NO ACTION**

Hasan and his brother Hossain Majumdar filed 10 complaints -- six with the Police Headquarters, two with Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), one with the Prime Minister's Office, and one with the home ministry -- at various times over the last four years.

Five probe committees -- three by Police Headquarters and two by DMP -- were formed to investigate the allegations against nine DB men of Motijheel Zonal Team who conducted the controversial drive.

They are Sub-Inspector Dewan Uzzal Hossain, Inspector Tapan Kumar Dhali, Assistant Sub-inspector Ziaur Rahman, ASI Sohel Mahmud, ASI Abul Bashar, ASI Mominul Haque, ASI Nazmul Haque Prodhan, and constables Nayan Kumar and Golam Sarwar.

The leader of the DB team was Jewel Rana, the then assistant commissioner of DB (East), now promoted to additional deputy commissioner.

However, till date there is no information available about what these multiple probe committees have found.

Additional SP Sharif, who headed one of the two probe committees formed by DMP, said he questioned both sides and submitted the report.

"It's a confidential matter. I cannot comment on this; I am not authorised to do so," he told The Daily Star recently.

DMP Cantonment's Additional Deputy Commissioner Shahed Miah was given the task of re-investigating the same allegation in 2017.

He didn't pick up this correspondent's repeated phone calls or respond to text messages.

DB ADC Qazi Shafiqul Islam, who was probing the allegations filed with the DMP, also refused to make any comment.

In 2018, the DMP formed a four-member inquiry committee headed by

the then DB chief Devdas Bhattacharya. The fate of the probe remains unknown as Devdas has since been transferred from DMP.

ASP Omar Faruk, who was entrusted with one of the three probe committees of Police Headquarters, said he stopped the investigation after Hasan's brother withdrew his complaint.

Talking to The Daily Star, ASP Omar said he was given charge of the investigation at a stage when the complainant and the accused had reached a way to mutually "settle" the matter.

"If the complainant himself withdrew the complaint, how can I probe further?"

Hasan, however, said the brothers withdrew the complaint following verbal assurance from the accused DB officials that his name would be excluded from the final report and the charge sheet.

"But I felt betrayed when I heard that the charge sheet named me," said Hasan.

Even worse for Hasan was that SI Dewan, one of the DB officials who conducted the controversial drive, acted as the investigating officer of the case and submitted the charge sheet to the court, accusing both Hasan and Sohel.

**REAL WITNESSES OVERLOOKED?**

SI Dewan submitted the charge sheet to the trial court on September 19, 2017.

He named a total of 13 people as witnesses -- nine officers who conducted the drive and four locals of Motijheel area.

Md Mintu, who claimed to be a fish trader in Fakirapool Fish Market, said, "I had told the police and the court what I had seen that day. I saw two men fleeing and the police caught them with a bag."

Another witness named in the charge sheet, Md Raju, could not be reached as his phone number was found switched off. Mintu claimed both he and Raju signed the seizure list.

Hasan said these accounts have been made up by the police.

The probe committees formed by police called 23 shop owners and employees of the market in Palton, who witnessed the incident that day, at various times during the investigations.

Anwar Hossain of AR Metallic is one of them.

Talking to this correspondent, he said, "We saw a group of DB men come and talk to the hotel staff. By that time, they had handcuffed Hasan bhai."

"They then instructed a hotel employee to turn off the CCTV. We asked them why they handcuffed the hotel staff and what their fault was. They rebuked us and told us to go down."

Anwar added that Hasan and Sohel were empty-handed, not carrying anything, and that he had told all this to a police probe body.

Another witness, Md Masum of Teleplus, echoed the same.

**POLICE HUSH-HUSH ABOUT CCTV FOOTAGE**

The charge sheet submitted by the IO did not mention anything about the CCTV footage.

Asked about it, SI Dewan said he could not comment as the matter is under trial. "I checked everything. I can't give any further comment now."

## Target forex reserve

FROM PAGE 1

"The forex reserve is considered as the national security of any country. The fund of the reserve is usually used when a nation faces fund crisis to settle international trade transactions," Anu Muhammad, also an ardent natural resources conservationist, pointed out.

Contacted, Md Ferdous Jaman, company secretary of Orion Group, said, "The cost of the central bank's loan will be lower than the funds offered by local and foreign banks for setting up the power plant."

Asked why the Group is not interested in taking foreign loans for the project, he said the interest rate of such loans is now low because of the ongoing economic slowdown but the rate may go up once the global economy rebounds.

Besides, a good amount of commission has to be paid against the guarantee of foreign loans, mentioned the company official.

"If fund cannot be managed from the forex reserve, we will take money under the existing syndication loan process," Ferdous added.

An uneasy situation arose ever since Orion applied for the loan from the forex reserve in July through Rupali Bank, with decision-makers at the state-owned bank and the central bank soon splitting into two groups -- one backing and the other opposing. But, it was all a very hush-hush affair amid strong lobbying.

Asian countries, except for a few, don't use their forex reserves for giving loans or making investments at home or abroad for a long term. Only a handful of rich Asian countries, including China, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have created sovereign wealth funds to manage their excess foreign exchange reserves by investing them in productive sectors.

**AN UNCOMFORTABLE PROPOSAL ON MANY COUNTS**

Orion has sought to be the first private entity for a loan from the forex reserve, but it would not be the last: a host of shady businesses are to follow suit. If sanctioned, it would go against the Bangladesh Bank Order 1972 for long-term lending. If Orion defaults on loan repayment, Rupali would plunge into an existential crisis with the financial responsibility for repayment.

If the rule for forex reserve is stretched, the government would have

to act as guarantor of the unusual loan. It would be for a coal-fired plant project, from which the government is moving away. And then, Orion Group has a controversial past in using the funds of Orion Bank in 2007. (www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-16813)

Yet, on August 13, the Rupali board gave a go-ahead to its management to act as a "dealer" or "agent" bank of Orion, with full financial responsibility for the loan from the central bank reserve.

A string of scams, habitual loan defaults and irregularities over the years brought the banking sector to its knees, forcing the central bank to appoint its observers in 10 banks, six of which are public. Eight state-run banks accounted for 49.34 percent of the outstanding defaulted loans, amounting to Tk 96,116.65 crore as of June this year.

Acting as an observer for Rupali, Md Serajul Islam, an executive director of the central bank, strongly opposed the move. But his objection held no ground at the board meeting on August 13. It was brushed aside along with some directors' reluctance to take full responsibility for the loan, The Daily Star learnt talking to five bank officials directly involved in the matter.

Rupali went on to send a letter to the central bank six days later. Interestingly, the regulator of the banking sector saw no evil in the proposal. Rather, it responded positively to Rupali's proposal, asking, in a letter on August 31, for further details from the lender.

But then followed a dramatic turn of events. On September 30, the Rupali board came back to its senses at a board meeting and went back on its decision, concluding that it would take no financial responsibility for Orion loan.

Baffled, Orion rushed to Agrani Bank with the same credit application on October 6, requesting the state-run lender to manage its fund from the forex reserve.

Agrani had earlier struck a deal with Orion to be its lead arranger for a syndication loan, a financing in which a group of lenders work together to raise funds for a single borrower. Under the arrangement, Agrani has already approved Tk 120 crore loan to Orion, and Janata Bank Tk 574 crore and Premier Bank Limited Tk 200 crore.

But Orion is no longer interested in syndication loan, ever since it has set its eyes on the forex reserve. And, why

The plaintiff of the case, Inspector Tapan, now posted with the Police Bureau of Investigation in Faridpur, declined to make any comment about the CCTV footage and referred this correspondent to the then DB team leader of the drive.

Contacted, Jewel Rana, now ADC of DB's Ramna Division, told The Daily Star on Saturday that he preferred not to comment as the case is under trial.

He denied the allegations of the DB team demanding money for the release of the two accused, adding that he was also unaware of any "compromise" reached between the accused and his DB men.

"As far as I know, the probe body didn't find the allegations against the DB men to be true. When the accused saw that their false pleas were not granted anywhere, they wanted to make us the victim," he claimed.

**HASAN'S FIGHT CONTINUES**

Hasan said his family has already spent Tk 6 lakh by selling off land, to meet legal expenses.

"After my arrest, my brother almost stopped his studies as the family fell into financial hardship at the time," he said.

Hasan said the CCTV footage is evidence that can prove his innocence and that he is a victim of police falsehood.

Advocate Abdus Salam Khan, Hasan's lawyer, said they will seek the court's attention and also submit the CCTV footage when it is the defence's turn to present their arguments and witnesses.

The next hearing of the case is set to take place today.

"I have been seeking justice for the last four years and filed several complaints against the policemen in question everywhere possible. However, those officers remain unpunished," said Hasan.

"How long should I bear the brunt of a false case?"

Sohel Rana, the chef who was picked up with Hasan, left his job at Hotel Bondhu and now lives in Chandpur.

Remembering the horror, he said, "At one point, DB officials proposed that I give a false statement against Hasan bhai in exchange for Tk 5 lakh and a job. But I refused to do so."

Being the lone breadwinner of the family, he said it's been a tough journey for him to meet the expenses of his family over the last four years as his mother had to sell their last piece of land.

While talking to this correspondent over the phone yesterday, he was on his way from Chandpur to Dhaka to attend today's hearing.

Noted rights defender Nur Khan Liton said such an incident is not isolated -- charge sheet manipulation, arranging fake witnesses, and changing the place of occurrence are "nothing new".

"Unfortunately, when a victim seeks remedy from the higher authorities, it seems they don't give importance to the allegations," he said.

"Most of the time, the probe report of such incidents are not made public," he observed, calling into question the role of Police Headquarters in the matter.

## Building on

FROM PAGE 1

In recent years, sources said Pillu refused to obey some of Haji Salim's decisions. Haji then brought his younger son Erfan to contest against Pillu as an independent candidate in the last councillor election.

The Daily Star asked Pillu about the rivalry, but he refused to comment.

Law enforcement sources said Erfan installed a personal networking system and close-circuit television (CCTV) cameras to monitor his business activities and empire.

A couple of years ago, he allegedly smuggled walkie-talkie handsets from abroad and installed a tower on the rooftop of the 16-storey Madina Ashik Tower in Chawkbazar.

With these walkie-talkie handsets, he was capable of maintaining a communication network throughout a 10-kilometer area. As the devices operated on a special frequency system, no one was able to monitor the communication.

A Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) official, who was present during the drive on Monday to arrest Erfan, said they recovered around 38 walkie-talkie handsets but they believe there are more, which are suspected to be used by Erfan's associates.

"We have not even gotten any trace of Erfan's other bodyguards," the official told The Daily Star yesterday.

Apart from the handsets, Erfan had a torture cell on the rooftop of Ashik Tower, where he used to take those who did not obey his directions or refused to pay him.

Speaking to this correspondent, Jahid Hossain, a businessman in Old Dhaka, said he had seven shops in Bashir Market in Chawkbazar.

"Just a day before Eid, Erfan's people called me to the rooftop and took me inside a room on the tower and forcibly made me sign over my shops, worth around Tk 2 crore, for a pittance," he alleged.

Locals claimed Erfan used to play badminton on the rooftop and set off fireworks. They also alleged that whenever Erfan saw any abandoned buildings in the area, he used to board them up and lay claim to them.

Investigators claimed that when searching Erfan's residence, they found a list of people, including government officials, who allegedly used to help him grab land and property.

"In exchange for help in illegal activities, Erfan used to send them gifts. We are now analysing the claim," added a Rab high-up involved with the investigation.

Meanwhile, two separate cases were filed against Erfan and his bodyguard Zahidul with Chawkbazar Police Station on charges of carrying illegal firearms and possessing narcotics, said Lt Col Ashique Billah, director of Rab's legal and media wing.

Erfan and Zahidul were earlier handed over to Keraniganj Central Jail as Erfan was already sentenced to one year in prison by a Rab mobile court for possessing narcotics and six more months for illegally using walkie-talkies.

Zahidul was also handed a six-month prison sentence for using walkie-talkies.

Meanwhile, Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested AB Siddique Dipu, personal assistant to Erfan, from his Tangail home in a case filed over the assault of a Navy official, said HM Azimul Haque, deputy commissioner of Ramna division DB.

Dipu was produced before a Dhaka court with a seven-day remand plea.

Erfan and Zahid were also shown arrested in the navy officer assault case with a petition for seven-day remands for each.

The court later granted a three-day remand for Dipu. The hearing on the remand pleas against Erfan and Zahid will take place today.

Earlier, Lt Wasif Ahmad of Bangladesh Navy filed the case against Erfan and four others for assaulting him in the capital.

Meanwhile, the Local Government Division (LGD) suspended Erfan from his councillor's post.

The order, signed by LGD Deputy Secretary ANM Foyzul Haque, says since there is a criminal case filed against Erfan and he has been sentenced to one year in prison, he is suspended according to the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009.

Earlier, the DSCC in a letter informed the LGD about Erfan's imprisonment, referring to media reports.

## UN decries

FROM PAGE 1

excluded from citizenship," Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in a briefing in Geneva.

Additionally, there has been significant disenfranchisement as the elections will not take place in 56 townships, including in Rakhine State. The Election Commission did not provide public justification for its decision, she said.

Also, an internet shutdown effectively remains in place in eight townships in Rakhine and Chin states, severely limiting the ability of residents to avail their right to receive and impart information, including on Covid-19 and the elections.

Blanket internet shutdowns may be counterproductive and contravene international law. Again, the measure disproportionately affects minority groups, including the ethnic Rakhine, Rohingya, Kaman, Mro, Daingnet, Khamis and Chin communities, Ravina Shamdasani said.

"While the restrictions on freedom of expression continue to mount, we deplore the unrelenting proliferation of hateful speech against Muslims on Facebook," she said, calling on Myanmar to take action to denounce such hateful language publicly and to promote tolerance, non-discrimination and pluralism in speech by public officials and electoral candidates.

The UN said it is troubled by the intolerance of criticism against the government or the military.

Over the last two months, at least 34 student activists faced legal measures after they demanded an end to the conflicts in Rakhine and Chin states and reinstatement of 4G mobile internet services in those areas.

## Safeguard it

FROM PAGE 1

troubles in its financial activities relating to the foreign exchange reserve.

The country's forex reserve has seen an upward trend in recent months and the policymakers should take care of the fund properly, he noted.

He also mentioned that the government had earlier taken a cautious stance on utilising the forex reserve to materialise its development projects, and it should maintain that stance.

**ANU MUHAMMAD**

Professor at Jahangirnagar University

If the central bank allows Orion Group to get a loan from the forex reserve, this will have two dreadful impacts simultaneously, said Anu Muhammad.

"Firstly, an ecological imbalance will occur when the coal-based power plant starts production. Secondly, the existing indiscipline in the financial sector will deepen further."

The coal-based power plant will wreck the environment to a great extent. The forex reserve should not be used for implementing such a project, noted the eminent economist.

**SHAMSUL ALAM**

Energy adviser to CAB

Orion Group does not have any financial and technical skills to set up a big power plant, said Shamsul.

Some companies like Orion had earlier managed government approvals to set up power plants without taking part in open tenders, which was totally unfair, said the energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh.

He questioned why the business entity would set up a power plant by taking loans from the forex reserve whereas the government itself can implement such a project with its funds.

"This will go against public interest," he added.

**BADRUL IMAM**

Professor at Dhaka University

The Power Cell, a wing of the power, energy and mineral resources ministry, has recently put forward some suggestions, urging the government not to set up any more coal-based power plants, said Badrul.

The government had earlier faced an awkward situation due to its approval to set up power plants indiscriminately, mentioned the professor of geology.

## 20 more die

FROM PAGE 1

In the 24-hour period, 1,523 patients have recovered from Covid-19.

With them, the total number of recoveries went up to 318,123 which is 79.22 percent of all confirmed cases.

Among the 20 deceased, 14 were males and six females. All of them died in hospitals, said the DGHS press

release.

One of the dead was aged between 11 and 20 years, one between 21 and 30, one between 31 and 40, two were between 41 and 50, three between 51 and 60 and the rest 12 were above 60.

Among the total 5,838 deceased, the highest 52 percent were from Dhaka division.



## VIOLENCE ON WOMEN DMP launches hotline, quick response team

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday launched a quick response team for women and children undergoing abuse.

"Any women and children living in a situation of abuse can call the hotline, and the team will go over to the victim's location," said Hamida Parveen, deputy commissioner of the Women Support and Investigation Division.

The rescued person will be kept in custody of the Victim Support Centre. "A lot of domestic workers live in conditions of abuse in the city. We will rescue them and help them go back home," said Parveen.

DMP Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam launched this new team.

The hotline number where the team can be reached is +8801320042055.



**AFTERNOON DELIGHT ...** Near the Malibagh rail gate in the capital, dozens of tea stalls have installed televisions and play movies from every afternoon well into the evening. Daily earners gather at the shops after a hard day of work, to unwind with some tea, snacks and entertainment. The photo was taken earlier this week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## FINAL SEMESTER STUDENTS OF PVT UNIVS UGC to allow in-person practical classes, exams at a 'limited scale'

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The University Grants Commission is going to allow private university students, who are at their final semester, to attend practical classes and exams in person.

These classes will be held following strict health guidelines and maintaining six feet distance between two students.

A maximum of 10 students from each class will be allowed to attend the lab classes and exams, and only one class will take place per day, a UGC member told The Daily Star after a meeting yesterday afternoon.

The virtual meeting was attended by chairman, members and top officials of UGC.

"We have decided that students who are at their final semester before graduation or post-graduation will be allowed to attend practical classes and exams in person," UGC Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah told this newspaper.

He said they took the decision as many private universities appealed to them to do so as only a handful of student need to take the practical classes and exams for graduation.

"We are not reopening the universities, we are just allowing them to attend classes and exams under special circumstances," he added.

Prof Shahidullah said the universities will bear all responsibilities for the students.

UGC member Prof Muhammed Alamgir said they are considering the matter as students who are in their final semester are not getting graduation certificates as their lab classes and exams are pending.

UGC in a directive in May said private universities that have completed 70 percent of academic activities for outgoing semester and have been conducting online classes successfully for theoretical courses will be able to evaluate their students through online viva exams and virtual presentations.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## MLM SCAM

### Three arrested over embezzling Tk 6cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police arrested three men of a "multi-level marketing (MLM)" company from the capital's Pallabi area, on charge of embezzling over Tk 6 crore from 1,427 people by tempting them with exorbitant profits.

"The fraudulent group had been running the MLM business by recruiting members, telling them that they will receive 250 percent dividend. They targeted government employees and the relatively wealthy," Sheikh Md Rezaul Haider, an additional deputy inspector general of CID, told reporters at a press briefing at their headquarters yesterday.

CID received a complaint from some people that Sopan Products Ltd and Sopan Properties Ltd have been operating the MLM business for the last eight months.

Based on the allegations, a team of CID Dhaka Metro (North) conducted an operation at their office in Pallabi area on Monday and arrested three, including Gazi Mohiuddin (27), managing director of Sopan and the ringleader.

The other two are directors of Sopan - Anisur Rahman (37) and Harunur Rashid (37).

A computer, Tk 47,000 cash and Tk 59,26,594 in different bank accounts were seized from the arrestees.

## 'Some get excess water, others don't get enough'

Speakers say at water rights webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rahmat Ali, a landless angler in Sirajganj's Rayganj Upazila, faced 11 cases and spent 39 days in jail about fight over illegal occupation of the upazila's Sonadanga Beel.

"When our beel was being seized, we went to government offices and found 85 bighas of the beel was government's khas land. The grabbers had made fake papers to occupy the land illegally," Rahmat Ali said at a webinar yesterday.

The webinar, titled "Water Policy and Public Rights" was jointly organised by The Daily Star and Nijera Kori. It was supported by ICCO Cooperation. Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, chaired the programme.

"When we tried to do something about the occupation, they started filing a lot of cases against us anglers," Rahmat Ali added.

Eventually, their collective won. 140 fishermen, against whom cases were filed,

won their legal battles and won the right to catch fish from the beel. But they had to expend a lot of their resources, and had to knock on every other door of the court.

Similar experiences were shared by Ayesha Begum from Khulna's Dumuria. "Ever since influential people got a lease of our river [name of river not mentioned], they made a dam here and started polluting the water."

"We grew up catching fish and picking water lilies and vegetables out of the river, but the same water smells too foul for any of that now. We protested over and over and demanded action from the government, but instead we were charged with lawsuits," Ayesha Begum narrated.

Organisers of the also showcased recorded interviews of people from Rangpur and Gaibandha who were victimised in the same way.

"We have a lot of laws to protect our water resources and ensure that every person has

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## RU to hold in-person tests for admission

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

Admission tests for Rajshahi University's 2020-2021 session will require students to appear in person, in spite of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, university authorities have confirmed.

The decision was taken at an academic council meeting held at the university senate building yesterday morning, said a press release.

The academic council made it clear that first year honours admission seekers will have to participate in the test by appearing in person, not online. Most of the teachers present at the meeting opined in favor of hosting the exam on university campus,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## DNCC TRAFFIC INFRASTRUCTURES Ecneec okays project worth Tk 319.23cr

Bss, Dhaka

The government has approved a Tk 319.23 crore project to improve road safety, including traffic infrastructures development, as well as reducing traffic congestion in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) areas.

The approval came from the 13th Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) meeting of the current fiscal year, held virtually with Ecneec Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The premier joined the meeting from her official Gono Bhaban residence through videoconferencing while other Ecneec members were connected from the NEC conference room in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

Three projects at a cost of Tk 5,189.69 crore of two ministries were approved in the meeting, said Planning Division Senior Secretary Md Ashadul Islam while briefing reporters after the meeting.

Among these, two are revised projects and the rest one is fresh, he said.

Of the total cost, Ashadul said Tk 2,270.76 will come as project assistance while the rest from the government.

Talking about the project titled "Road Safety including Improvement of Traffic Infrastructures in Dhaka North City Corporation Areas," Planning Commission Member

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Sustainability through ESG practices for a better tomorrow

It was not too long ago that "Corporate Social Responsibility", or CSR was considered as the key indicator in judging a company's responsibility for society in the sense of sustainable business practices. However, in recent times, Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) has emerged as three central factors in measuring the sustainability and societal impact of an investment in a company or business. Starting from Fortune 500 companies to new startups,



investors are now considering ESG ratings as key indicators in determining future financial performances (return and risk).

To mark the occasion of sustainability day, it is therefore befitting to highlight some of the benchmark ESG initiatives practiced by one of the leading multinationals in Bangladesh. Having a rich heritage of 110 years operation in the country, British American Tobacco Bangladesh (also known as BAT Bangladesh or BATB) has been the pioneer of several ESG initiatives which are contributing directly towards supporting the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals i.e. SDGs in Bangladesh.

Considered to be one of the pioneer CSR initiatives in Bangladesh, 'Bonayan' the flagship afforestation program of BATB, was initiated in 1980 with the collaboration of the government's Forest Department to combat the climate change impact. This largest private-sector driven afforestation program has distributed over 110 million saplings of medicinal, fruits and timber varieties, across the country over the last 40 years of its journey. Every year, the Bonayan programme distributes approximately 4-5 million saplings free of cost to diverse beneficiaries. Bonayan is also helping to bring an environmental as well as social balance to the community landscape in Bangladesh, through some notable afforestation projects at Lalon Shah Bridge, Hazrat Shah Amanat International Airport, Lama Alikadam highway, Rohingya Camp, Mirinjia point - Lama, Kushtia-Jessore highway, GK project, Jamuna Bridge, Kushtia by-pass road etc. For its exemplary contribution, Bonayan has been awarded the prestigious 'Prime Minister's National Award' four times and the 'Chief Advisor's National Award' once, alongside the numerous District/Upazila level awards received every year. This initiative has also been recognized internationally through the renowned "Asia Responsible Entrepreneurship Award" on Green Leadership by Enterprise Asia.

Over the last 40 years, 'Bonayan' has created many life-changing stories. A lot of beneficiaries received support from the 'Bonayan' initiative when they were unemployed. After receiving the saplings free of cost, they eventually generated enough revenue to combat their financial crisis and helped their families to live a better life. There are also many inspiring stories of poor female beneficiaries who received the free saplings from the 'Bonayan' program, nurtured the trees like their children and eventually managed to earn a living by selling fruits and wood, ensured schooling for children, successfully married off their children and also built 'pukka' houses for themselves. In driving such positive changes across the society and environment, 'Bonayan' directly supports the government's agenda regarding SDGs: Goal#1 (No Poverty), Goal#2 (Zero Hunger), Goal#11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal#13 (Climate Action) and Goal#15 (Life on Land). Another of BAT Bangladesh's flagship initiatives 'Probaho' supports communities across Bangladesh by providing safe drinking water, free from arsenic and other impurities. This project was initiated in 2009 and till date comprises of more than 100 water filtration plants in arsenic prone areas like Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Meherpur, Rangpur, Manikganj etc. and in Chittagong Hill Tracts areas like Bandarban. 'Probaho' ensures 460,000 liters of pure drinking water to 225,000 beneficiaries every day. As a result, 99.7% people from the beneficiary communities do not suffer from arsenic or other diseases, according to an impact assessment study report. 'Probaho' compliments the Government's targets to achieve SDGs: Goal#6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) along with Goal#1 (No Poverty) and Goal#3 (Good Health and Well-being). As a recognition for the outstanding contribution to the society, 'Probaho' has also received the prestigious 'Asia Responsible Entrepreneurship Award' in 2015 and the Bangladesh Innovation Award 2018 by the Bangladesh Brand Forum.

To support the Bangladesh Government's efforts in promoting the renewable energy sector, BATB initiated its third CSR project 'Deepto' in 2011 to support communities across off-grid areas in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Under Deepto, BATB has till date supplied 2,590 units of solar home systems across remote villages of Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati districts. This initiative has enabled and empowered the communities to improve their lifestyle through quality education and various income generating activities. More than 13,000 people got their first access to electricity at home through this project. 'Deepto' is aligned with SDGs: Goal#1 (No Poverty), Goal#4 (Quality Education), Goal # 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy) and Goal#8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth). For all its contribution, this project has also won the acclaimed 'Asia Responsible Entrepreneurship Award' in 2018. Alongside these premier CSR initiatives, BAT Bangladesh also focuses on several projects and campaigns for environmental (soil, water, air) protection and conservation. Establishment of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) club is one remarkable initiative that the company has undertaken in early 2000s to support around 35,000 farmers. BATB has set up 75 IPM clubs across the country to popularize the IPM practices among the farmers in order to support the agenda of the Department of Agricultural Extension's (DAE) under the Ministry of Agriculture. Every year, 12 Farmers Field School (FFS) sessions are organized in collaboration with DAE. Apart from IPM, several other Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) such as green manuring with Dhaincha (Sesbania), crop rotation, enhancing crop intensity, usage of compost and bio-fertilizers over chemicals etc. have been introduced among farming communities in recent years. Another notable project named 'Surokha' to combat agrochemical waste management has also

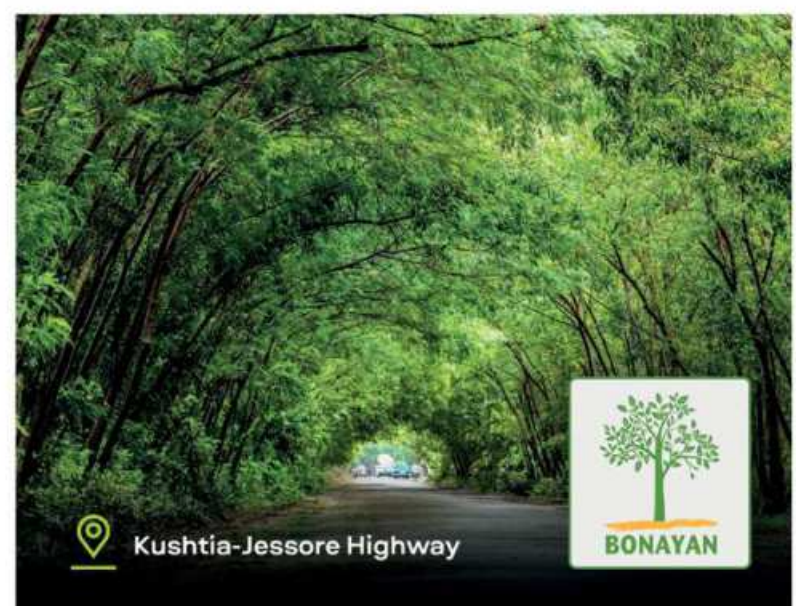
been initiated recently.

As a responsible company BATB has also taken up some challenging environmental targets in the areas of carbon emission and the elimination of single use plastics. BAT Group aims to become the benchmark in achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 through reduction in energy consumption, usage of renewable energy sources, reduction in factory waste discharge etc. The elimination of unnecessary single use plastic is also a key agenda for the business in the coming years.

All remarkable ESG practices tend to fade away if proper governance and compliance is not ensured. In this aspect, BAT Bangladesh has proudly set the benchmark for excellence in corporate governance which is reflected through the recognitions and awards the company receives every year both nationally and internationally. Some of the notable awards the company is bestowed with regularly, comprises of the 'Highest Tax-payer' award, ICSB Corporate Governance Award, ICMAB Award, SAFA award for best presented Annual Report etc.

As a company, BATB believes that at the core of all the outstanding ESG initiatives are its employees, who are responsible for passionately driving the agenda forward. Furthermore, BATB acknowledges the strength from diversity and passionately drives for empowering women at all levels. The company ensures gender equality and female-friendly workplace through various initiatives such as 9 months' maternity leave, own day-care center (Angel's Nest), respect in workplace, grievance mechanism, celebratory culture and many more. Recent years have also seen the company become proud recipients of the 'Top Employer in Bangladesh' award and the 'Most Women Friendly Organization' award which strongly compliments the company's ESG agenda.

BAT Bangladesh is relentlessly working to create a step change in



ensuring sustainability through its robust ESG initiatives. The company wishes to create a benchmark in ESG practices which can act as a source of inspiration for others to follow. BATB wishes to continue supporting the Bangladesh Government's agenda of achieving the SDGs and collectively aim for a better tomorrow.

Press Release



### Verdict in rape case delivered after 13 years

Rangpur man sentenced to life term

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur
A Rangpur court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment 13 years after he had raped his domestic help in Pargachha upazila of the district.

Noya Mia (47) from the upazila was also fined Tk 1 lakh, according to court sources. Judge Rokonzaman of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2 delivered the verdict in absence of the convict, said Jahangir Hossain, prosecutor at the court.

Noya Mia has been skipping the court since he received bail 10 years ago, said the prosecutor. According to the case statement, Noya Mia employed a teenage girl of his village as a house help in 2007.

He raped her when he found her alone at home. The girl filed a case accusing him on October 21.

Later, police submitted a charge sheet against Noya Mia on rape charge.



Bangladeshi expatriates working in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, whose visas have expired, yesterday formed human chains in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, urging government intervention to facilitate return to their respective countries and resume work. Earlier, Saudi Arabia had extended workers' visas and Iqama till October 30.



PHOTO: STAR

### Disabled-friendly healthcare training a must: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Persons with disabilities regularly face challenges to access healthcare infrastructure and information. Therefore, there must be comprehensive training for healthcare providers on how to provide disabled-friendly health services, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

Titled "Policy Dialogue on Inclusive Health Services for Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh: Challenges and Prospects", the dialogue was virtually organised by James P Grant School of Public Health, Brac University. Dr Adrita Kaiser, assistant coordinator of the school, shared the findings of her research titled "Current Situation of Inclusive Health Services in Bangladesh: Findings from a Nationwide Study". According to the research, in which 5,000 persons with disability participated, an estimated 11.4 million persons have some form of disability in Bangladesh.

Dr Shafiqul Islam, executive director of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), said along with health services, inclusiveness is also important for other facilities like rehabilitation, health professional services, and assistant devices for mobility.

Van Paula Schindeler -- deputy head of mission, the Netherlands embassy in Bangladesh -- in her speech as special guest said Bangladesh is doing quite well in terms of addressing disability-specific barriers.

She, however, stated three major points for the government to address. Firstly, establishing Disability Development Corporation in all upazilas to provide free treatment and assistive devices.

Secondly, even though the Ministry of Social Welfare is the focal authority for disability issues in Bangladesh, research and policy dialogues also demonstrate that Department of Health and Family Welfare needs to play an active role to mainstream the disability policy, and therefore coordination among these institutions is required. Thirdly, substantial budgetary allocation for the healthcare sector is required, particularly for people with disabilities.

Dr Nurun Nahar Begum, deputy director and programme manager of Clinical Contraception Services Delivery Program, Directorate General of Family Planning; Prof Mohammad Golam Rabbani, chairperson of Neuro-Development Disability Protection trustee board, Ministry of Social Welfare; and Dr Mushtaq Raza Chowdhury, trustee at Brac University and founding dean of James P Grant School, among others, spoke at the dialogue.

### HIKED POTATO PRICE 10 wholesalers fined Tk 1.4 lakh in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined ten wholesalers a total of Tk 1,40,000 for selling potatoes at inflated prices at Chattogram city's Riazuddin market.

The traders were selling potatoes at Tk 40-42 per kilogramme without keeping sales receipts, although the government has set the retail price to Tk 30 per kg.

Omar Faruque, executive magistrate of Chattogram District Administration, told The Daily Star, "Most wholesalers are selling potatoes at inflated prices without keeping sales receipts. When we conducted the drive at the market, we found 10 traders charging more than the government set price."

### DoE in Ctg fines 20 businesses Tk 11.65 lakh for flouting rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Department of Environment (DoE), Chattogram region fined 20 businesses including a shipyard, 11 brick kilns and two hospitals a total of Tk 11,65,000 for violating conditions and polluting environment.

The fines were slapped after a hearing at DoE Khulshi office of the port city. Moazzom Hossain, director of DoE Chattogram region told The Daily Star that Master and Brother Shipyard in Sitakunda was fined Tk 20,000 while Banaful and Company was fined Tk 1 lakh for running operations without effluent treatment plant. 11 brick kilns from Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Bramhanbaria, and Laxmipur were fined Tk 8,60,000 over different violations, he said. City Hospital of Maizidi in Noakhali was fined Tk 1 lakh while Laksam General Hospital of Cumilla was fined Tk 20,000. Yusuf Chemical, a rice mill and Moni Cable were fined a total of Tk 65,000 for breaking DoE clearance conditions.

### NAIMUL ABRAR'S DEATH

### Court defers indictment order

BSS, Dhaka

A Dhaka court yesterday set November 12 to pass order on charge framing in a case lodged over the death of Dhaka Residential Model College student Naimul Abrar, against 10 people including the editor of daily Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman.

Yesterday was the scheduled date for passing order in the case, but Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge KM Imrul Qayesh adjourned hearing till November 12 as the order was yet to be ready to be passed.

Earlier on October 13, the court set yesterday to pass the order, as counsel of the plaintiff Advocate Omar Faruk Asif concluded his part of the hearing on charge framing.

Ninth-grader Naimul Abrar Rahat died after being electrocuted behind the stage during an event organised by the Kishor Alo, a publication of the Prothom Alo, at Dhaka Residential Model College ground on November 1, 2019.

On November 6, 2019, Abrar's father Mojibur Rahman filed the case with the court in this connection.

### Ecneec okays

FROM PAGE 3

Md Mamun-ul-Rashid said the DNCC will implement the project by June 2023 with an estimated cost of Tk 319.23 crore.

The major project operations include development of 13.68km road, construction of 9.05km roadside drain and 6.58km pipe drain, development of 26.58km footpath, 7.74km road median, installation of 22.77km MS grill fencing, 22.31km SS grill fencing and 1,710 traffic signs, construction of 50 passenger camps and 36 new foot-over bridges, development of 47 such bridges, and installation of 17 escalators with them.

Md Ashadul Islam said though it was proposed that DNCC will finance Tk 63.85 crore for the project, the PM directed to finance it fully from the government fund.

Sheikh Hasina also asked the local government bodies, including city corporations, to enhance their capacity gradually to execute development projects with their own revenues in future.

The Ecneec meeting also cleared the first

revision of "SASEC Road Connectivity Project-II: Elega-Hatikamul-Rangpur Highway Four-Lane Upgradation" project increasing the cost by Tk 4,763.37 crore and extending the timeframe till December 2024 instead of August 2021.

The overall project cost has now increased to Tk 16,662.38 crore from the original outlay of Tk 11,899.01 crore, which was scheduled to be implemented from September 2015 to August 2021.

Mamun-ul-Rashid said the cost increased mainly for land acquisition, as compensation against land value was made three times as per the Acquisition and Requisition of Immoveable Property Act, 2017.

The cost against the land acquisition saw a rise by Tk 2,253.16 crore and that against the resettlement by Tk 226.70 crore.

Besides, Ecneec endorsed the 2nd revision of Development of Sonapu-Sonagazi-Zoranganj Road Project, increasing the cost by Tk 107.09 crore and extending the timeframe till June 2021.

### Australia releases Covid-19 response plan for Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Australia has released a Covid-19 Development Response Plan for Bangladesh, focusing on investments in long-term economic growth, inclusive education, skills development and private sector engagement.

The two-year Covid-19 Response Plan is part of Australia's recently released development strategy -- Partnerships for Recovery -- which outlines how the Pacific nation will work with its global partners to address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Besides, humanitarian assistance for Rohingya refugees and the host community remains a priority for Australia, said a statement from the Australian High Commission in Bangladesh yesterday.

"Australia will place strong emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable, especially women and girls, and people with disabilities," it said.

Australia will work in partnership with the Bangladesh government to ensure its Covid-19 programmes remain closely aligned with key government initiatives, the statement said.

"Australia is committed to supporting Bangladesh's longer-term development priorities, as outlined in its 8th Five Year-Plan."

Fatima Yasmin, secretary of the Economic Relations Division, said "The Government of Bangladesh is finalising the 8th Five Year-Plan, where Covid-19 recovery strategy has been incorporated.

"We believe Australia's Covid-19 response plan for Bangladesh will be aligned with the government's priorities," she added.

Australia and Bangladesh have shared interests in a secure, prosperous and inclusive Indian Ocean region. Australia appreciates its strong development, people-to-people and trade ties with Bangladesh, the Australian High Commission said.

### Some get

FROM PAGE 3

the right to use and drink water from rivers, beels, haors etc. But we have no proper management system, we have no equality of rights," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).

"Water rights is one of the basic human rights, per capita availability of water in Bangladesh is much higher than India and Africa; but the actual scenario is vastly different," she continued.

"Some people in our country get more water than needed, while others don't get enough," Rizwana lamented.

During his speech, Dhaka University Professor Tanzimuddin Khan said, if the state wants to give equal water rights to the public, the state should get its fair share from neighboring countries. He also spoke of how political power is misused by land and river grabbers and demanded that they be cut off from their sources of power.

Anisur Rahman, director of Center For Natural Resource Studies, and Samsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development also spoke at the programme and echoed similar sentiments.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested Firm/ Organization for developing e-learning package/course for TVET teachers training programme (CBT & A Level-4) in line with Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) approved competency standards. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the ILO Dhaka website under Procurement Notices at: https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/WCMS\_367536/lang-en/index.htm
The deadline for submission of proposal is Sunday, November 29, 2020, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
City PWD Division, 15, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka
Phone: 9550663, Fax: 9561924
Memo No. 25.36.2600.130.00.000.00.707 Date: 27/10/2020
Corrigendum Notice
SL. No. To be replaced as
1. Registration period will be 29.10.2020-05.11.2020 between 10.00am to 5.00pm instead of 08.11.2020-12.11.2020 between 10.00am to 5.00pm.
2. Receiving queries through email will be 08.11.2020-10.11.2020 instead of 15.11.2020-16.11.2020.
3. Reply to queries by email will be 12.11.2020 instead of 19.11.2020.
4. Submission date will be 03/12/2020 Thursday instead of 03/12/2020 Sunday.
All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be a part and parcel of the said tender.
Mohammad Showkat Ullah
Executive Engineer
City PWD-Division, Dhaka
GD-1709

UGC to
FROM PAGE 3
UGC said such universities can grade students taking the attendance, assignments, presentations, mid-term exam results into account held before online tests. They can also take results of previous semester into consideration while preparing results for outgoing session.
But it also said practical classes for all laboratory-based courses will have to be completed in the classroom once the situation becomes normal.
All private universities have been closed since March 17 to curb the spread of Covid-19.
Prof Shahidullah said they have also discussed the matter of allowing private universities to withdraw interest from the reserve fund, deposited to a bank.
"They will be able to use the money only to pay salaries of teachers and staff members. We are hearing from sources that many private universities cannot pay them salaries," he said.
According to Private University Act 2010, it is mandatory for each private university to have a reserve fund.
According to law, each private university in Dhaka and Chattogram has a reserve fund of Tk 5 crore, each university in other metropolitan cities has Tk 3 crore, and each university in other places Tk 1.5 crore.

RU to hold
FROM PAGE 3
said Prof Abdul Alim, a syndicate member.
However, details on how they plan to host the exams during the pandemic are yet to be decided, which will be finalised after the admission test committee's meeting.
In addition, on the issue of whether to permit honours degree holders to participate in the university's convocation, the academic council decided to let them participate alongside masters graduates, prof Alim told The Daily Star.
Meanwhile, a decision was reached to set up a "Bangabandhu Chair" in the Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) of the university. The Bangabandhu Chair will be elected for every two academic years.
It will be awarded on the basis of work, literature, research, special contribution in the field of education etc.

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road
Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh
Invitation for Appointment of General Agent for BSC in Spain
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), under Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of Bangladesh invites tender for appointing a general shipping agent having capacity to perform the ships husbandry works in different ports of Spain.
02. Standard Tender document will be available at: BSC Head Office and upon email request.
03. Tender information are as follows:
Tender document last selling date/time: 07/12/2020 1700 hrs (BST/LT)
Tender last submission date: 08/12/2020
Tender opening date: 08/12/2020 in the Office of General Manager (Cargo Supervision & Operation), Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram.
04. Eligibility of applicant: As per tender schedule.
05. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders/quotations.
General Manager (FE/WAG)
Telephone: 88-031-721976, 720699, 2521162-68
Fax No. 88-031-710506, 722380
e-mail address: gm-lines@bsc.gov.bd
Website: www.bsc.gov.bd
GD-1707

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা
স্মারক নং-ঢামেকহা/সংগ্রহ-১/বাৎসরিক দরপত্র/২০২০-২০২১/৭৫৪২ তারিখঃ ২৭/১০/২০২০ইং
২০২০-২০২১ইং অর্থ বৎসরে আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের সময় বর্ধিতকরণ সহ সংশোধনী প্রসঙ্গে
ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ২০২০-২০২১ইং অর্থ বছরে এমএসআর সামগ্রী, ক্লিনিং ও অন্যান্য মনিহারি (বিবিধ) এবং কর্মচারীদের পোশাক সংগ্রহের জন্য স্মারক নং-ঢামেকহা/সংগ্রহ-১/বাৎসরিক/২০২০-২০২১/৭৫২৮, তারিখঃ ২৯/০৯/২০২০ইং মোতাবেক বিক্রি বাণা ও ইয়েজিট নৈমিক পত্রিকা এবং সিপিটিইউ-তে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের মাধ্যমে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা হয়। অনিবার্য কারণবশত উক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্নোক্তভাবে সংশোধন করা হলোঃ
ক্রঃ নং পূর্বের বিজ্ঞপ্তির ক্রঃ নং পূর্বের বিবরণ সংশোধনী বিবরণ
০১ (৯) দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রির তারিখ ও সময় ০১/১০/২০২০ইং তারিখ হতে ৩১/১০/২০২০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত। প্রতি কর্মদিবসে সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। উক্ত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি করা হবে না। ০১/১০/২০২০ইং তারিখ হতে ১১/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতি কর্মদিবসে সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। উক্ত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি করা হবে না।
০২ (১০) প্রি-বিড সভার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান ১৫/১০/২০২০ইং তারিখ, বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা, ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা এর সভাকক্ষ। ০১/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ, সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা, ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা এর সভাকক্ষ।
০৩ (১১) দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময় ০১/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ, সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। ১২/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ, সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৪ (১২) দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান ০১/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ, বেলা ১.৩০ ঘটিকা, ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা এর সভাকক্ষ। ১২/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ, বেলা ১.৩০ ঘটিকা, ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা এর সভাকক্ষ।
এছাড়া বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সকল শর্তাবলী বলবৎ থাকবে।
ব্রিগেডিয়ার জেনারেল এ কে এম নাসির উদ্দিন
পরিচালক
ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা
GD-1710





Snails being packaged for transport at a market in Sharsha upazila of Jashore.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 200 families in Sharsha barely survive on selling snails

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

At least 200 poverty-stricken families, many of whom were fishers by profession, in Sharsha upazila of Jashore have resorted to catching snails for survival in the past few months.

Many of the residents, of eleven unions in the upazila, said efforts are being made to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and some of them lost their access to fishing in local water bodies such as Banmandar Beel.

Shankar Mandal, inhabitant of fishing village Tebaria in Dihi union, said they used to live on catching fish in Banmandar Beel, an open water body in the area.

After their entry to the wetland was restricted by a private fish farm, many of the villagers were forced to leave their ancestral profession and start scavenging open water bodies -- local rivers, canals, ponds and wetlands -- for snails.

They scour the area all day for snails and make a stockpile of those in the village in the afternoon.

Now he and his family members are struggling to survive on earnings from selling snails for only Tk 5 each kilogram. "On an average day, I get about 60 to 70 kilograms of snails," Shankar added.

The poor families are worried as to how long they would survive on the meagre

income from gathering snail, which is available in the nature for only several months -- Ashar through Kartik of the Bangla calendar year.

Another cause for concern is that a large number of the snail gatherers are contracting skin diseases as toxicity is unusually high in the local water bodies this year, they said.

Pakshiya village resident Rajab Ali said he and his family members head out in the morning and continue to gather snails from the locality till around 3:00pm.

The family has to live on an income of around Tk 250 to Tk 300, from 50 to 60 kg of snails that they are able to gather in an entire day, he also said.

Sarani, who comes from family of fishers in fishing village Gorpara, said the water in the local water bodies this year is causing severe skin diseases. But, poor people like her, who have no skill for other jobs, have no other choice but to go in the water and gather snails every day.

Snail trader Akram Hossain, from Wapda Khalpara area, said snail is an ingredient of fish feed consumed at different shrimp enclosures and fish farms.

He also said that he buys about 65 to 70 maunds of snail from the gatherers every day and sells those to a buyer at Kapalia Bridge Bazar in Dumuria of Khulna.

## Neelima Point: An oasis by the Bay

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The flood protection embankment of the Bishkhali river, which flows through the southern part of Patharghata town in Barguna, is gaining popularity among tourists.

Located near the river's mouth at Bay of Bengal, the spot on the embankment has been named Neelima Point, which has been formally inaugurated by Barguna district administration recently.

The place was given the name 'Neelima' because when the Bishkhali river meets the turquoise waters of the Bay -- with the blue sky embracing them above -- the nature there wears a blue attire.

The place sees a good crowd in the afternoon when clean air, tranquil waters of the Bay and natural greenery on both sides of the river's banks become too irresistible for visitors.

Neelima Point came into being after the Patharghata town protection levee, built to save the town from strong current of the Bishkhali, was renovated and fortified with concrete blocks recently.

People of all ages and professions oftentimes stay at Neelima Point till the evening when they can reenergise by observing the breathtaking view of the rising moon in the east.

Nripendra Nath Sadhak, a retired teacher of Bangla at Patharghata

College, said he enjoys visiting this southern part of the town where there are many trees in the pastures along high slopes of the Bishkhali river.

Tourism has immense potential there, as the serenity of the Bay and blue sky above helps one find inner peace, he added.

Patharghata Upazila Nirbahi Officer Humayun Kabir said the upazila has good potential for tourism and Neelima Point is a good place for people to spend time near Patharghata town.

He also said the site needs further

development in order to provide necessary amenities for tourists.

Mostafa Golam Kabir, chairman of the upazila, said efforts are being made to make Neelima Point an attractive destination for residents of the town.

Contacted, Barguna Deputy Commissioner Mustain Billah said emphasis would be placed on the tourism potential of the picturesque Neelima Point.

Aside from adding more facilities and services for visitors, security would be heightened around the area for their protection as well, he added.



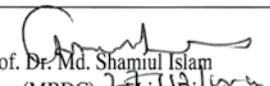
Visitors enjoy the serene beauty of Neelima Point, on the bank of Bishkhali river near Patharghata town of Barguna.

PHOTO: STAR

People from different walks of life form a human chain in Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila headquarters on Monday, demanding ferry service on Agunmukha river to save the lives of the inhabitants, living on both sides of the river.

PHOTO: STAR



Memo: DGHS/ AIDS/ STD/ 2020/347					
<b>Directorate General of Health Services National AIDS/ STD Control Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)</b>					
1	Ministry/Division	Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
2	Agency	Directorate General of health services (DGHS)			
3	Procuring Entity Name	AIDS/STD Programme (ASP)			
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A			
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	1. Organization to Implement of the STI and HIV prevention Service Package for MSM/MSW/TG and their clients; 2. Organization to Implement of the Harm reduction and Opioid substitution therapy (OST) Service package for male and female PWID			
7	Invitation Ref.No	DGHS/ AIDS/ STD/ 2020/ 347			
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (QCBS)			
9	Budget and Source of Funds	4 <sup>th</sup> Health Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP)			
10	Project/Programme Name	Services Package (SP)- 25: STI and HIV prevention Service Package for MSM/MSW/TG and their clients 26: Harm reduction and Opioid substitution therapy (OST) Service package for male and female PWID			
11	EOI Closing Date & Time	12/11/2020 at 12:00 Noon			
12	Brief Description of Assignment	Provide HIV prevention services for the MSM/ TG (5000) and People Who Injects Drug (PWID) about 11500 (10000 NSEP and 1500 OST), the services included STI and abscess management, condom promotion, needle/ syringe exchange, general health, STI/ HIV counseling and testing, BCC, distribution of the OST (methadone) among PWID and treatment/ rehabilitation, capacity building of the partners (hospital, drug treatment center) in selected district of Bangladesh. The clinical services facilities will be established within the GoB health facility (based on availability), besides this, outreach based service are offered for the KPs. This intervention will help to achieve the HIV program goal as per 4 <sup>th</sup> national strategic plan			
13	Experiences, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	The applicant should have Legal establishment for a minimum of twelve (12) years (valid registration with joint stock company/Social welfare /NGOAB/ any other GoB entity) of which three years of experience in any of the areas of health, population and nutrition sector. Applicant must have at least 05 years experience in implementing HIV/ AIDS prevention program for any key population. Preference given to the applicant who has experience in respective working areas. Proof of sound financial ability to manage the requested assignment, attached last three years audit report and programme report. The applicant should have evidence of skilled human resources required in the program, personnel should be familiar with GOB/national HIV prevention policies and guidelines. Having working experience with the government health system is mandatory. Applicant may apply in joint venture implementation arrangement where one will be lead and rest will be JV partner but not more than 4 organizations, for the package 26 any of the JV partners have the license of drug treatment and rehabilitation. In case of JV arrangement all above requirements are applicable for lead and partners.			
14	Other Details	Interested organization will be required to submit the EOI (1original with 2 copies) to the address as mentioned below, write up of the EOI will be within 20 page in the New Roman 12 font (1" margins all around) along with all supporting evidence mentioned in the experience and eligibility criteria/ Capacity Required above. EOI's will be opened in presence of the representative of the participating organizations, if any on 12/11/2020 at 12.30 PM (BST). In case of any unavoidable circumstances EOI's will be received and opened on the following working day. Upon receipt of EOI's the interested organizations those are deemed best suited to perform the assignment will be short-listed. There after Request for Proposal (RFP) document will be issued to the Short-Listed organizations. The organizations will be selected based on the QCBS basis in accordance with the procedures set out in the PPA 2006 and PPR 2008 of GoB. ➤ Applicant suggested to submit EOI for separately if wish to apply both the package like 25 and 26.			
15	Ref.No	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date	Indicative Completion Date
	DGHS/ AIDS/ STD/ 2020/347	4 <sup>th</sup> HPNSP period	Selected district :as per TOR	December, 2020	May, 2022/ up to OP period
16	Name of Official Inviting EOI	Prof. Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam			
17	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Director (MBDC) Line Director			
18	Address of Official inviting EOI	TB- Leprosy and AIDS/STD Programme (TB-L & ASP), DGHS, 4 <sup>th</sup> floor, Old building of DGHS, Mohakhali Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh			
19	Contract Details of Official inviting EOI	Telephone No- 9853263	Email- sdaids2008@gmail.com		
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the EOI at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever, This notice and detail ToR will be available on the website: www.dghs.gov.bd and www.asp.gov.bd					
 Prof. Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam Director (MBDC) and Line Director TB- L and AIDS/ STD Programme, DGHS, Mohakhali					
GD-1703					

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
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www.moind.gov.bd

নং-৩৬.০০.০০০০.০৬৭.১৮.০২৪.২০-১৮৯ তারিখঃ ১১ কার্তিক, ১৪২৭  
২৭ অক্টোবর, ২০২০

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

**বাণিজ্যিক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যক্তি বা সিআইপি (শিল্প)-২০২১ নির্বাচন**

বাণিজ্যিক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যক্তি (শিল্প) নির্বাচন নীতিমালা-২০১৪ অনুযায়ী "সিআইপি (শিল্প)-২০২১" নির্বাচনের লক্ষ্যে জাতীয় শিল্পনীতি-২০১৬ এ প্রদত্ত সংজ্ঞানুযায়ী বৃহৎ শিল্প (উৎপাদন ও সেবা), মাঝারি শিল্প (উৎপাদন ও সেবা), ক্ষুদ্র শিল্প (উৎপাদন ও সেবা), মাইক্রো শিল্প ও কুটির শিল্প-এর আওতাভুক্ত কোন একক শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারী, লিমিটেড কোম্পানির ক্ষেত্রে চেয়ারম্যান অথবা কোম্পানি পরিচালনা পর্ষদ কর্তৃক যথাযথভাবে মনোনীত কোন উদ্যোক্তা পরিচালক এবং পার্টনারশিপ ফর্মের ক্ষেত্রে শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যবস্থাপনা অংশীদার এর নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদনকারীকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক হতে হবে।

আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণ শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট [www.moind.gov.bd](http://www.moind.gov.bd) হতে আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহ করে ফরমে প্রদত্ত তথ্যের স্বপক্ষে প্রমাণকসমূহ সংযুক্তপূর্বক বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালে মন্ত্রণালয়ের বিএসটিআই ও বিএসইসি শাখায় (কক্ষ নং-৫৩২) জমা দিতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পরে কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

সিআইপি (শিল্প) নির্বাচন নীতিমালা-২০১৪ অনুযায়ী শেয়ার কেলেংকারির সাথে জড়িত, ঋণখেলাপি, করখেলাপি, ফৌজদারি মামলায় সাজাপ্রাপ্ত এবং সাজা ভোগের পর পাঁচ বছর অতিবাহিত হয়নি এমন কোন ব্যক্তি; বিগত পাঁচ বছরের মধ্যে কোন শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানকে যদি সরকারের রাজস্ব ফাঁকির কোন ঘটনায় জরিমানা করা হয়, তাহলে উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধি এবং কোন শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানের বেতনভুক্ত কর্মকর্তা সিআইপি (শিল্প) নির্বাচনের লক্ষ্যে আবেদন করতে পারবেন না।

আবেদনকারীকে অবশ্যই "সিআইপি (শিল্প) নির্বাচন নীতিমালা-২০১৪" ও "জাতীয় শিল্পনীতি-২০১৬" অনুসরণ করতে হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে কোনো ব্যত্যয় ঘটলে আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

আবেদনপত্রে কোন মিথ্যা বা অসত্য তথ্য প্রদান করলে আবেদনকারী পরবর্তী ৩ (তিন) বছর সিআইপি (শিল্প) নির্বাচনের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন না।

আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় অবশ্যই স্বাক্ষরবিধি অনুসরণ করতে হবে।

প্রাপ্ত আবেদনের বিষয়ে শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের সিআইপি (শিল্প) নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত বাছাই কমিটির সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

মোঃ মাকসুদুর রহমান  
সহকারী সচিব  
জিডি-১৭০৬  
ফোনঃ +৮৮ ০২ ৯৫৫৮৭৪৭

## Poacher jailed, 32 dead birds seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Members of Forest and Nature Conservation Department in a drive detained four people, including three minor boys, and seized at least 32 dead birds from them in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila on Monday evening.

A mobile court later sentenced the adult bird hunter, out of the four, to one month imprisonment under Wildlife Conservation Act, Chunarughat Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Satyajit Ray Das said.

The convict, Siddique Ali, 31, is a resident of Chandpur area in the upazila.

However, the three minor poachers were released upon giving an undertaking that they would never involve in such illegal activities in future, he added.

UNO Satyajit said officials of Chunarughat Forest and Nature Conservation Department detained the four when Siddique Ali and the three minor boys were taking the dead birds in Chandpur Tea Garden for sale.



# China tells US not to 'bully' Sri Lanka

AFP, Colombo

China yesterday warned the United States not to "coerce and bully" Sri Lanka ahead of a visit to the strategically-placed island by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Pompeo is expected to raise rights issues when he meets the Rajapaksa today in Colombo which is under a partial lockdown because of a surge in coronavirus infections.

Pompeo is expected to ask Colombo to make "difficult" choices on its blossoming relationship with Beijing during his visit.

"We are firmly opposed to the United States taking the opportunity of the State Secretary's visit to sow and interfere in China-Sri Lanka relations, and to coerce and bully Sri Lanka," China's embassy in Colombo said.

The top US diplomat for South Asia, Dean Thompson, said at the start of Pompeo's four-nation tour of Indian Ocean nations -- India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia -- that he will ask Colombo to review options offered by Washington.

The US visit comes less than three weeks after Yang Jiechi, a Chinese Communist Party politburo member, pledged more economic help to Sri Lanka during a visit.

Colombo has leaned heavily on China for loans and diplomatic support to fight off allegations of human rights violations, particularly in the final months of a brutal decades-long civil war.

Washington has insisted on credible investigations into charges that Sri Lankan troops killed at least 40,000 civilians while crushing Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was the island's top defence official and his brother Mahinda was president when the final onslaught was carried out. Mahinda is now prime minister.



Judge Amy Coney Barrett is sworn in as an associate justice of the US Supreme Court by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas as her husband Jesse Barrett and President Donald Trump watch on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, US, on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nearly 6,000 Afghan civilians killed or wounded in 2020: UN

Nearly 6,000 Afghan civilians were killed or wounded in the first nine months of the year as heavy fighting between government forces and Taliban insurgents rages on despite efforts to find peace, the United Nations said yesterday. From January to September, there were 5,939 civilian casualties in the fighting -- 2,117 people killed and 3,822 wounded, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a report. Civilian casualties were 30% lower than in the same period last year. The Taliban were responsible for 45% of civilian casualties while government troops caused 23%, it said. US-led international forces were responsible for 2%.

### Israel to approve settler homes in Hebron area

Israel is set to approve construction of Jewish settler homes in a flashpoint area of the West Bank city of Hebron for the first time since 2002, the anti-occupation group Peace Now said yesterday. Peace Now, which tracks settlement construction in the occupied territory, said Israeli military authorities had given the green light to the construction of 31 settler housing units "in the heart of Hebron". Hebron is considered a West Bank powder-keg where around 800 Jewish settlers live under hefty Israeli army security, surrounded by around 200,000 Palestinians.

### Malaysia's PM gets reprieve from key ally in political crisis

The largest party in Malaysia's ruling coalition has declared its support for Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, providing some respite for the premier as he faces calls to resign after a failed bid to impose an emergency to tackle the coronavirus. The United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party, which had this month threatened to withdraw support for Muhyiddin, said it would now back him as the time had come for reconciliation to ensure stability and to focus on managing the pandemic. UMNO also said it would not work with opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's party, rejecting a proposal to do so from a former premier, and now-ruling party lawmaker, Najib Razak.

### Air pollution linked to 15pc of coronavirus deaths: study

Long-term exposure to air pollution may be linked to 15 percent of Covid-19 deaths globally, according to research published yesterday that highlights the health risks posed by greenhouse gas emissions. Previous research has shown how air pollution from exhaust fumes and factories takes two years off the life expectancy of every man, woman and child on Earth. In East Asia, which has some of the highest levels of harmful pollution on the planet, the authors found that 27 percent of Covid-19 deaths could be attributed to the health effects of poor air quality. In Europe the proportion was 19 percent, compared with 17 percent in North America.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## US ELECTION 2020



5 DAYS TO GO

### Trump goads Biden for forgetting his name

US President Donald Trump on Monday taunted opponent Joe Biden for forgetting his name and calling him "George". Biden's habit of verbal gaffes reemerged on Sunday evening when he struggled to remember Trump's name as he addressed a virtual concert by TV link. "Four more years of George, er, George, er, he -- we're going to find ourselves in a position where, if Trump gets elected, we're going to be in a different world," Biden said. Trump has sought to paint Biden as mentally unfit for office, and the president swiftly jumped on the moment of forgetfulness. "Joe Biden called me George yesterday. Couldn't remember my name," Trump tweeted with glee. "The Fake News Cartel is working overtime to cover it up!"

### Clinton says idea of four more years of Trump makes her 'literally sick'

Hillary Clinton has described another Trump election win as an idea that makes her "literally sick". The former US secretary of state told Sway, a New York Times Opinion podcast, that she "can't entertain the idea of [Trump] winning" the 2020 election, which takes place in a week's time. "It makes me literally sick to my stomach to think that we'd have four more years of this abuse and destruction of our institutions," she told the podcast, as The Hill reported. "And [the] damaging of our norms and our values. And lessening of our leadership. And the list goes on," she continued. "It would cause cognitive dissonance of a grave degree." The 2016 Democratic presidential nominee went on to berate Republicans who had enabled Trump's administration, saying they were "spineless" and "cowards".

SOURCE: AFP

# Trump celebrates as Barrett takes oath as US SC justice

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump reveled in one of his signature achievements on Monday at a White House ceremony to celebrate US Senate confirmation of his third Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, 6 days before the election.

The made-for-TV prime-time event on the White House lawn mirrored one a month ago, when Barrett's nomination was announced, which preceded a coronavirus outbreak among top Republicans including Trump himself.

It came little more than an hour after the Republican-controlled Senate confirmed Barrett to the lifetime appointment on a 52-48 vote, with Democrats unified in opposition.

Her confirmation as successor to liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died last month, creates a 6-3 conservative majority on the high court. One Republican, Susan Collins, voted against the confirmation.

Barrett's confirmation shifts the Supreme Court further to the right, which could pave the way to conservative rulings curbing abortion rights, expanding gun rights and limiting voting rights, among other things.

Trump had pressed the Senate to confirm Barrett,

48, before the Nov. 3 election in which he trails Democrat Joe Biden in national opinion polls. No Supreme Court justice had ever been confirmed so close to a presidential election.

Conservative Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, wearing his judicial black robes, administered one of the two oaths of office that justices have to take.

In brief remarks, Barrett declared her independence from Trump and the political process even as the president stood behind her. "The oath that I have solemnly taken tonight means at its core I will do the job without fear or favor and do it independently of the political branches and of my own preferences," she said.

Chief Justice John Roberts will administer the separate judicial oath at the court later yesterday.

Trump's other Supreme Court appointees are conservatives Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

Trump has said he expects the court to decide the outcome of the election and wants Barrett to participate on any election-related cases that go before the justices.

Just before the Senate vote, the court on a 5-3 vote with the conservative justices in the majority, issued an order curbing the deadline for mail-in ballots to be received in the electoral battleground of Wisconsin.

# HARPOON COASTAL DEFENSE SYSTEMS US approves \$2.4b arms sale to Taiwan

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday said it had approved a \$2.4 billion sale of 100 Harpoon coastal defense systems to Taiwan, defying Beijing's anger over a \$1 billion missile deal last week.

The proposed sale of the Harpoon systems "will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance... and progress in the region," the State Department said in a statement.

The deal involves 100 Harpoon Coastal Defense Systems (HCDS), which includes 400 RGM-84L-4 Harpoon Block II surface-launched missiles with a range of around 78 miles (125 kilometers).

The missiles, manufactured by Boeing, can be positioned on fixed platforms or mounted on trucks.

Democratic and self-ruled Taiwan lives under constant threat of invasion by authoritarian China, whose leaders view the island as part of their territory. They have vowed to one day seize Taiwan, by force if necessary.

Beijing yesterday said it "firmly opposed" such moves, urging the US to "call off the relevant arms sales plan to Taiwan, so as not to cause further damage to China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait".

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said China would "take proper and necessary measures."



Smoke rises from the Silverado Fire near Irvine, California, on Monday. More than 90,000 people fled their homes near Los Angeles on Monday as two fast-spreading and uncontained wildfires raged across more than 14,600 acres, blocking key roadways and critically injuring two firefighters.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# US stands with India to deal with any threat

FROM PAGE 1

media appearance with Jaishankar and Rajnath, mentioned the killing of 20 Indian army personnel in Galwan Valley in a clash with Chinese troops in Ladakh on June 14 and said "the US stands with India to deal with any threat."

"Big things are happening as our democracies align to better protect the citizens of our two countries and indeed, of the free world," Pompeo told reporters.

"Our leaders, and our citizens, see with increasing clarity that the Chinese Communist Party is no friend to democracy, the rule of law, transparency, nor to freedom of navigation, the foundation of a free and open, prosperous Indo-Pacific," Pompeo said.

The new defence pact was a "significant milestone" that would foster cooperation between the militaries of both countries, Esper told the news conference.

The United States planned to sell more fighter planes and drones to India, Esper added. The pact will give India access to a range of topographical, nautical and aeronautical data that is considered vital for targeting missiles and armed drones.

It would also allow the United States to provide advanced navigational aids and avionics on US-supplied aircraft to India, an Indian defence source said.

Rajnath said the talks "reaffirmed our commitment to peace and security

in Indo-Pacific region where China has been increasingly assertive economically and militarily, sparking concerns in New Delhi and Washington."

US President Donald Trump has made being tough on China a key part of his campaign to secure a second term in next week's presidential election and Pompeo has been trying to bolster allies to counter China's growing influence in the region, reports Reuters.

China dismissed Pompeo's accusations.

"We urge Pompeo to abandon his Cold War mentality, zero-sum mindset, and stop harping on the 'China threat'," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a news briefing in Beijing earlier yesterday.

Jaishankar did not refer directly to China in his comments at the news conference but hailed "national security convergences" with the United States, their determination to tackle security and counter-terrorism issues and ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

This month, India invited Australia to join naval drills it holds each year with the United States and Japan, brushing off Chinese concerns that the exercises destabilise the region.

Pompeo and Esper met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier yesterday for talks that included regional stability, a US government spokesman said.

Following talks in India, Pompeo

will go on to Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia. China's growing investment and influence in Sri Lanka and the Maldives have sparked concern in both the US and India.

The inking of the BECA completes finalisation of four key foundational pacts underpinning the strategic military ties between the two countries, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Ever since India and the US signed the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002, the strategic ties between them have grown. The GSOMIA provides for specific measures to ensure security standards for safeguarding critical information shared by the US with India.

In 2016, the US had designated India as a "major defence partner" seeking to elevate defence trade and technology-sharing to the level of its closest partners, and in the same year the two countries inked the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) that allows their militaries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provide for deeper cooperation.

In 2018, India and the US signed another pact, the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), which provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for sale of high-end technology from the US to India.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Project Director  
"Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project  
Directorate General of Food  
Khaddya Bhaban, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.  
www.dgfood.gov.bd



Memo No: 13.01.0000.362.07.009.20-13 Date: 27/10/2020

### INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)

1	Ministry	Ministry of food								
2	Agency	Directorate General of Food								
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, "Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project								
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A								
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka								
6	Invitation for	• Selection of Outsourcing Firm for Supply of 02 (Two) Outsourcing Manpower [01 (One) Office Assistant Cum-Computer Operator and 01 (One) Office Sahayak] • Other information's are in Tender schedule (Section 7).								
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>										
7	Procurement Method	NCT Open Tendering Method (OTM)								
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>										
8	Budget and Sources of Funds	Development Budget GoB								
9	Development Partner	N/A								
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>										
10	Project Code	224306600								
11	Project Name	"Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project								
12	Tender Package No. & Name	N/A								
13	Tender Publishing Date	28-10-2020								
14	Tender last selling date & time	24-11-2020 on 5:00 PM								
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	25-11-2020 on 2:00 PM								
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	25-11-2020 on 2:30 PM								
17	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Office of the Project Director, "Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project, Directorate General of Food, Room No. 329, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.								
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>										
18	Eligibility of Tenderer's	(a) Tenderer must have the experience of supplying Manpower for 05 years in any Ministry/ division/ authority/ agency/ Government Company/ government organization/ government project/ consultant's organization for the foreign aided project. Certificates of relevant experiences are to be attested by first class gazetted officer. (b) Tenderer must have experience of a single contract completed/ ongoing of supplying Manpower valued at least of Taka 30.00 (Taka thirty lakh only) lakh in last 03 (Three) years. (c) Tenderer current capital/credit facility will be 10(Ten) lakh. In case of Loan facility PSN-5 must be attached as documents. In other cases, bank certificate must be submitted. (d) Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable law. (e) Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. (f) Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay VAT & Taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. (g) Other Conditions are mentioned in Tender schedule.								
19	Brief description of the services to be provided	Selection of Outsourcing Firm for Supply of 02 (Two) Outsourcing Manpower [01 (One) Office Assistant Cum-Computer Operator and 01 (One) Office Sahayak]								
20	Price of the Tender Documents	BDT 1000/- ( Taka One Thousand only) in Cash (Non-refundable)								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Identifications of Services</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Location</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Tender Security Amount (BDT)</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Completion Time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>The Outsourcing Firm Supply of 02 (Two) Outsourcing Manpower [01 (One) Office Assistant Cum-Computer Operator and 01 (One) Office Sahayak]</td> <td>Office of the Project Director, Project, Directorate General of Food, Room No. 329, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.</td> <td>Tk. 15,000/- (Taka Fifteen Thousand Only) in the form of a Bank Draft or Pay Order or Bank Guarantee issued by any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Project Director "Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.</td> <td>Initially (Twelve) months may be extended upon the satisfactory completion of initial contract period.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Identifications of Services	Location	Tender Security Amount (BDT)	Completion Time	The Outsourcing Firm Supply of 02 (Two) Outsourcing Manpower [01 (One) Office Assistant Cum-Computer Operator and 01 (One) Office Sahayak]	Office of the Project Director, Project, Directorate General of Food, Room No. 329, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.	Tk. 15,000/- (Taka Fifteen Thousand Only) in the form of a Bank Draft or Pay Order or Bank Guarantee issued by any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Project Director "Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.	Initially (Twelve) months may be extended upon the satisfactory completion of initial contract period.
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<b>INFORMATION OF PROCURING ENTITY</b>										
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Humayun Kabir								
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director								
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Project Director, "Establishment of Premix Kernel Machine with Laboratory and Construction of Infrastructure to ensure nutrition in Food Grains" Project, Directorate General of Food, Room No. 329, 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.								

**The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any one or all Tenders.**

  
 (Md. Humayun Kabir)  
 Project Director  
 Tel: +880 2-41050153  
 e-mail : pdkamel.dgfood@gmail.com

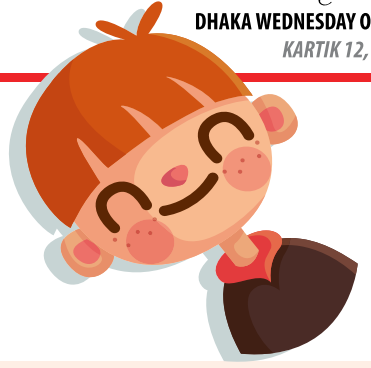
GD-1704





## HSC SPECIAL MODEL TEST 2020

Md. Jasim Uddin Biswas, Lecturer, Department of English  
Dhaka Residential Model College, Dhaka



### SUBJECT: ENGLISH FIRST PAPER

Dear Students,

Today we will practise Multiple Choice Questions and Open-ended questions of question number 1 of Part one of English First Paper. With a view to evaluating your comprehensive aptitude, questions will be provided. 15 (5+10) marks will be allotted for this question. Let's practise.

### SEEN PASSAGE

Read the passage and answer the following questions.

**Water, water, everywhere,  
And all the boards did shrink;  
Water, water, everywhere  
Nor any drop to drink.**

Coleridge's poem, a ballad, narrates the harrowing sea-voyage of an old mariner who at one point of his journey didn't have any water to drink because of a curse. Cursed or not, we know how important drinking water is in our life. We know we cannot survive without it. In fact, two-thirds of

our body is made up of water. Not for nothing is it said that the other name of water is life. Is there a crisis in our time with regard to access to clean drinking water? The United Nations in a meeting on the eve of the new millennium identified the drinking water problem as one of the challenges for the future. But do we need to worry about the problem as ours is a land of rivers and we have plenty of rainfall? Besides, we have a sea in our backyard too.

One of the sources of water in

our country is the rivers. Rivers are everywhere in our life, literature, economy and culture. But are the rivers in good shape? Unfortunately, they are not. A few are already dead and several are going through the pangs of death. The river Buriganga is an example of a dying river. A report published in the Daily Sun describes what has happened to the river Buriganga and why. Its water is polluted and a perpetual stench fills the air around it. But that is not what it was like before.

1. A. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives.

1×5=5

(a) The old mariner had a very \_\_\_\_ sea-voyage.

- (i) pleasant
- (ii) agonizing.
- (iii) wonderful
- (iv) memorable

(b) The word 'harrowing' mentioned in the passage means \_\_\_\_.

- (i) soft
- (ii) dangerous
- (iii) mellifluous
- (iv) melodious

(c) What kind of river the Buriganga is now?

- (i) dying
- (ii) flowing
- (iii) having current
- (iv) none of the above

(d) The best synonym of 'perpetual' is \_\_\_\_.

- (i) continuous
- (ii) stable
- (iii) entire
- (iv) temporary

(e) "Harrowing sea-voyage" refers to \_\_\_\_.

- (i) horrifying sea-animals
- (ii) destructive sea-animals
- (iii) frightening and shocking journey across a sea
- (iv) frightful condition of sea

B. Answer the following questions.

- (a) What is the present situation of the Buriganga?
- (b) Why is it said that the other name of water is life?
- (c) Why did the old mariner suffer a lot?
- (d) Do you think the Buriganga river is dying? If so, why?
- (e) "But that is not what it was like before." Explain.

2. Read the following text and make a flow chart showing about what type of teachers, classroom, environment, system, etc. there should be for children's education. (One is done for you). 2×5=10

Children's right to education also implies that the school they go to will have a pleasant and learning-friendly environment where everyone will have an enjoyable time. Teachers will be kind, caring and supportive and children will feel relaxed. No harsh words will be spoken to them and special care will be taken of children with learning disabilities.

That, unfortunately, is not the general picture in our schools. The system of education in our part of the world does not allow children much freedom, and classrooms look more like cages where they are pent up for hours. Rabindranath Tagore (read his "An Eastern University" in Unit Six) found it unacceptable, so did William Blake (1757-1857),

an English poet and painter, whose favourite subjects included children. In his poem "The School Boy" Blake writes about a young boy who is unhappy with his school where dour-faced teachers give joyless lessons. He would rather like to be outdoors and enjoy the summer day. He pleads with his parents to rescue him from the drudgery of school.

1. To have a pleasant and learning-friendly environment → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5 → 6

Dear Students,

Today we will practise gap filling activities with clues of question number 4 of English First Paper. With a view to evaluating your aptitude in using appropriate words, a text having 10 gaps will be provided. 5 marks will be allotted for this question. Let's practise.

Read the following text and fill in the blanks with suitable word from the box. There are more words than needed. Make any grammatical change if necessary.

3

enriched	about	various	belong	naturally	combines
bears	criteria	included	in	remains	variety

Folk music (a) \_\_\_\_ to a community. It (b) \_\_\_\_ uninfluenced by any rules of classical music. Bangladesh is (c) \_\_\_\_ with folk music. Both religious and secular songs are (d) \_\_\_\_ in it. It (e) \_\_\_\_ the note of a community. It expresses styles (f) \_\_\_\_ and does not bother (g) \_\_\_\_ rules. As music (h) \_\_\_\_ tune, voice and dance, folk music has its own (i) \_\_\_\_\_. Folk music has a great (j) \_\_\_\_ of singing style.

4

difficult	consolidate	attraction	disappear	importance
solutions	success	provide	producers	practice

There are no easy (a) \_\_\_\_ to the problems that craftworks face in our time. Crafts that are (b) \_\_\_\_ can and should be revived, even where the machine has made the prospect (c) \_\_\_\_\_. And crafts that are still (d) \_\_\_\_ can be safeguarded and made to (e) \_\_\_\_ their position further. This can be done by (f) \_\_\_\_ grants, loans, assistance and other support to the (g) \_\_\_\_\_, and helping them find a comfortable customer base. But more (h) \_\_\_\_\_, craftwork can be branded and (i) \_\_\_\_ marketed throughout the country and beyond as there are always buyers and users of handmade products who feel a strong (j) \_\_\_\_ towards such cultural products.

### SUBJECT: ENGLISH SECOND PAPER

Dear Students,

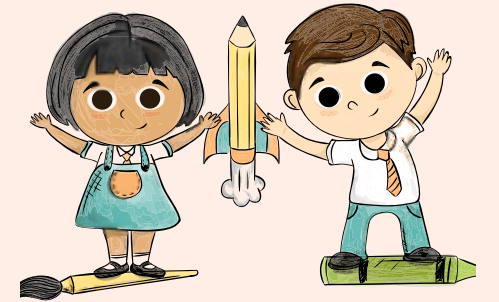
Today we will practise gap filling activities without clues of question number 1 of English Second Paper. With a view to evaluating your aptitude in using appropriate articles, a text having 10 gaps will be provided. 5 marks will be allotted for this question. Let's practise.

5. (a) \_\_\_\_ morning walk is a good habit for all classes of people. It is (b) \_\_\_\_ simple exercise and good for health and (c) \_\_\_\_ mentality. In the morning (d) \_\_\_\_ air is fresh and free from any kind of noise and pollution. This pure (e) \_\_\_\_ environment makes an effect on (f) \_\_\_\_ walker's health and mind when (g) \_\_\_\_ man enjoys (h) \_\_\_\_ beauties and solemnity of (i) \_\_\_\_ nature in (j) \_\_\_\_ morning.

## ANSWERS

Answer to the question number 1(A):

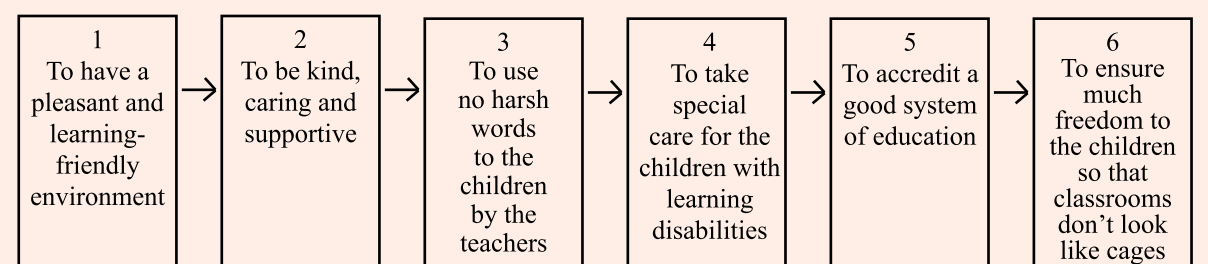
- (a) = (ii) agonizing
- (b) = (ii) dangerous
- (c) = (i) Dying
- (d) = (i) continuous
- (e) = (iii) frightening and shocking journey across a sea



Answer to the question number 1(B):

- (a) Once Buriganga was a strong, useful and beautiful river. But the present situation of the Buriganga is very pitiful. It is now in the process of dying. Its water is polluted and an incessant stench fills the air around it.
- (b) We cannot survive without water. In fact, two-thirds of our body is made up of water. This is because it is always said that the other name of water is life.
- (c) At the time of the harrowing sea-voyage, the old mariner, not having any water to drink at one point of his journey, suffered a lot because of a curse.
- (d) Yes, I think the Buriganga is dying. Everyday huge amounts of wastes are released into it. Consequently, its water is getting polluted, the river is gradually getting stagnant and filled up.
- (e) The river Buriganga is, a glowing example of a dying river. In youth, the Buriganga had everything. It was full of pure water and had a violent current. But now like most of the rivers of our country, the Buriganga is losing its youth drastically. Its water is getting severely polluted day by day and a perpetual stench fills the air around it. The normal life of the people living around it is at stake.

Answer to the question number 2:



Answer to the question number 3:

- (a) belongs; (b) remains; (c) enriched; (d) included; (e) bears; (f) naturally; (g) about; (h) combines; (i) criteria; (j) variety.

Answer to the question number 4:

- (a) solutions; (b) disappearing; (c) difficult; (d) practiced; (e) consolidate; (f) providing; (g) producers; (h) importantly; (i) successfully; (j) attraction.

Answer to the question number 5:

- a) ×; b) a; c) ×; d) the; e) ×; f) the; g) a; h) the; i) ×; j) the.





# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2020, KARTIK 12, 1427 BS

## Coronavirus vaccine for all at no cost

*Ensure that we get the best drug*

THE government deserves hearty congratulations for deciding to make the coronavirus vaccine available to all free of cost once it is available on the market and we have the money to buy enough for all. We would like to reiterate the prime minister's call to the World Health Organization to declare the vaccine a "global public good" that must be made available to all countries through an "equal access programme". It is a commendable plan indeed, since the nature of the pandemic requires that everyone across the board is included in the vaccination programme. Given the cost of flu vaccines that are available today, which only the affluent can afford, the government cannot risk anybody being left out.

Covid-19 has posed serious health challenges for the world and we are glad to see that countries have come together to produce a vaccine in a much shorter time than what would be needed to produce a new vaccine under normal circumstances. This being a global problem, nothing short of a global programme that includes production, funding for production and availability, as well as funds for the lower income countries for purchase of the vaccine, will make vaccination efforts successful.

At present, nine countries under the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) are engaged in producing the vaccine, and several other countries outside the programme are running their own tests and trials. According to the health ministry, it is engaged in talks with five front-running vaccine producers. While we believe that the higher the number of countries involved, the better it is for the prospect of early production of the vaccine, the efficacy and safety of the drug is very important and we should procure only those that have the seal of approval of the WHO.

While one is not certain when exactly the vaccine might be available, we believe that the government should also work out a distribution plan in advance, including preparing a priority list that should be based on medical and health factors, with the most vulnerable given the top spot. And that should be determined by the health officials alone.

## Delay in forming cell to monitor women repression cases unacceptable

*Noncompliance with HC directive undermines public confidence in judicial system*

ESPIE a sharp rise in incidents of violence against women and children in recent years, we're alarmed by the consistent failure to comply with a High Court directive to form a cell to monitor progress in rape prosecutions and establish the accountability of court officials including judges, public prosecutors and investigation officers. Over three years ago, the HC had directed the registrar general of the Supreme Court to form this cell. If implemented, this would have played a vital role in ensuring that trials of cases under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000 (WCRPA) are completed within 180 days. It would have also enabled the authorities to check possible negligence by court officials to finish trials on time and take appropriate action. Such flagrant disregard for an HC directive, by the Supreme Court administration no less, despite repeated appeals by anti-rape activists and civil society members, only validates the claim by the latter of deep-seated institutional apathy to prosecuting rape cases with the urgency that they deserve.

Part of the reason for the current culture of impunity emboldening rapists is the extremely low rape conviction rate in Bangladesh. According to section 20 of the WCRPA, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunals (there are 95 across the country) must finish the trials of cases filed under this law within 180 days of charge framing. Rape is one of the several offences that these tribunals try. Forming a monitoring cell will address only part of the problem, however, as victims often have to endure some combination of disrespect, negligence and prohibitive barriers throughout the justice-seeking process—starting from the initial reporting of a crime through to investigation and trial. This points to a larger socio-institutional problem for which wider reforms are needed. Experts have, therefore, called for a number of legal and institutional measures to empower victims to seek and get justice, including changing the definition of rape to include all victims, regardless of their gender identity or marital status, prohibiting the use of character evidence in rape trials, enacting a Victim and Witness Protection Act, and importantly, training police and court officials on dealing with sexual and gender-based violence, among other initiatives.

Having a monitoring cell to regularly check the progress of trials and ensure the accountability of relevant court officials can be a vital instrument, if not the only one, in ensuring justice for the victims. We urge the Supreme Court administration to step up to the plate and set an example for all justice sector actors so that they play the role necessary to uphold the culture of rape from our society. There can be no excuse for any delay in this regard, given how widespread and dangerous the culture of rape and other forms of violence against women has become.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### No one is above the law

Erfan Salim, son of Dhaka-7 lawmaker Haji Md Salim, was recently sentenced to one year in prison for illegally possessing walkie-talkies and foreign liquor after RAB raided his residence. The culture of impunity has been plaguing our society for too long now. Arrests of those who hold positions of power but tend to abuse them will certainly satisfy the general public. Law enforcement officials are doing a great job and I hope they continue to do so, so that justice can be served.

Arpan Kumar Das, Dhaka



C R ABRAR

FROM an unprecedented shutdown of activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the country is gradually moving to a new normal situation. Although the spectre of the second wave of the contagion looms large, road, rail and air communications are being resumed, shopping outlets are beginning to see customers, mills and factories are slowly resuming production and construction sites are steadily getting active as internal migrants desperate for jobs flock to the urban centres. Many services that were suspended due to the outbreak of the pandemic are gradually being restored.

Like the rest of the country, life in the Cox's Bazar-Ukhiya-Teknaf region has also begun to pulsate. The huge success of the local administration in enforcing a total shutdown, restricting humanitarian responses to critical activities and barring the movement of people and vehicles, have yielded handsome results. It slowed the spread of the virus and provided opportunities to shore up required public healthcare facilities, including establishing isolation and treatment centres for both Rohingya refugees and the locals.

There is little room for complacency. The congested nature of the dwellings in camps has made it virtually impossible for the refugees to maintain social distancing. There is general reticence to use protective gear. The idea that only divine intervention can cure the disease is pervasive.

The negative perception associated with the virus contributes to a general reluctance to visit clinics for test or treatment, particularly for fever and other Covid-19 like symptoms. Even those

*There is a need for the emergence of an organically grown leadership at different tiers. A long standing demand of refugees and rights activists has been ensuring the participation of the community in making decisions that affect them.*

suffering from non-Covid-19 symptoms, as a result of other illnesses, avoid visiting clinics for fear of being stigmatised. The situation becomes more complex with brewing discontent and tension among the host community that refugees will spread the virus. Disease epidemics have historically been used to create divisions between groups of people and to assign blame.

The emphasis on Covid-19 appears to have overshadowed other critical health needs, such as routine immunisation,

mental health services, maternal/child health services, etc. Diphtheria cases are being reported. These types of epidemics, especially of preventable illness, can in turn erode trust in health services and create a feedback loop where healthcare is not sought or services are not utilised. Enhancing trust, through positive and effective risk communication, can help mitigate this, but only if other health services are provided.

Poor quality of services including non-availability of medicines, language barriers and long hours of waiting also discourage service seekers from accessing healthcare facilities. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve the quality of services and for decisive action to restore regular medical services through adequate mobilisation of resources.

In January, the Bangladesh government's change in policy, which finally allowed education and skills training for Rohingya

less prone to irrational ideas, including those of religious and sectarian bigotry and violent extremism. Education not only shapes individuals' mental abilities to its fullest potentials, it contributes to the development of their talents, instills self confidence and empowers them. It is in such a context of harnessing their human potential that the government may reconsider allowing the re-enrolment of enterprising and talented Rohingya youth who secured admissions on merit in formal institutions, continued their studies without any public assistance but were subsequently de-registered through a government fiat.

The recent spate of violence, resulting in the death of five refugees and the injury of scores of others, has been a worrisome development. Although local media have interpreted the incident as "factional fighting" within the Rohingya community, its links with the drug

and what prevented the journalists from speaking with them? Also relevant is the question of whether this would give a signal to the Burmese, and also the world, that Bangladesh is beginning to accept the Rohingya as *fait accompli* by building permanent structures for them.

It is regrettable that the project was conceived and executed in haste without engaging important stakeholders who are rendering services for the protection of the refugees. Before carrying out any relocations, the call for a comprehensive technical and protection assessment to evaluate the safety and sustainability of life on Bhashan Char is a reasonable one. In line with its earlier commitment, the government must ensure that relocation will be voluntary and refugees will enjoy access to basic rights, services and livelihood opportunities.

One wonders if the placement of more than 300 refugees in May as the first residents of the island, mostly women and children who were intercepted and rescued on their way to Malaysia, was a prudent one. The persistent refusal of the authorities to grant UN access to these vulnerable and traumatised survivors to assess their protection and humanitarian situation only generates negative publicity. The claims by the inmates of sexual abuse and extortion (while effecting money transfer by relatives) that have been highlighted by international media and rights organisations need to be thoroughly and impartially investigated and acted upon. These, coupled with the insensitive (if not reckless) comments of some state functionaries that the refugees will be forced to relocate, and the suggestion that all imprisoned Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar can be granted bail on condition that they agree to go Bhashan Char, only present it as a penal facility, thereby bolster the perception that life on the Char may not be quite bearable.

There is a need for the emergence of an organically grown leadership at different tiers. A long standing demand of refugees and rights activists has been ensuring the participation of the community in making decisions that affect them. A recently released Amnesty International report "Let us speak for our rights" deftly argues that instituting such an arrangement would not only help in making the right decisions; it will ensure openness, accountability and transparency.

The protracted nature of the Rohingya presence in Bangladesh demands innovative and sensitive policy responses. Jettisoning its earlier approach, Bangladeshi authorities have responded to the felt needs of the refugees and acknowledged the importance of education and skill training. It has lifted the blanket ban on internet coverage. It has acted decisively to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. It is trying its best to bring the sharply deteriorating law and order situation in Teknaf under control.

At a time when Burma is under global scrutiny from international accountability mechanisms, policymakers in Dhaka should ensure that the focus remains on the perpetrators of genocide. They should act prudently and refrain from taking any actions that may amount to the proverbial "shooting yourself in the foot".

C R Abrar is an academic with an interest in migration and rights issues.



In January, the Bangladesh government's change in policy, which finally allowed education and skills training for Rohingya children, was widely appreciated.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

children, was widely appreciated. Notwithstanding the restrictions that the education must be informal and must not use the Bangla language, it was a refreshing departure from a previous stance that breached Bangladesh's obligations according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One hopes that this is the beginning of efforts to address existing critical gaps in refugee access to education and skills development opportunities, and will eventually lead to "access to appropriate, accredited and quality education" for all children of the area, including Rohingya children.

The outbreak of Covid-19 has delayed the implementation of the new education and skills training programme. There is an urgent need to gear up efforts, with adequate mobilisation of resources by the international community, so that Rohingya children are not deprived further in their pursuit to realise their innate potentials. Retention of skills requires their application. The next logical step could therefore be planning to engage the refugees in income generating activities.

Education not only provides children with the opportunity to advance in their career, it also enables them to think clearly, make a distinction between good and evil, claim their rights and face challenging situations. An educated, informed and engaged youth will be

trade, involving powerful persons of the mainstream community, is also a possibility. These incidents are harmful not only for the security and safety of refugees but also for their reputation and public perception. Needless to say, such incidents reinforce the Burmese position that the Rohingya are a violent group harboured by Bangladesh. Robust efforts to ensure law and order are vital. Also, there is a need for proper investigations into the incident.

Another important matter of deep concern for the refugees has been the renewed call by a section of the media and intellectuals for the relocation of 100,000 refugees to Bhashan Char. Presumably to garner support, impressive accounts and footages are being made available in the public domain of what was earlier perceived to be a hush-hush project. Recently, a visit of a group of journalists was arranged "to assess its habitability". Not surprisingly, the visit yielded a general endorsement. After all, the structures and facilities on the "self sufficient" island are surely more impressive than the thatched, rickety shacks that the refugees currently live in.

Last week in *Prothom Alo*, analyst Kamal Ahmed raised two pertinent questions. Would not the current inmates of the facility, who have been living on the island for months, be the most suitable persons to speak on the issue,

# Climate Vulnerable Forum can change the paradigm on dealing with climate change



SALEEMUL HUQ

THE Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), consisting of nearly 50 of the most climate vulnerable developing countries, which was set up a decade ago on the basis of their common vulnerability to climate change, has now evolved into a more robust group of countries who are no longer only emphasising their vulnerability but rather moving towards resilience.

The leadership of the CVF passes to the head of each country for a period of two years and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has recently taken over this role for the next two years. One of the new initiatives that is being developed under her leadership is for each CVF country to not just develop their respective National Adaptation Plan (NAP) but to think about a more transformational vision to develop their respective Climate Prosperity Plan (CPP). Here, the aim is to go beyond simply coping with the adverse impacts of climate change and rather transform social and economic systems, so that each country is able to prosper even as they become resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change.

There are some key strategies that will be included in preparing such CPPs, although each country will have to develop their own respective strategy based on their circumstances.

The first feature is the transformational aspects of investment in the country's own human resources, especially the youth. Every country, no matter how poor economically, is rich in its human resources. Unfortunately, many developing countries don't invest in the kind of education and training that can make the most of potential human capital. Hence, a better education system that enables and equips our young girls and boys to be able to tackle climate change at home and share their knowledge across international boundaries will become a valuable asset in years to come. Just as learning to use

*Every country, no matter how poor economically, is rich in its human resources. Unfortunately, many developing countries don't invest in the kind of education and training that can make the most of potential human capital.*

the opportunities of the internet and digital world is emerging as a tremendous opportunity for young people, so will knowledge and the experience of combating climate change become an asset with significant global demand as countries face the adverse impacts of climate change. Investment in our youth will pay us enormous dividends in the coming decades.

The second investment arena is in the transition of energy, transport and industrial systems from fossil fuel dependence to cleaner and renewable

energy as rapidly as possible. The CVF countries were the first group of countries to make the pledge to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 at the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2016. This does not mean an immediate transition from fossil fuels but rather a strategic approach to be prepared to transition as soon as cleaner and greener energy, such as solar and wind, become economic and scalable compared to fossil fuels. The relative costs of renewable energy is becoming cheaper by the day and is already cheaper than coal, and will

become cheaper than petrol and natural gas soon. What needs to be put in place in the short term is an enabling economic and investment environment to attract private sector investment, both domestic and foreign, in the CVF countries. At the moment, foreign investors sometimes find it difficult to invest in these countries, so we need to improve the enabling policies and governance to attract long term global capital to continue to build on the level of investment in national economies.

The time has now come to not just manage the risks from the impacts of climate change but to rise above them in order to enable all countries of the world to prosper, despite the challenges. The CVF countries are determined to lead the way by example.

The third leg of the CPP is to focus on incremental planning steps, such as every five years, that put in place not just progressive planning and investment but look for opportunities for leapfrogging by anticipating global demands as well as technology and innovation. This means that countries must invest in their own national research and innovation and not depend on others to provide this knowledge. Investment in a country's own research capacity is one of the best investments that a country can make. To cite just one example, South Korea has evolved from a poor developing country to a developed one within a generation by making these same investments in their own population.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has offered to initiate the CVF CPPs by launching the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan for Bangladesh in honour of the Father of the Nation. This will not just make Bangladesh resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change but will help us to thrive and prosper even in the face of these adverse impacts over the coming two decades.

The time has now come to not just manage the risks from the impacts of climate change but to rise above them in order to enable all countries of the world to prosper, despite the challenges. The CVF countries are determined to lead the way by example.

Dr Saleemul Huq is Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University Bangladesh and head of the Expert Advisory Group for the CVF.



# Naked cities

The pandemic can redefine how we experience our urban spaces



KAZI KHALEED ASHRAF

Precautions against Covid-19 are extremely simple but excruciatingly unbearable—social distancing and staying at home. A touch—a fundamental way of being human—is all that it takes to be all right, but that is now denied.

**D**URING a run for essentials, I ran into a graffiti on a wall at a Philadelphia exit ramp: "Civilisation is pandemic." On any other day, I would not even think twice

about such a street-smart philosophical pronouncement. Pretentious as it is, the graffiti does ring a truism about the double-edged nature of what we mean by civilisation. With *civilis* now at a standstill—the Latin root for both civilisation and the city—the viral indictment is very much on the city. An uncanny silence has descended on our cities. Like a scene in a Giorgio De Chirico painting, public spaces in all cities are now deserted, long shadows crawl down a colonnade, stealthy figures in masks scurry down a street, and all basic signs of civic exchange have vanished. In Philadelphia where I am now, children have disappeared from parks and streets, and the streets seem to harbour something insidious. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, the other city that I belong to, the city that is forever bursting at the seams, an unsettling quiet hangs over many of the once thunderously raucous streets.

Such decapitated cities, devoid of people, with their streets and public life nulled, force us to face something very fundamental. If, as the Athenian general Nicias famously claimed, "we are the city", then what are cities if we have just vanished from sight? If, as Angela Merkel wonders, "our idea of normality, of public life, social togetherness—all of this is being put to the test as never before," will this unbearable emptiness

redefine how we might come together again, and whether we may become a different sort of *we*?

For now, laid bare by the virus, naked down to our quivering souls, banned from our instinctual spaces, we are terrified, as if facing an ontological fundament. This is not the urban scene we imagined in the 21st century. This is also not the naked city that I, as a young boy in Dhaka, used to see in that eponymously titled American TV series from the 1960s that depicted the dark side of New York City.

Precautions against Covid-19 are extremely simple but excruciatingly unbearable—social distancing and staying at home. A touch—a fundamental way of being human—is all that it takes to be all right, but that is now denied. With the six feet distancing, quarantining and lockdowns at home, the coronavirus is dictating an anti-urban spatial arrangement.

But being in a city and retreating into it at the same time is a totally new phenomenon. Living in such a limbo is unbearable. Terrorised by our naked cities, we look for solace in other narratives.

A sudden view of starlight in an urban street, the improbable improvement of air quality, the arrival of flamingos in Mumbai and jellyfish in the lagoons of Venice. Each naked city has starkly revealed how a blooming urbanisation has also been a poison to the environment. In no moment in recent human history has the city seemed so villainous and rapid.

Many years for a primordial purity in which the city, aka civilisation, has not trammelled the wilderness that, they argue, has now unleashed this interminable havoc.

The naked city has also revealed a horrific inequity that lies just below the



Giorgio De Chirico, *Mystery and Melancholy of a Street* (1914)

surface of the urban spectacle, consumer hoopla and media distractions. No amount of diversion can now conceal the brutal fact of the number of deaths, especially in vulnerable communities. Aggravated by the velocity of the virus, harsh truths about social inequalities—

from under-resourced hospitals to devastated doctors, protesting nurses, hungry citizens, suffering minorities and cordoned off wealth—are no longer invisible. How poignant to recall the epic line with which the show *The Naked City* ended: "There are eight million

stories in the naked city. This has been one of them." What was said for New York City now resonates in every city of the world.

Although we don't know if the city will remain as it is or has been, but new imaginations are already in demand.

We have often reformed and rearranged our cities and societies following disasters. "Disaster demanded a new dawn," the English novelist Zadie Smith wrote in *The New Yorker* on April 10, 2020—"Only new thinking can lead to a new dawn." We can learn from previous post-disaster urban rebuilding, such as the Great Fire of London (1666), the Chicago Fire (1871), and the Great Kanto Earthquake of Tokyo (1923), but this new dawn that is to come will redefine how we are the city for generations.

Perhaps new academic themes will flourish, such as "epidemiological urbanism" that will take public health more seriously in the matters of urban planning, or a "viral urbanism" in which gaps, distance and isolation will be organised to dictate our civic life. There will be more commonsensical revisions in the practices of being in public. More contactless services and exchanges. Death of the handshake. Buttonless elevators and self-sanitising doors.

A call to interrogate the more insidious stuff needs to be turned up: Rapacious development and untrammelled expansion of the city should be paused, and devastation of the wilderness and wetlands should be reversed. Will this urban turn supersede or augment the conversation on the other defining crisis of our times: climate change?

Kazi Khaleed Ashraf is an architect and urban designer, and directs the Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

# Overcoming the Covid-19 disruption to essential health services



ANATOLE MANZI

**H**EALTHCARE delivery in nearly every country has been disrupted by policymakers' mistaken initial assumption that health systems would quickly win the fight against Covid-19. As the pandemic's caseload and death toll are increasing daily, it is often stalling or reversing hard-

won progress on minimising the impact of other diseases, from diabetes to malaria.

At the start of the pandemic, many policymakers and health leaders considered a relatively short disruption of essential health services acceptable, but it is now clear that Covid-19 will persist much longer than anticipated. Countries can no longer postpone the delivery of crucial health services. Without immediate action to ensure their continuity, the future death toll from communicable and non-communicable diseases will be unacceptably high.

In a grim recent assessment of the global costs of the Covid-19 crisis, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation reported that in 25 weeks, the pandemic had set the world back about 25 years in terms of vaccine coverage—a good proxy for how health systems are functioning overall. Clearly, now is the time to make sure that essential health services are not left behind.

This will require dedicated funding, innovative approaches, and decentralised services to reach the world's sickest and poorest communities. Policymakers should reallocate funds in national budgets and form partnerships with private investors to marshal the necessary resources. It is also crucial to establish domestic and global solidarity funds, similar to The Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Creating such dedicated funds could help countries and multilateral institutions maintain the continuity of essential health services, thereby strengthening healthcare systems and national economies in the long term.

Even before the pandemic, it was estimated that at least half of the world's 7.8 billion people lacked access to essential health services. Globally, six million children and adolescents, and 2.8



In June 2020, Sathi Khanam, a kidney patient, was unable to get healthcare at DMCH without a Covid-19 test.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

million pregnant women and newborns, die from preventable or treatable diseases annually. Covid-19 has increased these numbers and eroded access to healthcare.

Global health experts have long been aware of the disruptions a protracted emergency would cause for health services. In 2018, the World Health Organization defined an essential package of services that should be available without user fees during an extended crisis. These include maternal and neonatal healthcare as well as treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health, and neglected tropical diseases.

Several challenges to delivering this package stand out. First, services for non-communicable diseases have decreased significantly. Of the 155 countries surveyed by the WHO, 53 percent reported a partial or total disruption of treatment services for hypertension, 49 percent for diabetes, 42 percent for cancer, and 31 percent for cardiovascular

emergencies.

HIV and tuberculosis (TB) testing and treatment is also being affected. South Africa is among the countries most affected by these diseases. During the country's lockdown, declines in TB testing led to a 33 percent decline in diagnoses. The number of TB and HIV patients collecting their medications on schedule has also fallen. Weaker adherence will ultimately lead to an increase in drug resistance, therapeutic failure and higher treatment costs.

And yet other countries, including Rwanda, New Zealand, and Taiwan, have demonstrated remarkable success in ensuring the continuity of essential health services. In Taiwan, for example, low-cost universal healthcare coverage has continued throughout the pandemic, and Rwanda has continued operating a new radiotherapy centre for cancer treatment.

In Sierra Leone, where one in 17 mothers has a lifetime risk of death associated with childbirth, the

Koidu Government Hospital in the Kono District is working with Partners In Health, a global nonprofit organisation, on a mass communications campaign that reminds pregnant women to use maternity services. After a steep fall-off in prenatal visits, women are once more using these services.

Clinics in Sub-Saharan Africa are also innovating to continue the monitoring and treatment of the region's 19 million diabetes patients during the pandemic. The Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism of Cameroon, for example, developed ten "golden rules" for Covid-19 and diabetes management, including information on exercise during confinement. Diabetes clinics have also introduced teleconsulting to limit the need for outpatient visits.

Furthermore, some countries are seeking innovative ways of ensuring care delivery. For example, Rwanda is using drones to distribute medication to cancer patients and robots to monitor Covid-19 patients' vital signs and prevent hospital-acquired infections. Technological solutions may not always be cheap, but the gains can outweigh the financial outlay.

To achieve similar outcomes, many countries urgently need to overhaul their healthcare allocation and delivery systems. Where possible, Covid-19 testing and treatment centres should integrate the provision of essential health services, including screening for conditions such as high-risk pregnancies and chronic diseases.

Moreover, decentralising health services could strengthen systemic readiness and limit disruption. This will require training an expanded corps of community health workers, including heads of households, teachers, faith leaders and traditional healers. In Liberia, for example, trained community health assistants play a central role in the Covid-19 response, while still delivering essential services.

Clearly, the disruptions to healthcare systems caused by Covid-19 can be overcome. Crucially, countries need to reassess their delivery strategies and make targeted investments in essential health services. Doing so will strengthen their resilience against similar health crises in the future.

Anatole Manzi, Deputy Chief Medical Officer in charge of Clinical Quality and Health Systems Strengthening at Partners In Health, is an assistant professor at the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda and a 2020 Aspen New Voices Fellow.

In a grim recent assessment of the global costs of the Covid-19 crisis, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation reported that in 25 weeks, the pandemic had set the world back about 25 years in terms of vaccine coverage—a good proxy for how health systems are functioning overall.

## ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



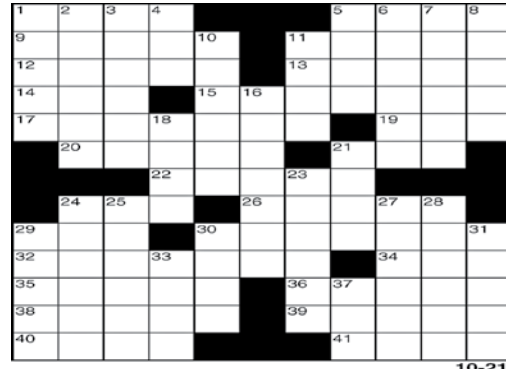
OCTOBER 28, 1886  
Statue of Liberty dedicated

On this day in 1886 US President Grover Cleveland officially dedicated the Statue of Liberty—a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States—on Bedloe's (later Liberty) Island in Upper New York Bay.

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rotisserie
  - 5 Monument Valley sight
  - 9 River craft
  - 11 Not flimsy
  - 12 Stair part
  - 13 2011 Saoirse Ronan movie
  - 14 One, for Juan
  - 15 Heart action
  - 17 Hitting hard
  - 19 Once called
  - 20 Asian capital
  - 21 Lawn material
  - 22 Smug smile
  - 24 Cart puller
  - 26 Makes invalid
  - 29 Author Tan
- DOWN**
- 1 Wash thoroughly
  - 2 Pamphleteer Tom and family
  - 3 Sneaker part
  - 4 Sock part
  - 5 Castle surround
  - 6 Weather-changing current
  - 7 Did wrong
  - 8 Wise words
  - 10 Soft metallic element
  - 11 Uneven haired
  - 16 Pep up
  - 18 Chuck
  - 21 Revue part
  - 23 Cheap booze
  - 24 Pilot Earhart
  - 25 Method
  - 27 Water down
  - 28 Saws wood
  - 29 Aids illegally
  - 30 Storage spots
  - 31 Join the big leagues
  - 33 Went fast
  - 37 Maple flow

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



## YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

SINKER SEAT  
PLUNGE ALDA  
ALTERNATION  
LET GO  
SALT RUST  
METS BETTOR  
EGO SUE TOLE  
WANTON MOLD  
LEAF POPS  
LASER  
ALTERNATION  
SOON ACACIA  
PUNT MERELY

## BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



## BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT





## Bangladesh-India flights

FROM PAGE 1  
Countries, Covid-19 negative certificate is a must within 72 hours before travel, said Kamrul Islam, general manager, public relations, US-Bangla Airlines.

All passengers traveling to India will have to undergo mandatory home quarantine for seven days, authorities said.

The categories of people allowed on the flights are: Indian nationals; all Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders holding passports issued by Bangladesh; and Bangladesh nationals/residents (including diplomats), and foreigners (including diplomats) holding valid visa issued by an Indian Mission in any category covered under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines.

On the first day of the resumption of air communication with India, US-Bangla Airlines, a leading private air operator of Bangladesh, will operate one flight each on the Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka and Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka routes.

The Chennai flight will leave the Dhaka Airport at 10:30am while the Kolkata flight will leave at 9:45am, said Kamrul Islam.

US-Bangla Airlines will operate flights from Dhaka to Chennai via Chattogram and from Chennai to Dhaka via Chattogram every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

The national flag carrier, Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume regular passenger flights to India from tomorrow.

Biman will operate flights on the Dhaka-Delhi-Dhaka route from October 29, Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka route from November 1 and Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka route from November 15, said Tahera Khondoker, deputy general manager (public relations) of Biman.

The resumption of air communication will bring relief to many Bangladeshis, who are waiting to travel to India for medical treatment.

Sources at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh said around 20 lakh Bangladeshis visit India every year by air and many of them go there for treatment.

Apart from Biman and US-Bangla, another Bangladeshi air operator, Novo Air, would initially operate 28 flights a week while five Indian airlines -- Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara and GoAir -- would operate 28 flights a week between the two countries.

Secretary of Civil Aviation Ministry Mohibul Haque said India would allow more than one attendant with each patient from Bangladesh to visit the country.

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka on October 9 said for now, visas will be issued under nine categories, including medical, business, employment, journalist, diplomatic, official, UN official and UN diplomatic.

India had stopped entry of all foreigners by halting visa approvals since March 12 following the Covid-19 outbreak across the globe.

VISTARA, SPICEJET ANNOUNCE FLIGHTS TO BD Indian air carrier Vistara yesterday announced it would launch flight services to Bangladesh from November 5 under the recently signed bilateral air bubble agreement, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Vistara's announcement comes a day after budget carrier SpiceJet said it will operate flights to Dhaka and Chattogram from India starting from November 5, using bilateral traffic rights under the air bubble pact.

Vistara, a Tata-Singapore Airlines joint venture, will operate special non-stop flights between Delhi and Dhaka from November 5, the airline said in a release.

SpiceJet had said it will operate non-stop flights four times a week between Kolkata and Chattogram, besides connecting Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai with Dhaka.

## Serve people

FROM PAGE 12  
agricultural group to evaluate future foodgrain crops in Bangladesh. The purpose of the special group will be to evaluate future harvest in Bangladesh, particularly the Aman crop, which accounts for approximately 60 percent of total domestic production, as this will help estimate the import requirement for 1973.

**JACKSON REPORTS BANGALEES' CONDITION TO WALDHEIM**  
Sir Robert Jackson, chief coordinator of the UN Relief Operation yesterday reported to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim about the condition of stranded Bangalees in Pakistan. Sir Robert Jackson met Pakistan President Bhutto in Rawalpindi on October 26 and had talks with him on a number of issues including humanitarian problems. Jackson's meeting with Bhutto came in the wake of Bangabandhu's letter to the UN secretary general requesting him to use his good offices for the repatriation of stranded Bangalees, many of whom are passing their days in great agony in concentration camps in Pakistan.

**SOURCES: October 29, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.**

## Soumitra

FROM PAGE 12  
gone up while his urine output is not satisfactory," Dr Arindam Kar, who is leading a team of doctors treating the thespian, told mediapersons late Monday night.

Chatterjee, one of Bengal's most celebrated actors, has received many awards and honours, including the Padma Bhushan, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, national awards and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Ratna.

He is best known for his collaboration with Oscar-winner Satyajit Ray and the Feluda series.

"We are trying to get him better than what he is now. But the challenges are very steep. Time and again new issues are cropping up because of his age, comorbidities and repercussions of so much medication," stated the last medical bulletin issued late Monday night.

The actor was hospitalised on October 6 after he tested positive for Covid-19. He had to be shifted to the Covid ICU as his condition deteriorated.

Millions of people in Bengal and beyond have been praying for his recovery since he was admitted.

## Khulna court

FROM PAGE 12  
in Labanchara Police Station area with 30 grams of cannabis and six yaba pills.

A case was filed against him with the police station under the Narcotics Control Act.

SI Nasiruddin, investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet against Samrat on February 9 this year.

On October 22, charges were framed against Samrat, and six witnesses testified the next day.

Arguments from the prosecution and defence concluded on Sunday.

## Sundarbans

FROM PAGE 12  
in the Sundarbans Forest Department, a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Forests and Environment was held on October 19 over the reopening.

The meeting decided to reopen the Sundarbans ahead of the upcoming tourist season. Instructions to reopen the entrances are likely to come in the next couple of days, the sources said.

On March 19, the Forest Department announced a temporary restriction on tourist movement and boat plying in the Sundarbans to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

According to the Forest Department, over 45,000 tourists visit nine areas in the Sundarbans every day during the tourist season (November to March).

Md Moinul Islam Jamaddar, president of the Tour Operators' Association of the Sundarbans, said bookings for tours have already started ahead of the tourist season.

However, health rules must be maintained, he said, adding that the number of tourists allowed on each ship will be decreased.

## Moon richer

FROM PAGE 12  
on Monday suggest water could be even more widespread, including the first confirmation that it is present even in easier-to-access sunlit areas.

If this water could be extracted, it could give astronauts travelling to the Moon and beyond access to drinking water. They might even be able to split the molecules to make rocket fuel.

That is of particular interest to Nasa, which is planning a human mission to the Moon in 2024 and wants to build a sustainable presence there by the end of the decade to prepare for onward travel to Mars.

The new study was able to "unambiguously" distinguish the spectral fingerprint of molecular water in a sunlit area, said lead author Casey Honniball, of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology.

## All democratic institutions destroyed

FROM PAGE 1  
We don't design our policies based on any incumbent government. Rather, we set our strategies analysing the ruling class. Our focus is on which class do those in power belong to. Is it that working class or capitalistic class? DS: The ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance has been in power for three consecutive terms. How do you look at it?

SA: We don't find any difference between the AL or BNP as far as class is concerned.

DS: Do you mean to say the AL and BNP are the same?

SA: I am not talking about which party is pro-liberation and which is anti-liberation. The two parties are different from that perspective. We want to see things from an infrastructural ground.

All the post-75 governments are the same in terms of class variation. Those who exploit the public, including businessmen, bureaucrats and politicians, have assumed state power (since 1975). A large syndicate has been formed among this class that has been exploiting the people in the name of a free-market economy.

DS: Is that a theoretical analysis? What is your opinion on the current governing system run by AL?

SA: An authoritarian rule is prevailing in the country. All democratic institutions have been destroyed. Everything including the judiciary, local government institutions and the parliament have turned into institutions of the party in power.

Lawmakers cannot speak freely beyond their party's decision. Even the culture of self-criticism is gone.

DS: What are your thoughts on the government's campaign of economic and infrastructural development?

SA: Development for whom? Firstly, it has widened the gap between the working class and capitalistic class. Secondly, it has increased the paths of corruption. Thirdly, it has damaged our environment and bio-diversity.

Our country is small. We need to

focus on the expansion of waterways and railways. It will be good for us. Be it the gas sector, energy sector or other sectors -- corruption is everywhere.

DS: But the government claims major success in power generation.

SA: The government is spending money on quick-rental power plants -- it's a hub of corruption. We are yet to get uninterrupted electricity supply.

DS: But the government has ensured electricity supply.

SA: True, but it is not sustainable. The price should be rational and just. Wrong policies and corruption are everywhere.

DS: You were talking about development and corruption increasing parallelly while the government is saying it is taking action against corruption.

SA: Exploiters have laundered money abroad. Now, the government is taking action against the second layer of corrupt people. No initiative has been taken to bring the laundered money back. I think the government is not taking any initiative to bring it back from fear that such an attempt might throw it out of power.

DS: You were talking about the destruction of democratic institutions. The BNP raised allegations of election engineering. What is your take in this regard?

SA: It was not an election at all. Votes were cast the night before the election, and administrations, along with other agencies, cooperated in vote manipulation.

DS: Why are feuds prevailing among left political parties? Why you are not united?

SA: We, the left political parties, are united on our demands. But we are not united in designing the strategies to realise our demands. Many left political parties want to talk with the BNP. But we want a platform other than the AL and BNP.

DS: Is there any possibility of unity among left political parties in the future?

SA: Of the parties, CPB has networks

all over Bangladesh -- in all the districts. But the strength of those units is not as strong as it was in the past. Other left political parties do not have enough organisational strength. Moreover, the parties have differences in terms of designing strategies. There needs to be an alternative left-democratic alliance. CPB does not believe in Left-Sectarian. We need for form an alliance with those who believe in non-communism and a corruption-free society. But many of them like Dr Kamal Hossain and Mahmudur Rahman Manna have joined the BNP-led alliance. We will continue our movement for establishing good governance instead of assuming power.

DS: What is the situation in Bangladesh as far as good governance is concerned?

SA: There is nothing. DS: The AL government has completed trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman overcomng many challenges. This trial created a kind of hope that good governance would be established. Why do you think it is still not seen?

SA: The trials of war criminals and Bangabandhu's killers is a good sign. But good governance cannot be established as there is criminalisation and commercialisation in politics.

DS: What are your thoughts on our economic situation during the Covid-19 pandemic?

SA: People are not well. The poverty rate has shot up. And people are having to struggle through days without any alternative options.

DS: The per capita income has increased. Then, why do you think people are struggling?

SA: The per capita income is the average income of all. It is not fair if you present an average with the inclusion of those who earn Tk 5 lakh or 10 lakh along with those who are living below poverty line. It's a trick.

Log onto to thedailystar.net to read the full interview.

## Facebook commits to safe

FROM PAGE 12  
security last year, more than its entire revenue at the time of Initial Price Offering (IPO).

Currently, 35,000 people are employed at Facebook to protect user safety and security, and combined with the platform's Artificial Intelligence (AI) detection system, are capable of taking down 90 percent of harmful content before they are reported.

Facebook said its policies cover a wide range of safety issues on the platform. Notable issues being addressed include impersonation or identity theft, graphic violence, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and child sexual exploitation.

The social networking platform gives users control over what they share, who they share it with, the content they see and experience, and

who can contact them.

According to Facebook, it partnered with Bangladesh's health and ICT ministries earlier this year to strengthen and localise awareness about safety measures during the Covid-19 pandemic through its Information Hub.

This further included a nationwide campaign to disseminate reliable health messaging and information about social distancing, Covid-19 symptoms as well as a national helpline number.

A brief question-answer session followed the presentation, where the briefing hosts answered questions from journalists.

Amy Sawitta Lefevre, Facebook's emerging countries policy communications manager, was also present at the programme.

## Two held for raping

FROM PAGE 12  
The victim's father filed a case with Haragachha Police Station under Rangpur Metropolitan Police later that night.

In Narayanganj, rape accused Sunny was stalking the victim, a student of class six at a local kindergarten.

On Sunday noon, the victim's mother went to visit a doctor after keeping the girl to one of their neighbours.

At one stage, the girl alone went back to her flat to take food. When the girl opened the door, the accused sunny forcibly entered into the room and raped her. The alleged rapist fled the scene around 30 minutes later.

Later on the evening, the victim's mother returned home. Then the girl shared the incident with her mother.

A day later, the victim's mother filed a case with Fatullah Model Police Station. Then, police arrested the accused, who in primary interrogation gave confessional statement, said Aslam Hossain, OC of the police station.

In Noakhali, Delwar Hossain, the prime accused of the case of the gang-rape and torture of a woman in Begumganj upazila of Noakhali, was sent to jail yesterday.

Earlier at noon, he was produced before the district's chief judicial magistrate court after five-day remand. After a hearing, judge of Cognizance Court Number-1 sent him to jail, said Sirajul Mostafa, inspector of PBI on Noakhali.

Delwar and other members of "Delwar Bahini" broke into the house of the victim at Joykrishnapur village of Eklashpur union in Begumganj upazila on the night of September 2 and tortured her as she had repeatedly refused Delwar's immoral proposals earlier.

Our correspondents from Dinajpur, Barishal, Narayanganj, Dinajpur and Noakhali contributed to this report.

## Biden makes late push

FROM PAGE 12  
right and clinching his judicial legacy in a landmark victory for American conservatives. Barrett cleared the Senate on Monday by a 52-48 vote and was sworn in during a nighttime outdoor ceremony at the White House, meeting the president's goal of having her on the court by Election Day.

The 2020 US presidential campaign has been unlike any other as a raging coronavirus pandemic that has so far killed more than 225,000 Americans

pushes record early voting. More than 64 million votes have been cast so far, approaching half the total 2016 vote, according to the US Elections Project at the University of Florida.

The travel schedules and ad spending in the race's final week underscores the reality that Biden's campaign is competing on a much larger playing field than Trump -- one that includes states where a strong Biden performance could also help deliver Democratic victories in key House and Senate races.

## Children's court jails

FROM PAGE 1  
Md Mostafizur Rahman Babul briefed journalists and expressed satisfaction over the verdict.

"We are happy with the judgement as the real culprits have been awarded punishment. Such a judgement will help reduce such heinous crimes in the future."

However, Md Humayun Kabir, lawyer of one of the accused, said, "We are not happy with the judgement. We are being deprived of proper justice. We will go to the High Court to ensure proper justice and hope we will get it there."

Another accused's lawyer Golam Mostafa Quader said, "We hoped that all the juveniles accused would be acquitted but now we are frustrated. We hope they will be acquitted after we appeal to the High Court."

Slain Rifat Sharif's father Abdul Halim Dulal Sharif reacted positively to the verdict. "My family and I are happy with this judgement. My son's soul can now rest in peace, I believe."

"We were waiting for this

judgement. We demand the execution of all six adults accused, who were awarded the death penalty for my son's murder," he said.

An elder brother of an accused said, "My brother is innocent. Police have wrongfully framed him. He was never involved in criminal activities."

On January 8, the Barguna District and Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against the 14 juveniles in the Rifat murder case, and hearings of their testimonies began from January 13.

Earlier on September 30, the Barguna District and Sessions' Judge's Court delivered the verdict against 10 adult accused in the Rifat murder case and ordered the execution of six, including Rifat's wife Ayesha Siddique Minni, while four were acquitted.

Rifat Sharif was killed in front of Barguna Government College on June 26 last year, after which 24 people were charged.

The main accused in the case, Nayan Bond, was killed in a gunfight with police on July 2 last year.

## We must not


FROM PAGE 12  
His comment comes as the United States, Russia, France and many other countries are setting records for coronavirus infections as a tidal wave of cases washes over parts of the Northern Hemisphere, forcing some countries to impose new curbs.

In the United States, the number of hospitalised Covid-19 patients is at a two-month high, straining health care systems in some states.

US President Donald Trump, facing a tough re-election battle on Nov. 3, lashed out again at reports that the coronavirus is surging.

"Cases up because we TEST, TEST, TEST. A Fake News Media Conspiracy. Many young people who heal very fast. 99.9% Corrupt Media conspiracy at all time high," Trump said in a Twitter post.

In Europe the picture was unrelentingly grim 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.

 <b>মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি</b> গুলফেশী প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭, বাংলাদেশ। <b>www.mra.gov.bd</b>		বাংলাদেশে ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার <b>জন্য মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটির            সনদ বাধ্যতামূলক।</b>															
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<b>দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি</b>																	
১.	সংস্থার ও সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার নাম	: মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি															
২.	সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার জেলার নাম	: ঢাকা															
৩.	যে জন্য দরপত্র আহবান	: ৪টি আইটেমের প্রিটিং সামগ্রী মুদ্রণ															
৪.	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র															
৫.	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	: সরকারী															
৬.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় এবং গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ	: ১৫/১১/২০২০ইং, বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত															
৭.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৫/১১/২০২০ইং, বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকায়															
৮.	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তিস্থান, দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও দরপত্র খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	: মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি, গুলফেশী প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭।															
৯.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	: ১) ক্যালেন্ডার মুদ্রণ এবং প্রিটিং সামগ্রী সরবরাহের জন্য কেবলমাত্র যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রদত্ত বৈধ ও হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন সনদ, ড্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদসহ প্রিটিং সামগ্রী মুদ্রণ, বীধাই ও সরবরাহকারী হিসাবে অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৪৮ও ৪৯ এবং দরপত্র দলিলের IIT Clause 10.1 অনুসরণপূর্বক দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে। ২) দরপত্র দাতার নিজস্ব প্রিটিং প্রেস থাকতে হবে এবং ১৯৭৩ সনের ছাপাখানা ও প্রকাশনা আইনের ৪(২) ধারা মোতাবেক "ছাপাখানার ঘোষনাপত্র"-এর সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। ৩) বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের নির্ধারিত তারিখের পূর্ববর্তী ০৩(তিন) বৎসরের মধ্যে সরকারী/ আধা-সরকারী/ স্বায়ত্তশাসিত/ আধা-স্বায়ত্তশাসিত/ সংবিধিবদ্ধ সংস্থা/ সরকার নিয়ন্ত্রিত কর্পোরেশন (কার্যালয়/কারখানা) ইত্যাদিতে একক কার্যাদেশের আওতায় ন্যূনতম ৪ লক্ষ টাকার সাদৃশ্যপূর্ণ প্রিটিং সামগ্রী মুদ্রণ, বীধাই এবং সরবরাহ কাজের ০২(দুই)টি সন্তোষজনক পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ৪) দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের তারল্য অথবা ঋণসীমা ন্যূনতম ৬৫(পাঁচ)লক্ষ টাকা থাকতে হবে। ৫) দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিলকৃত তথ্যাদি সঠিক ও বৈধ কাগজপত্র দ্বারা সমর্থিত হতে হবে। এছাড়া অভিজ্ঞতার অনুকূলে ইতোপূর্বে সেবা গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের উপযুক্ত কর্মকর্তার ইস্যুকৃত কার্যসম্পাদনের প্রত্যয়ন পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।															
১০.	সেবার বিবরণ	: দরদাতাকে দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত অথরিটির নমুনা মোতাবেক কারিগরি বিনির্দেশ এবং মানসম্মত প্রিটিং সামগ্রী মুদ্রণ ও বীধাইপূর্বক সরবরাহ কাজ সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>ক্রঃনং</th> <th>বিবরণ</th> <th>সংখ্যা</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>০১)</td> <td>দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার</td> <td>৬,০০০ পিস</td> </tr> <tr> <td>০২)</td> <td>দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডারের খাম</td> <td>২,০০০ পিস</td> </tr> <tr> <td>০৩)</td> <td>ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার</td> <td>৩,০০০ পিস</td> </tr> <tr> <td>০৪)</td> <td>ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার খাম</td> <td>১,০০০ পিস</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ক্রঃনং	বিবরণ	সংখ্যা	০১)	দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার	৬,০০০ পিস	০২)	দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডারের খাম	২,০০০ পিস	০৩)	ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার	৩,০০০ পিস	০৪)	ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার খাম	১,০০০ পিস
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০৩)	ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার	৩,০০০ পিস															
০৪)	ডেক্স ক্যালেন্ডার খাম	১,০০০ পিস															
১১.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	: ৮৩০০/- (টাকা তিনশত মাত্র)															
১২.	দরপত্রের জামানত	: ৬১৫,০০০/- (টাকা পনের হাজার মাত্র)															
১৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	: অমলেন্দু মুখার্জী															
১৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদনাম	: এগ্রিকিউটিভ ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান															
১৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	: গুলফেশী প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭। ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৩৩৩২৫৭। ই-মেইলঃ <a href="mailto:evc@mra.gov.bd">evc@mra.gov.bd</a>															
<b>বিঃদ্রঃ</b>																	
(ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।																	
(খ) অনির্ধারিত কারণবশতঃনির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিনে একই সময় ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।																	





With Cristiano Ronaldo missing due to coronavirus, Rookie coach Andrea Pirlo makes a point to relative newcomers Dejan Kulusevski and Matthijs de Ligt in a training session yesterday ahead of tonight's Champions League clash against Barcelona. Miralem Pjanic, a former Juventus man, is expected to play a key role alongside the likes of Lionel Messi if the Catalans are to take away a positive result from the Allianz Stadium.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TWITTER

## Juve's Ronaldo void against Barca

AGENCIES



Andrea Pirlo sees positives despite preparing for his biggest match since taking over as Juventus coach with Covid-19-stricken Cristiano Ronaldo in doubt against Lionel Messi's Barcelona in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Juventus signed Portuguese star Ronaldo in 2018 with the aim of lifting the coveted European trophy, and his absence against Messi's Barcelona could weigh heavy. The 35-year-old will need to test negative 24 hours before being allowed to feature in Turin. The return at the Camp Nou is on December 8. "We miss him right now, of course," said Colombian teammate Juan Cuadrado. "He's a champion. In these very difficult matches, his strength, his mentality and his desire shine through."

Ronaldo scored three goals for

Juventus in their first two league games, before contracting the virus while on international duty.

If Ronaldo misses his chance to line out on Wednesday he will have to wait until December to renew his rivalry with Argentine Messi. They are the two greatest players of their generation with 11 Ballons d'Or between them, and the two highest scorers in Champions League history. They have not faced off since the Portuguese superstar left Real Madrid for Juventus, and both are running out of time to win the Champions League again.

Messi, now 33, has featured in four victorious campaigns, all with Barcelona, while Ronaldo has won it five times, four with Real Madrid and once with Manchester United.

**IMMOBILE BUILDING ON FINE LAZIO START**

You would never have known from their Matchday 1 performance that Lazio had been out of the UEFA Champions League for 13 years;

Ciro Immobile spearheaded a 3-1 victory over Borussia Dortmund, and the man who won the 2019-20 ESM Golden Shoe with 36 Serie A goals will hope more opportunities await against Club Brugge -- who halted an eight-game winless group stage run with a 2-1 success at Zenit last time out.

**REBROV UP AGAINST HIS FIRST LOVE**

Coach Serhij Rebrov will be the centre of attention as Ferencvaros play their first group stage home game since 1995. The 46-year-old sparked during two stints as a Dynamo striker, then led the club to two Ukrainian titles as coach from 2014-17. "I didn't want to have a Ukrainian team in our group, especially Dynamo," he conceded. "But I'm coach of Ferencvaros now and we'll treat them like any other opponents."

**MBAPPE OUT TO END A BARREN SPELL**

Paris' Kylian Mbappe was slated for

a toothless showing in Matchday 1's 2-1 loss to United; he featured on L'Equipe's cover under the headline: "Unrecognisable". The 21-year-old bagged four goals in his first four Ligue 1 games this season but is enduring the longest UEFA Champions League barren spell of his career: six matches without scoring -- so no goals in 2020. Will that sequence end in Basaksehir's first group stage home fixture?

**CAN CHELSEA MAKE THEIR MARK IN RUSSIA?**

Chelsea's 0-0 draw with Sevilla on Matchday 1 was overshadowed in England by United's triumph in Paris, but a clean sheet for Frank Lampard's high-profile but occasionally absent-minded team was probably worthy of more comment. Beaten soundly by Bayern in last season's round of 16, the Blues have not won a European game in 2020; will they upstage Krasnodar as the Russian newcomers play their first group stage home match?

## End of a ban made tolerable by Covid-19

MAZHAR UDDIN



Shakib Al Hasan's one-year ban is set to end tomorrow, clearing the way for the star Bangladesh all-rounder to appear in all forms of cricket.

Shakib was handed a ban for two years, with the second of those suspended, by the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption Unit on October 29 last year for having failed to report corrupt approaches by an alleged bookie.

With the ban coming to an end, Shakib will once be allowed to appear in both international and domestic cricket and will be available for selection from tomorrow onwards. Shakib is set to return to cricket with the T20 tournament arranged by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), set to start from November 15.

BCB President Nazmul Hassan said Shakib, who is currently in the US with his family, will return to Dhaka by November 10.

Since his ban in October last year, Bangladesh have played only 14 international matches -- four Tests, three ODIs and seven T20Is -- and the coronavirus pandemic has to some extent come as a

ban, the team did not feel the absence of its talismanic cricketer as much as they would have if they had to contend with tough international assignments over the last seven months.

After his exceptional all-round performance in the 2019 ICC World Cup, followed by his leading role during the players' strike a year ago, Shakib tried to stay away from the headlines, but the cricketer remained in the news for several reasons during this period.

The star cricketer grabbed headlines by forming his Shakib Al Hasan Foundation to help people in need during the floods and also the coronavirus pandemic, auctioning off the bat that he used during the World Cup. There were controversies too as 200 workers from the Shakib Al Hasan Agro



THE INTERNATIONAL MATCHES SHAKIB MISSED	
2 Tests against India	– November 2019
3 T20Is against India	– November 2019
2 T20Is against Pakistan	– January 2020
1 Test against Pakistan	– February 2020
1 Test against Zimbabwe	– February 2020
3 ODIs against Zimbabwe	– March 2020
2 T20Is against Zimbabwe	– March 2020

blessing in disguise for the 33-year-old cricketer and the national team.

Since March this year cricket in Bangladesh has been halted due to the pandemic and it's been more than seven months since the Tigers last played an international game. Shakib's availability from tomorrow will certainly boost the morale of the side for their upcoming international schedule.

As far as the domestic competition in the country is concerned, the dashing southpaw missed out on the special edition of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League T20 and the first round of the Dhaka Premier League, which remains suspended.

The blessing in disguise for Bangladesh is that because of the pandemic, which has eaten up seven of the 12 months of Shakib's

Farm Limited, owned by the star all-rounder, gathered outside the farm in April and closed the Munshiganj-Nildumur road, claiming they were owed four months' wages. Shakib instructed the farm authorities to clear all unpaid dues and the matter was eventually resolved.

There was also talk about the state of his relationship with ODI captain Tamim Iqbal when Shakib declined to appear in Tamim's live Facebook chat shows citing personal reasons despite the cricketer giving interviews to various media outlets.

As Shakib's ban was nearing its end, there was much anticipation that he would make his return in an international series. The all-rounder was expected to play from the second Test of the planned Sri Lanka tour and aiming for a strong comeback, Shakib even returned from the US and started individual practice at his alma mater, BKSP.

However, the BCB's decision to not send the team to Sri Lanka due to the strict coronavirus protocols saw Shakib return to the US, and now fans are anticipating the return of the country's most celebrated cricketer in the domestic T20 competition from mid-November.



## NADAL THE GOLFER

Two weeks after his 13th French Open title, Rafael Nadal proved his prowess in another sporting arena when he finished tied sixth in the Balearic Golf Pro-Am Championships on Monday. The 34-year-old, who boasts a handicap of 0.3, came in 10 shots behind the winner after the three day tournament in Llucmajor on his native Mallorca.

PHOTO: TWITTER

## 'Individually we are better than Nepal'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh national football team were once a much better side compared to their Nepalese counterparts and their six consecutive wins against Nepal from 1995 to 2005 spoke volume of Bangladesh's supremacy on the field. But the scenario has changed a lot since a single goal-defeat to Nepal in 2011.

And while previously it was a known fact that Bangladesh are a superior side, the men in red and green now have to rather claim they are a better side than Nepal, who are ahead of Bangladesh in both FIFA ranking and in terms of performance.

In their previous two meetings in SAFF Championship in 2013 and 2018, Bangladesh suffered 2-0 defeats to Nepal, who are now 17 places ahead of 187th-ranked Bangladesh. After a seven-month gap due to coronavirus pandemic, the booters have started preparation ahead of the two international friendlies against

Nepal on November 13 and 17 in Dhaka. And midfielder Sohail Rana yesterday claimed that Bangladesh are a better side than Nepal and that the last few defeats were only because of a few silly mistakes.

"If you compare Bangladesh and Nepal, we are the better side. We

lost to them due to silly mistakes during the games. We want to win both friendlies against Nepal, rectifying those mistakes," said Sohail after training yesterday.

However, the Abahani midfielder later admitted that Nepal might be better as a team but Bangladesh

boast more individual talents.

"As a team, Nepal are a good side but we, as individuals, are ahead of them. If you look back at the AFC Cup campaign, we produced good results. In that perspective, we are good at the club level competition. Besides, we can also realise that we are better than them when we play against them."

National striker Nabib Newaj Jibon had earlier claimed that the Bangladeshi players were technically better than the Maldivian footballers ahead of an AFC Cup play-off match for Abahani earlier this year. That match against Maziya SRC, however, ended in a draw.

Meanwhile, all 12 Bashundhara Kings players including Finland-born Tareq Kazi joined the camp last night. Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohail was on his way to Dhaka from Chattogram while Tutul Hossain Badsha did not turn on account of tending to his sick wife.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan, Tareq, coach Jamie Day and the other foreign coaching staff are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow.



(From L to R) Rahmat Mia, Pappu Hossain, Yeasin Arafat and Sumon Reza -- youngsters of the Bangladesh football team -- share a light moment after a gruelling training session yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## FIFA referee Aziz no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Former FIFA referee Abdul Aziz died of cardiac arrest at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday. He was 68.

Aziz was initially admitted at BSSMU after a cardiac arrest on October 12 and had later tested Covid-19 positive.

Aziz, who started refereeing in 1974, conducted 28 international matches from 1981 to 1991 as a FIFA referee. He also conducted more than 500 domestic matches. Aziz joined Agrani Bank in 1990 before retiring in 2011.

## Rohit's omission raises questions

REUTERS, undated



The extent of Rohit Sharma's hamstring injury has intrigued batting great Sunil Gavaskar after the opener was seen practising on Monday, hours after his omission from India's tour of Australia on fitness grounds.

Mumbai Indians captain Rohit missed his team's last two IPL matches currently underway in the United Arab Emirates with the injury. The selectors omitted him from both the Test and limited-overs squads and the cricket board (BCCI) said its medical team would "continue to monitor the progress" without elaborating on the injury.

Hours later, the Mumbai Indians posted a video of their captain practising "in full flow" in Abu Dhabi, which baffled many.



"We are talking about the Test matches, which are a month and a half way," Gavaskar told IPL broadcaster Star Sports after Monday's match. "If he is practising in the nets for Mumbai Indians, then honestly I don't know what kind of injury it is."

"I think a little bit of transparency, a little bit of openness about what actually is the problem with him

will help everybody." Indian team players usually don't comment on team selection matters. India and Australia will lock horns in a four-test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in December-January, which will be preceded by six short-form internationals.

India have named Prithvi Shaw, KL Rahul and Shubman Gill in the Test squad and one of them could partner Mayank Agarwal at the top of the batting order. Agarwal's own fitness is not beyond doubt but the BCCI was characteristically taciturn about it when naming the opener in all three squads. The 29-year-old has missed Kings XI Punjab's last two IPL matches and Gavaskar criticised the lack of clarity around Agarwal's suspected leg injury.

"For an Indian cricket fan, they ought to know what happens to two of their key players," the former India captain said.

### QUIZ CONTEST

**The Daily Star | STAR CINEPLEX**

**10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER**

Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email.

Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

**QUIZ - 06**  
**What is the Facebook Page link of STAR Cineplex?**

**WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 05**

1. Tanjia Sayed, Banasree
2. Mohammed Saddam Hossain, Jatrabari
3. Ashraful Moeen, Gulshan
4. Sabit Raihan, Rajshahi
5. Nilesh Saha, Noakhali Zilla School
6. Mazharul Islam Sayem, Chandpur
7. Imrozha Chowdhury, Eskaton
8. Mehedi Hasan Tusar, Nazimuddin Road
9. Farhan Sajal, Sabujbagh
10. Rubaiyat Leo, Mirpur-13





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

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GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

World's Largest VRM

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US ELECTION 2020

# Biden makes late push for red states

Set to travel to Georgia, Iowa; Harris to travel to Texas; Trump narrows his focus on 7 battleground states

AGENCIES

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's campaign is making a late push into deeper-red states in the final week before the 2020 election, chasing a number of possible paths to 270 electoral votes while President Donald Trump focuses on defending a narrower set of states that he won four years ago but where polls show he now trails.

Biden is set to visit Georgia and Iowa this week, while his running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, travels Friday to Texas -- all states Trump won handily in 2016.

Trump's campaign, meanwhile, is narrowing its focus. With so many states to defend, Trump's campaign is banking on those states' electorates being Republican enough that he can win them with limited effort. Trump is focusing his efforts on seven states he won four years ago, as well as Minnesota and Nevada, which he hopes to flip this time around.

Trump's struggling reelection campaign received a boost Monday with the confirmation of his latest Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, tilting the top body to the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



People carrying away a teacher, who was protesting in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital and had fallen sick. A significant number of such teachers, who were on a hunger strike demanding the creation of a panel for the interviewing primary assistant teachers, were taken to different city hospitals yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Facebook commits to safe online environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Facebook has expressed its commitment to improve user safety and security and take steps to protect its users, especially women and children, from internet abuse.

The social media giant highlighted the steps it has taken in this regard at a virtual briefing for journalists and media personnel yesterday afternoon.

Organised by Benchmark PR, the briefing was led by Amber Hawkes, head of Safety Policy (Asia-Pacific) at Facebook.

Speaking at the briefing, Amber said creating a safe environment where over two billion people can share and connect is core to Facebook's business model.

She said people would stop using their services if not protected.

Through a presentation, Facebook claimed that it spent more than \$3.7 billion on safety and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Khulna court delivers verdict in three days

Man sentenced to jail for a year in drugs case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court yesterday delivered a verdict in a drug case within just three working days. A record for the country.

Khulna Metropolitan Magistrate Md Atikus Samad announced the judgment in presence of the accused in the courtroom.

Md Samrat, 26, the lone accused in the case, was sentenced to one year of imprisonment for possessing drugs -- six months for having cannabis and another six months for possessing yaba tablets.

Samrat, of Khulna city's Labanchara area, was also fined Tk 10,000. If he fails to pay, he will have to serve one month more in jail.

Shahara Irani Pia, assistant public prosecutor, told The Daily Star that if the drug cases were disposed of quickly, the backlog of cases will be reduced to some extent.

Saiful Islam, president of Khulna Lawyers Association, said the delivery of the judgement in three working days made history.

According to court sources, police arrested Samrat on December 13 last year

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

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

## Serve people of the villages: Bangabandhu

October 28, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### BANGABANDHU CALLS UPON DOCTORS TO GO TO RURAL AREAS

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman says today that he wants qualified doctors to go to rural areas so that the people living in villages receive the benefits of modern treatment.

Talking to a delegation of Salimullah Medical College students at the Gono Bhaban, he says it is unfortunate that the doctors after receiving higher education abroad at the expense of the people take up jobs in foreign countries, totally forgetting their responsibilities towards their brethren at home.

He says this is one of the reasons that prompted his government to impose restrictions on going abroad for higher education. The prime minister says the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine would be upgraded and fully equipped with all necessary equipment to enable it to impart the best possible medical education at home. This would preclude the need for doctors to go abroad. But he adds that this policy would not come in the way of people going for specialised research.

#### FAO WILL EVALUATE CROPS IN BANGLADESH

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has formed a special

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



## Two held for raping ninth-grader

Case filed over rape of college student in Barishal

STAR REPORT

A case was filed yesterday in connection with the rape of a college student in Barishal's Agailjhara upazila on October 24 while Rangpur, police arrested two persons on Tuesday in connection with the gang-rape of a ninth-grader on Sunday.

Also in Narayanganj Sunny, 18, a resident of Shlachar area under Sadar upazila, was arrested for raping a minor girl.

According to the case statement of Barishal, the accused -- Nayan Mondol -- took the 19-year-old girl to a deserted place in Bagda and raped her.

Sensing the matter, four people went to the spot and took both the rapist and the girl to a nearby school where the four

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Moon richer in water than once thought



AFP, Paris

There may be far more water on the Moon than previously thought, according to two studies published Monday raising the tantalising prospect that astronauts on future space missions could find refreshment -- and maybe even fuel -- on the lunar surface.

The Moon was believed to be bone dry until around a decade ago, when a series of findings suggested that our nearest celestial neighbour had traces of water ice in permanently-shadowed craters at its polar regions.

Two new studies published in Nature Astronomy

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Soumitra Chatterjee on ventilator

STAR REPORT

Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee has been put on



ventilator support as his condition worsened further on Monday, said doctors at a Kolkata hospital.

Doctors said his kidneys started malfunctioning, reports The Hindustan Times.

"His health has deteriorated. We have given him ventilation support. The gastrointestinal bleeding, though we managed to stop it, has had some repercussions on the rest of the body."

"His platelet count was pretty low. The bleeding, the medication and dehydration have taken a toll on his kidney functions, as a result of which his urea creatinine levels have

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Sundarbans to open for tourists early November

UNB, Dhaka

The Forest Department is set to soon reopen the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a Unesco World Heritage Site, to tourists after seven months of closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tourists are expected to be allowed to enter the Sundarbans from early November, authorities said.

Meanwhile, tour operators have already completed preparations after receiving the green signal and many have started pre-booking tourism spots.

According to sources

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Small stalls sell basic meals to people of low income group on the west side of Secretariat Link Road in the capital. Such makeshift stalls, occupying pavements, are thriving these days as many have fallen into hard times due to income loss during the pandemic. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 'We must not give up'

WHO chief urges 'fatigued' world to keep fighting as Covid cases surge in Europe, US

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization chief has warned that abandoning efforts to control the coronavirus pandemic, as suggested by a top US official, was "dangerous", urging countries not to "give up".

"We must not give up," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing.

The coronavirus has killed at least 1,160,768 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday.

At least 43,516,870 cases of coronavirus have been registered. Of these, at least 29,437,300 are now considered recovered.

On Monday, 5,273 new deaths and 428,884 new cases were recorded worldwide. Based on the latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were India with 488, followed by the United States with 464 and Argentina with 405.

Tedros acknowledged that after months of battling the new coronavirus a certain level of "pandemic fatigue" had set in.

"It's tough and the fatigue is real," Tedros said. "But we cannot give up," he added, urging leaders to "balance the disruption to lives and livelihoods".

He voiced particular concern about the situation in Europe, which in the past week accounted for 46 percent of global cases, and nearly a third of global deaths.

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### PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 28

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION