



Pompeo slams 'predator' China on Sri Lanka trip  
SEE PAGE 6

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"Tweeting at the TV doesn't fix things."  
BARACK OBAMA RIDICULES DONALD TRUMP ON HIS CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE DURING A RALLY IN FLORIDA



"The amendments have put Jammu and Kashmir up for sale."  
FORMER JAMMU AND KASHMIR CHIEF MINISTER OMAR ABDULLAH ON NEW DELHI'S DECISION TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO BUY LAND IN THE DISPUTED TERRITORY



"For the first time in history the citizens of this country get to hear directly from their president, every single day through social media."  
MELANIA TRUMP DEFENDS HER HUSBAND AT A RALLY IN PENNSYLVANIA



MILITARY-GRADE FIREARMS

## Shady import worries cops

Licensed dealers selling semi-automatic guns imported with wrong declaration amid slack monitoring, finds probe

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In the absence of monitoring, a section of licensed arms dealers are importing military-grade semi-automatic weapons in the name of rifles.

The dealers then sell the .22 bore weapons to licensed arms holders declaring them rifles on papers. The "Uzi pistol" looks more like a submachine gun than a rifle or a pistol.

The magazine of the Uzi can hold 20 bullets, while service pistols, used by law enforcers, can hold 15.

The Detective Branch (DB) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police came up with the information in a report on irregularities in arms import in the country. The report was submitted to the DMP and the police headquarters yesterday.

In the report, the DB warned that the law and order of the country could be under risk if the sophisticated arms was available to the people.

The Arms Rules 2016 states that the import of semi-automatic or automatic weapons are prohibited in Bangladesh.

HOW IT SURFACED

DB officials said they arrested a drug dealer -- Minal Sharif -- in the capital's Mohammadpur area on August 20. While searching his car, they found bottles of foreign liquor and a licence for a .22 calibre rifle.

During investigation, police found that Minal actually bought an Uzi for Tk 4.5 lakh from a licenced arms dealer.

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Ignoring the repulsive smell and health risks, 30-year-old Alauddin scavenges mostly for discarded plastic goods wading chest-deep into the filthy water of the drain at Gobindpur Bazar in the capital's Jatrabari. By the end of the day he finds 25-30 kgs of the goods and sells them to scrap dealers for around Tk 500. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## END OF SHAKIB'S BAN Lessons amid relief



MAZHAR UDDIN

When Shakib Al Hasan left the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium exactly a year ago in a white BMW sedan, he would have done so with Bangladesh cricket fans praying that his ban from cricket would be over in the blink of an eye.

That ban has ended today, and it has gone by quicker than anticipated as Bangladesh have not played a single international match for seven months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A year ago was the last time Shakib was seen at the home of Bangladesh cricket after the International Cricket Council banned him for two years, with the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## FOREIGN WORKERS KSA to scrap controversial sponsorship system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia might abolish its decades-old system of sponsorship in the first half of the next year, giving one million expatriate workers the freedom to secure exit and re-entry visas and get recruited without a sponsor's approval.

Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development will make the official announcement in this regard next week, Saudi Gazette reported on Tuesday.

The historic initiative is aimed at improving the contractual relationship between expatriate workers and their employers, it said.

The sponsorship system, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Systemic flaws to blame: HRW

1 in 4 women reported having suffered violence during early pandemic days

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A Human Rights Watch report, scheduled to be published today, blamed lack of accountability in enforcing laws and systemic flaws for Bangladesh's failure to protect women who have suffered violence.

Based on interviews of survivors and drawing upon surveys, the report of the international rights watchdog said although Bangladesh is in the final phase of its commitment to end violence against women and girls by 2025, the scourge rages on unabated.

Despite strict laws to safeguard women, their poor enforcement and lack of accountability leave victims without any recourse, said the report, a copy of which The Daily Star obtained.

According to the report, domestic violence increased during the shutdown following the Covid-19 outbreak with as many as a fourth of the respondents reporting violence for the first time.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Locals still afraid to talk about Erfan

Court places him on remand; ACC to look into graft allegations

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

With suspended ward councillor Erfan Salim behind bars, locals in Debidas Ghat Lane of the capital's Chawkbazar are still afraid to talk out about his illegal activities.

Law enforcers on Monday arrested Erfan, son of Dhaka-7 lawmaker Haji Mohammad Salim, from his home in Old Dhaka. They found a personal surveillance network that included close-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and illegal walkie-talkies that Erfan used to monitor his businesses.

A trader from Devidas Ghat Lane area said, "The Rab recovered 38 walkie-talkies. But we saw Haji Salim's men using those for years. They were involved in land grabbing, extortion and other criminal activities. Where are they now?"

"The law enforcement agencies took the action after the assault on a navy

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Sell it cheap or face torture

That's how Haji Salim would allegedly grab land, business in Old Dhaka

HELEMUL ALAM and SHARIFUL ISLAM

When a portion of his shop in Old Dhaka's Chawkbazar was demolished by the men of lawmaker Haji Salim in April 2019, Aftab Ahmed did whatever he could to save the rest of his shop in a century-old building.

But just two months later on the night of Eid (June 5, 2019), when many were on holiday, Awami League leader Haji Salim's men reappeared and razed the building, known locally as Jahaj Bari as it looked like a ship, locals claimed.

The building, made in the 19th century and considered to be one of the oldest commercial buildings in Dhaka, was famed for its aesthetic value. It was among the 2,200 archaeologically significant buildings the High Court directed in 2018 not to demolish or modify.

On top of that, the land belongs to Waqf estate, which makes Waqf administration's permit mandatory for any demolition or development work there. Handing over of Waqf land is illegal too without the permit of Waqf administration.

No one has taken any permission for the demolition, a Waqf administration official had said after the building was torn down.

Rules and regulations could not stop Haji Salim, the lawmaker of Dhaka-7. In fact, Salim was present during the demolition and had told police that he had bought the three-storey building, sources said.

A number of traders, who had possession of shops in Jahaj Bari, claimed that Haji Salim forced eight such traders to relinquish their claim in exchange of measly amount of money.

"Those who did not agree to sell their possessions were taken to the torture cell of Salim's son Erfan Mohammad Salim, and were tortured," said a local yesterday, wishing anonymity.

The arrest of Erfan following the assault of navy official Lt Wasif Ahmed Khan unveiled some of the misdeeds of the father-son duo.

Jahaj Bari is just one example of grabbing properties.

The family took over high-value land, including some belonging to Waqf estate, and even vested properties and shops in different parts of Old Dhaka, The Daily Star learnt after talking to at least two dozen locals.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS 10 US senators for sanctions on Rab high-ups

Write to Trump admin; Rab denies allegations

STAR REPORT

Ten US senators from the Republican and the Democratic parties have called on the Trump administration to impose targeted sanctions on "senior commanders" of Bangladesh's Rab, which they said have reportedly killed more than 400 people extrajudicially since 2015.

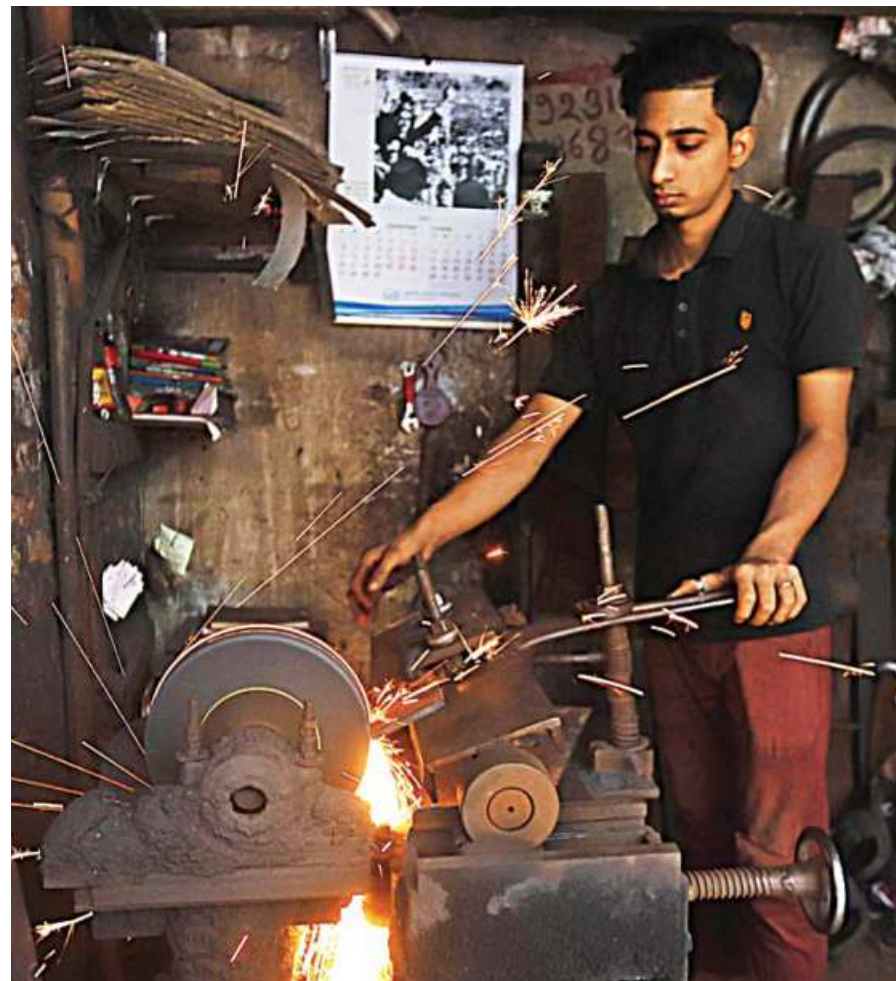
Senator Bob Menendez, ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Todd Young led eight other senators to make the call in a bipartisan letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin.

The senators urged the administration to impose targeted sanctions on senior Rab commanders under applicable authorities, including the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act and Section 7031 (c) of the FY 2020 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, according to a statement the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations issued on Tuesday.

Contacted, Rab Director (legal and media) Lt Col Ashik Billah said Rab was not involved in extrajudicial killings under any circumstances. All Rab operations adhere to specific rules and regulations.

"Basically, occasional incidents of exchange of shooting take place with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



A man works at a lathe shop in Islambagh area of Lalbagh in the capital with no safety gear whatsoever. The least that he could do was wear safety glasses to avert injuries to the eyes in case something went wrong. There is no record on how many people of such professions get injured, but incidents are not uncommon, the workers said. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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Unifrend BGR 39/20



BANGLADESH  
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New cases in 24hrs403,079  
Total cases5,861  
Deaths319,733  
RecoveriesGLOBAL  
UPDATE 1,174,341  
Deaths44,412,918  
Total cases

## Always be ready to protect constitution, sovereignty

PM asks the army

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Bangladesh Army to be always ready to face any threat from home and abroad to protect the constitution and sovereignty of the motherland.



"For protecting the sacred constitution and sovereignty of the motherland, you have to be ever ready to face any threat from inside and outside keeping the unity intact," she said.

The PM was addressing a programme on the occasion of raising of flags of Bangladesh Army's eight units and organisations.

She joined the event, which took place at Sheikh Hasina Cantonment in Lebukhali of Patuakhali, virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said Bangladesh Army is the symbol of confidence and trust and it has to step forward through gaining the trust of the people.

She said the first need for army personnel, as members of the Army, is professionalism and training.

"To attain this desired standard of professionalism, you all have to be skilled professionally, and also have to maintain honest and benignant life imbued with religious and social values."

The premier hoped that army members would sincerely discharge their responsibilities maintaining its key driving forces, including confidence in higher leadership, mutual trust, compassion, brotherhood, dutifulness, responsibility and above all, maintaining discipline.

Hasina said the government wanted that members of the armed forces would perform their duties towards the country and its people with responsibility, dutifulness and affection to the motherland.

About the country's foreign policy, introduced by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, "Friendship to all,

malice to none", the PM said Bangladesh does not want war with anyone, rather it wants friendship with all.

"With these friendly relations, we want to develop Bangladesh socioeconomically."

However, she firmly said the government wants to get the preparations ready for any attack on the country at any time.

"We want to be ready like that way, we want peace and friendship. We don't want enmity and war, because we have already witnessed the destructiveness of a war. We are the victims of a war, we don't want to engage in that type of conflict again," the premier said.

She said the country's economic development and prosperity are the main goals of the government and it has been working restlessly towards those goals.

The government has taken all necessary steps to develop Bangladesh Army as capable of facing geo-political and military challenges of the 21st century, the PM added.

In this regard, Hasina mentioned that the government has been implementing Forces Goal 2030 that was formulated following the defence policy of the Father of the Nation.

Praising army members for their integrity and responsibility in facing various natural disasters and humanitarian crises, she asked them to continue their efforts in future.

The PM also appreciated the army's role in facing the Covid-19 pandemic and said members of the army are lauded for creating mass awareness about the virus.

About the national standard, Hasina said it is a matter of dignity and pride for any battalion or unit of the forces to receive the national flag.

Earlier, the PM took a salute from members of the army through a video conference from Gono Bhaban.

Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed also spoke at the programme from Sheikh Hasina Cantonment.

## Shady import worries cops

FROM PAGE 1

Later, DB filed a general diary over the matter and upon taking court permission, they sent the weapon to experts for opinion.

According to the DB police's report, the arms experts mentioned that it was totally illegal to buy the semi-automatic Uzi against the licence for the .22 calibre rifle.

"The Uzi pistol is a military-grade weapon and it is largely used by the arms forces in Belgium and the Israeli Defence Force. The arms is used to provide security to VIPs," reads the enquiry report. The Daily Star has a copy of it.

### THE IMPORT

According to the report, there are 84 licensed arms dealer in the country.

Of them, only 14 import arms directly from abroad and 12 are located in Dhaka.

In response to letters from the DB, six dealers came up with lists saying that they have imported 91 Uzis since 2015 after declaring them as rifles.

Forty-nine of the weapons have been sold to different licenced arms holders.

Among the six dealers, Moin Arms Co in the capital's Paltan imported 20 Uzi rifles and 10 Uzi pistols. The pistols have already been sold, according to the report.

Contacted yesterday, Moin Iqbal, proprietor of Moin Arms Co, claimed that the Uzi pistols were one kind of rifle. According to him, the pistol is the small version of a rifle.

Asked then why "pistol" was engraved on the firearms, he said it's just a tag.

"If this business was wrong then why did customs releases the gun and international exports do this

business. We pay taxes and follow all the procedures to import the firearms," he said.

"Police is making a false allegation. It will not only destroy our business but will also send a negative message to international arms exporters," he added.

Contacted, Arun Kumar Biswas, additional commissioner of Customs Valuation and Internal Audit Commissionerate in Dhaka, however, categorically said if the import of the firearms was prohibited as per the arms rule, then they were not supposed to enter the country by any means.

He declined to make any further comments.

In the enquiry report, police requested immediate forfeit of all imported "Uzi pistols" and their handover to law enforcers, saying if the firearms reaches the hands of militants or any criminal group, it could be dangerous.

The irregularities in the arms import took place as there is no arms expert in customs and district commissioner offices. So the presence of arms experts is necessary during the release of any arms shipment by the customs house, the police report suggested.

DB (Tejgaon division) is presently investigating the matter.

Golam Mostofa Rashed, deputy commissioner of the division, said they have already submitted an inquiry report regarding the import of semi-automatic Uzi pistols.

"We would also send a letter to the customs authorities regarding the import. We are now investigating to know how these modern arms entered the country and who the users are."

## KSA to scrap

FROM PAGE 1

Under the sponsorship system, which has been in force for around seven decades, will be replaced by a work contract that regulates the relationship between employers and foreign workers.

The system, also known as the kafala, ties workers to their employers, or sponsors, who are responsible for the employees' visa and legal status.

The abolition is part of other initiatives that seek to improve the quality of life of expatriates, especially for housing and entertainment. The move would be the latest in a series of economic reforms being carried out in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030, said the report.

With the abolition of the system, the foreign workers will also have freedom of movement as per their work contract.

Under the sponsorship system, a worker is obligated to work for his sponsor, and they cannot work for another employer unless the sponsorship is formally transferred.

According to the Gazette report, the Saudi Ministry of Human Resources was expected to announce yesterday the major features of this initiative to improve the relationship between the expatriate workers and their employers. But it was postponed.

Saudi Arabia was originally supposed to announce the abolition of the sponsorship system during the first quarter of 2020, but it got delayed due to the pandemic.

The abolition of the sponsorship system comes as the step after the introduction of Special Privilege Residency Permit.



PHOTO: AFP

Firefighters set a backfire to protect homes and try to contain the Blue Ridge Fire on Tuesday in Chino Hills, California. Strong Santa Ana Winds gusting to more than 90 miles per hour have driven the Blue Ridge Fire and Silverado Fire across thousands of acres, grounding firefighting aircraft, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee.

## Sell it cheap or face torture

FROM PAGE 1

None of them agreed to have their names disclosed fearing retribution. They spoke of the Salim family's "criminal" activities against which locals dared not speak and law enforcers take action.

Including land, buildings, markets, and shops in Chawkbazar, Imamganj, Begumbazar, Birendro Bosh Street, Jola Potti in Kellar intersection and land the Salim family allegedly grabbed in Imamganj Razbari of Bhawal estate between Cabtali and Babubazar, they put the figure between 20 and 100 bighas.

Haji Salim's personal assistant Sohel Ahmed brushed aside the allegations of land grabbing. He claimed that the lawmaker was abroad when Jahaj Bari was torn down.

"We have no idea who demolished Jahaj Bari," Sohel told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

As The Daily Star wanted to talk to the lawmaker, Sohel said, "Sir cannot speak. He can walk and do other activities."

This paper tried to talk to other employees of the lawmaker, but none of them agreed to talk.

A Rab mobile court sentenced Erfan to one and a half years in jail on Monday. After Erfan's arrest, Rab found a torture cell on the top floor of Haji Salim-owned 16-storey Madina Ashik Tower, which is a few yards away from Erfan's home in Chawkbazar.

### TRICK USED FOR GRABBING PROPERTIES

Whenever there was a dispute among family members over land in Old Dhaka, Haji Salim would rush there to arbitrate, said a local.

He would persuade some owners to

sell their shares for throw-away prices and then have the other owners picked up by his musclemen and armed cadres and have them tortured until they agreed to sell their shares.

"Salim used to purchase a shop for Tk 4-5 lakh when the market price was between Tk 50-60 lakh," said another local.

Giving an example, a local said Haji Salim had signed an agreement four to five years ago with one Jumman Bepari and his family over handing over a piece of land near the Jail Gate in Old Dhaka for the construction of a building.

As per the agreement, the land owners were supposed to get 40 percent of the shops and flats and Tk 2 crore as sign-up payment.

Haji Salim constructed a 12-storey market/residential tower. "But Salim gave them 35 percent of the flats," said the local who is close to the Bepari family.

The Bepari family never saw the Tk 2 crore and got just one of the 40 shops in the market on the first six floors of the building, the local alleged.

### RIVER GRABBING

In the beginning of 2019, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) recovered around 2.5 acres of Buriganga Adi channel in Kamrangchar and Jhawchar from Salim's possessions.

On May 19 this year, Assistant Sub-Inspector Anil Bihari Nath of Basila River Police Outpost seized a loader, owned by Salim-owned Al Madina Maritime, two trucks, and arrested three staffers of Al Madina Maritime when they were filling up the Buriganga at Arshinagar in Jhawchar.

The arrestees were: Masum Shaikat, Sudangshu Kumar Sarkar, and Jashim

Akan.

Anil filed a case with Keraniganj Model Police Station too.

Contacted Tuesday, Al Madina Maritime site supervisor Sudangshu said they were now out on bail. He claimed that they were not filling or grabbing the river, rather the police arrested them mistakenly.

Anil told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday that he had caught the three in the act of filling up the river with sand.

### AGRANI BANK LAND RECOVERED

Salim and his family also grabbed 19.14 decimal of land belonging to Agrani Bank Ltd in Moulvibazar of Old Dhaka.

The bank finally recovered the land on Tuesday from Salim's clutches. The bank also erected a boundary wall earlier demolished by Haji Salim's men.

Baishnab Das Mondal, assistant general manager and head of the branch, said Agrani Bank, which was Habib Bank before the country's independence, has been the owner of the land for the last 73 years.

But since 2003, Haji Salim has been claiming ownership and had tried to grab the land using forged documents. The bank registered several general diaries since then and also filed a case in 2016.

The legal battle is still on, he added. "During the pandemic, they demolished their two-storey building completely. The bank authorities filed a GD against Salim's wife Gulshan Ara Selim, who is the claimant of the land on paper," he said.

Asked, Salim's PA Sohel Ahmed claimed that the lawmaker was the actual owner and that they have all documents to prove it.

## Systemic flaws to blame: HRW

FROM PAGE 1

The 65-page report titled "I Sleep in My Own Deathbed: Violence against Women and Girls in Bangladesh", draws on 50 interviews to document the obstacles for the government's goal of a society without violence against women and children.

"The uptick in violence against women and girls during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as recent protests against sexual violence, are a bellwether to the Bangladesh government that urgent structural reform is needed," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

"The government should take concrete action by creating accessible shelters across the country, ensuring access to legal aid, and removing obstacles to reporting violence and obtaining justice."

Referring to research done by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), HRW said at least 235 women were murdered by their husband or his family in just the first nine months of 2020.

The HRW report found that not only is the criminal justice system failing survivors of gender-based violence, but additional failures in response, protective measures, and services seriously hinder survivors' ability to access the justice system in the first place.

According to data provided by the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women, of more than 11,000 women who filed cases through one of the government's nine One-Stop Crisis Centers for women and girls, only 160 saw successful convictions, HRW mentioned in the report.

According to the Justice Audit, in 2016 courts disposed of just over 20 percent of the over 170,000 pending Nari-o-Shishu cases that year, convicting only 0.5 percent of those accused.

The HRW report found that women and girls often cannot seek meaningful legal remedies under these laws, and abusers are rarely held to account.

Compounding this problem is the fact that with a backlog of some 3.7 million cases. Trials are often delayed or drawn out for years.

"The Bangladesh justice system is failing women and girls with devastating consequences," Ganguly said.

For most women and girls in Bangladesh, access to safe shelter for protection and support is lacking with an estimated 21 government-run shelters and 15 NGO-run shelters for survivors.

"This is deeply inadequate considering that most women in Bangladesh face some form of violence in their lives."

The report recommended development of stronger prevention mechanisms, including comprehensive education in schools on consent, sexuality, and relationships, and awareness campaigns for women and girls about their rights.

It also suggested increasing access to support services across the country, including providing accessible and safe shelters for survivors of gender-based violence in every district, without court orders to stay or restrictions on children.

The report stressed providing sufficient training to public prosecutors and police on standards of criminal

investigations, particularly in relation to working with survivors of gender-based violence.

It recommended the creation of a centralised, online filing system for all cases of gender-based violence and to ensure that relevant case information and reports are freely available and accessible to all parties to the case as appropriate.

The report lauded the government's success in addressing acid violence as acid attacks dropped dramatically from 500 cases in 2002 to 21 recorded attacks in 2020.

According to the report, some lawyers and activists suggested a variety of factors behind shortcomings in prosecution, including public prosecutors who are essentially political appointees and therefore there is little accountability in ensuring they carry out duties as required.

Prosecutors are also not recruited based on experience and are often not properly trained in criminal law, which leads to a failure in coordinating effectively with investigating officers to collect evidence or to make sure that witnesses appear in court when required.

Survivors and activists said public prosecutors often seek bribes from both sides, and if the accused has a greater ability to pay, prosecutors may ask for a reduced sentence or even lose the case by not presenting all evidence.

Despite repeated promises, Bangladesh still has no victim or witness protection law and women's rights lawyers said this presents a serious obstacle to effectively pursue cases.

## Lessons amid relief

FROM PAGE 1

T20 tournament arranged by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) set to start from mid-November.

Since his ban in October last year, Bangladesh, who were scheduled for a busy year with at least 36 international games, played only 14 international matches -- four Tests, three ODIs and seven T20Is.

Although it is as yet uncertain when the Tigers will next play an international match, Shakib's availability from today will certainly boost the side's morale.

Shakib's teammates are all set to welcome their best performer with open arms and the youngsters who idolise him are eagerly waiting for the superstar to rejoin the dressing room.

"We have all been waiting for Shakib bhai since his ban and it's a great feeling to have him back with us again. He is our biggest asset and as a teammate it's the best news we have today," national batsman Mohammad Mithun told The Daily Star yesterday.

Shakib's return is of course good news, but his absence may have been more important if it taught a lesson to young players like Afif Hossain, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mosaddek Hossain and many other upcoming cricketers who idolise Shakib.

In a Cricbuzz interview in June this year, Shakib said, "I took the approaches from the bookie too casually. Later, I presented the evidence to the Anti-Corruption officials and explained everything honestly and they know everything about what happened. To be honest, that's the only reason I was banned for a year, otherwise I could have been banned for five to 10 years."

"I think it was a silly mistake I made having played international cricket and all the anti-corruption sessions I attended; I shouldn't have made such mistakes. I regret that and I think no one should take messages or calls from strangers lightly. That's the lesson I learned and I learned a big lesson."

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## Turkey condemns French caricature featuring Erdogan

REUTERS, Istanbul

Top Turkish officials condemned a caricature scolding President Tayyip Erdogan in the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo yesterday, calling it a "disgusting effort" to "spread its cultural racism and hatred".

Turkish anger at the caricature added fuel to a row between Turkey and France about cartoons of a topic considered offensive to Muslims, which flared after a teacher who had shown pupils the cartoons in a lesson on freedom of speech was beheaded in France this month.

## Locals still afraid

FROM PAGE 1

officer. But when we, the general people, went to local police stations to file complaints against Haji Salim's men, they didn't record those," complained the trader who asked not to be named.

Locals said Haji Salim's men went into hiding following the arrest of Erfan. In the meantime, some of the victims regained possession of their properties which were grabbed by the lawmaker's men.

They expressed fear that the MP's men would reappear in the area once "their trouble" is over.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed Erfan and his bodyguard Zahidul Mollah on three-day remand each in a case filed over the attempted murder of a navy officer.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Asaduzzaman Nur passed the order after Ashfaq Rajib Hasan, inspector (investigation) of Dhanmondi Police Station and also the investigation officer of the case, had produced them before the court with seven-day remand prayer for each.

Lt Wasif Ahmed Khan of Bangladesh Navy filed the case naming four people. The two other accused in the case are AB Siddique Dipu, 45, and Md Mizanur Rahman, 30.

All four are now behind bars.

Yesterday, the Anti-Corruption Commission said it would look into allegations made in recent media reports about Haji Salim and his family members.

Responding to queries from reporters, ACC Commissioner Mozammel Haque Khan said, "We have seen media reports on Haji Salim and his son Erfan Salim. We are noticing that the issue is related to law and order."

If any issue falls under the jurisdiction of the ACC, "we will look into it. If government land or properties are occupied, appropriate actions will be taken given that it is covered under the ACC act", he added.

Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star could not reach Erfan's family members for comments.

Sohel Hawlader, assistant personal secretary to Haji Salim, said the lawmaker was ill and he would not comment on the matter.

## 10 US senators

FROM PAGE 1

armed miscreants during Rab's operational activities," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The bipartisan senators said since 2015, the Rab has reportedly extrajudicially killed more than 400 people, and the Rab has been credibly implicated in many cases of enforced disappearances and torture.

"These violations appear to be part of a broader crackdown on dissent by the ruling Awami League, and the Rab has not been held to account," said the letter.

"Extrajudicial killings by the Rab have reportedly spiked since the Government of Bangladesh began its 'war on drugs' in the months ahead of the December 2018 elections."

UN experts, including the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution wrote that the 'war on drugs' appears to be a deliberate policy of extrajudicial killings and urged the Bangladesh government to end it and respect the rule of law and human rights, it said.

In nearly all cases, the senators said, the Rab claims that such extrajudicial killings result from "gunfights" or "crossfire," but documentation from reputable human rights organisations demonstrates that victims were often in Rab custody when they were killed, and many of their bodies show signs of death by execution, rather than a gunfight.

However, the government has failed to end these abuses and the Rab continues to commit extrajudicial killings with impunity, they said.

In addition to extrajudicial killings, UN experts, journalists, and human rights groups have documented cases of Rab committing enforced disappearances and widespread torture, including the 2019 abduction and suspected torture by the Rab of three men whose employer had a dispute with a high-ranking government official.

"These cases illustrate a pattern of gross human rights violations for which the Rapid Action Battalion and its senior leadership have faced no consequences."

Joining Ranking Member Menendez and Senator Young in signing the letter were Ben Cardin, Cory Gardner, Jeanne Shaheen, Marco Rubio, Chris Murphy, Chris Coons, Jeff Merkley and Cory Booker.





Heaps of soil are spilling out from the capital's Mohammadpur fire station, as authorities are constructing a new building there. The displaced earth has remained in front of the gate and on the footpath for a while now, forcing pedestrians to circumvent the obstacles. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Cabinet body for Dhaka DAP reorganised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has reorganised the cabinet committee to finalise the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) prepared by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipokkho (Rajuk) following its detailed review.

LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam was made convener of the seven-member committee, the ministry said in a release yesterday.

Other members of the committee are: Obaidul Quader, road transport and bridges minister; Shahab Uddin, environment, forest and climate change minister; Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, land minister; Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, state minister for shipping; Zaheed Farooque, state minister for water resources and Sharif Ahmed, state minister for housing and public works.

The cabinet division issued a gazette notification on October 25 in this regard.

## Missing fisher's 'body thrown into deep sea'

Police refuse to record GD on technicality

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Family members of a fisherman, who has been missing since the trawler he had boarded from Chattogram's Patenga Ghat for deep sea returned ashore over two weeks ago, have been denied filing a general diary with police.

Azizul Haque (48) left on a fishing trawler along with his seven other colleagues on October 10, said his family members. However, before the countrywide fishing ban started, the boat came back from sea on October 13 but the fisherman did not return, they alleged.

When the family members queried about him, the boat owner and the "majhi" (captain) refused to talk to them, said they added.

Azizul's son Emran Aziz told The Daily Star, "I last spoke to my father on October 11 night, when he told me his health condition was not well and said the majhi of the boat, Ariful Islam, did not cooperate with him despite his ailments."

"Five minutes later, I found my father's phone switched off and since then he has remained missing," said Emran, a security guard by profession.

"We waited for my father's return after the boat came back, but failing to get him, we stated to look for his co-workers and traced a colleague of his, a teenage boy, who said my father died on the boat and boatmen dumped his body into deep sea," said Emran.

Mahmudul Haque, Azizul's younger brother, said, "We contacted boat owner Mamtaj about the incident on October 20, but he asked us to go to police."

"The boy (who was on the boat) told us that my brother's body was dumped into the sea tied with bricks; we have his statement on video," said Mahmudul.

"After talking to him, we went to Patenga Police Station to file a missing person diary, but police said it is out of their jurisdiction," Emran said, "My father's last location was in Patenga. But Patenga police did not help us."

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Jobayer Sayed of Patenga Police Station said, "The 14-year old who witnessed the incident told police that the body was dumped to Shangu river channel of the sea which is in Banskhali, after Aziz died suddenly on the boat."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## সতর্ক থাকুন ও সচেতন হোন

❖ বাংলাদেশ সরকার অবৈধ অর্থ/সম্পদ আহরণ, অর্থ/সম্পদ পাচার, মানিলভারিং ও সন্ত্রাসী কার্যে অর্থায়ন প্রতিরোধে মানিলভারিং প্রতিরোধ আইন, ২০১২ এবং সন্ত্রাস বিরোধী আইন, ২০০৯ জারি করেছে। উক্ত আইনদ্বয় বাংলাদেশ ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল ইন্সটিটিউশন ইউনিট (বিএফআইইউ)-এর সার্বিক তত্ত্বাবধানে সকল ব্যাংক ও আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান ও অন্যান্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সংস্থাসমূহের মাধ্যমে বাস্তবায়িত হচ্ছে।

❖ মানিলভারিং প্রতিরোধ আইনে উল্লিখিত, নিম্নোক্ত সম্পূর্ণ অপরাধসমূহের সাথে জড়িত অর্থ/সম্পদ ও সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান এর বিষয়ে সতর্ক থাকুনঃ

দুর্নীতি ও ঘুষ	অপহরণ, অবৈধভাবে আটকে রাখা ও পন্থকী করা	কর সক্রমস্ত অপরাধ
মুদ্রা জালকরণ	খুন, মারাত্মক শারীরিক ক্ষতি	মোদাফতুল লংঘন
দলিল দস্তাবেজ জালকরণ	নারী ও শিশু পাচার	সন্ত্রাস ও সন্ত্রাসী কার্যে অর্থ যোগান
চাঁদাবাজি	চোরাকদম্বল	ভেজাল বা স্বত্ব লংঘন করে পণ্য উৎপাদন
প্রতারণা	দেশী ও বিদেশী মুদ্রা পাচার	পরিবেশগত অপরাধ
জালিয়াতি	চুরি বা ডাকাতি বা দস্যুতা বা জলদস্যুতা বা বিমান দস্যুতা	বৌদ নিপীড়ন
অবৈধ অস্ত্রের ব্যবসা	মানব পাচার	ইনসাইডার ট্রেডিং ও মার্কেটে ম্যানুপুলেশন
অবৈধ মাদক ও দেশী জাতীয় দ্রব্যের ব্যবসা	মৌতুক	সংবেদক অপরাধ/ সংবেদক অপরাধী দলে অংশগ্রহণ
চোরাই ও অন্যান্য দ্রব্যের অবৈধ ব্যবসা	চোরালগ্নী ও তত্ত্ব সক্রমস্ত অপরাধ	জীতি প্রদর্শনের মাধ্যমে অর্থ আদায়

❖ প্রতারক, চাঁদাবাজ বা অপহরণকারীরা নিরীহ ব্যাংক গ্রাহকদের ফাঁদে ফেলে তাদের হিসাব (একাউন্ট)-এর সমুদয় টাকা কুক্ষিগত করে থাকে। তাই সোশ্যাল মিডিয়ায় বন্ধু সেজে গিফট, পার্সেল, চাকুরী দেয়া, লটারির পুরস্কার, আলৌকিক ধন-সম্পদ প্রাপ্তিসহ বিভিন্ন প্রলোভনের ফাঁদে পা দিবেন না। একইভাবে গুম, অপহরণের ভয় দেখিয়ে অথবা প্রবাসীদের জিম্মি করে - চাঁদাবাজি বা অর্থ আদায়ের অসং প্রচেষ্টাতে বিচলিত না হয়ে - আইন প্রয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষকে এবং প্রয়োজনে আপনার ব্যাংককে অবহিত করুন।

❖ আপনার হিসাবের গোপন তথ্য যেমন: একাউন্ট নম্বর/ব্যালেন্স, চেক বই, কার্ড নম্বর, পিন নম্বর, পাসওয়ার্ড ইত্যাদি অন্য কাউকে দেয়া থেকে বিরত থাকুন। ব্যাংকের কর্মকর্তাগণ কখনোই আপনার কাছে এসব তথ্য জানতে চায় না। একই সাথে নিজের একাউন্টে অন্য কোন ব্যক্তি / প্রতিষ্ঠানকে লেনদেন করার সুযোগ প্রদান হতে বিরত থাকুন।

❖ হুমি কার্যক্রম দেশের অর্থনীতির জন্য ক্ষতিকর। হুমির মাধ্যমে অর্থ প্রেরণ, অর্থ গ্রহণ ও হুমির কাজে সহায়তাকরণ - মানিলভারিং প্রতিরোধ আইনে শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। ব্যাংকিং চ্যানেলে দেশে রেমিটেন্স এনে সরকার ঘোষিত আকর্ষণীয় প্রণোদনা আপনার ব্যাংক থেকে গ্রহণ করে লাভবান হোন।

❖ অননুমোদিত বৈদেশিক বাণিজ্য, আন্তর্জাতিক নিষেধাজ্ঞা (সংশনস) লঙ্ঘন, অনলাইন গেমিং ও ভার্চুয়াল মুদ্রা (বিটকয়েন, লিটকয়েন, নেমকয়েন, রিপল, ইথেরিয়াম, মোনোরো ইত্যাদি)-এর অবৈধ লেনদেন থেকে বিরত থাকুন।

❖ উপরোক্ত অবৈধ কার্যাবলী সম্পাদনের ক্ষেত্রে নিরীহ গ্রাহকগণ / ব্যাংকসমূহ অসং ব্যক্তি কর্তৃক প্রতারিত হতে পারে। সুতরাং ব্যাংকে হিসাব খোলা, গ্রাহক পরিচিতি ও লেনদেন সম্পর্কিত সঠিক এবং পূর্ণাঙ্গ তথ্য সরবরাহ ও সংরক্ষণে অধিকতর সচেতন এবং তৎপর থেকে ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষকে তথ্য দেশকে সহায়তা করুন।

❖ উল্লিখিত বেআইনি কর্মকান্ড সংঘটন বা সংঘটনে সহযোগিতার জন্য মানিলভারিং প্রতিরোধ আইন, ২০১২ অনুযায়ী অর্থদণ্ডসহ সর্বোচ্চ ১২ বছর কারাদণ্ড এবং সন্ত্রাস বিরোধী আইন, ২০০৯ অনুযায়ী সন্ত্রাসী কর্মকান্ডের জন্য সর্বোচ্চ মৃত্যুদণ্ড-এর বিধান রয়েছে।

❖ আসুন আমরা সবাই ঘুষ, দুর্নীতি, মানিলভারিং, সন্ত্রাস, জঙ্গীবাদসহ সকল আর্থিক অপরাধ প্রতিহত করে অপরাধমুক্ত দেশ গড়তে প্রতিজ্ঞাবদ্ধ হই।



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### SINHA MURDER CASE Suspended OC Pradeep's associate remanded again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Cox's Bazar court yesterday placed suspended Teknaf OC Pradeep Kumar Das' associate constable Rubel Sharma on a five-day remand in a case filed over the killing of Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan.

Judge Tamanna Farah of Senior Judicial Magistrate Court-4 in Cox's Bazar granted the five-day remand prayer after senior assistant superintendent Mohamamd Khairul Alam, also the case's investigation officer, produced the accused before her court in the afternoon, seeking eight-day remand prayer for the second term.

On September 30, the accused constable was placed on a seven-day remand in connection with the murder case.

On August 6, Pradeep, inspector Liaqat Ali, and SI Nandadulal Rakhshit were each placed on 7-day remand by a Cox's Bazar court.

Liaqat, who shot Sinha dead, is the prime accused in the case. Major (ret'd) Sinha had been making travel documentaries for a YouTube channel. On July 31, he was returning to Cox's Bazar from Teknaf. His car was stopped at a police check point at Shaplapur on Marine Drive road where he was murdered.



**A man drives his battery-powered rickshaw-van with a huge pile of products loaded on it, through the Sadarghat-Gabtolli road near Hazaribagh yesterday. Despite DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh's warning of eliminating all of these unauthorised battery-powered rickshaws and vans from his part of the city, they continue to ply the city streets.**

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## 'Involve youth in decision-making'

Speakers tell advocacy webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure youth empowerment, the government needs to formulate an action plan to implement the National Youth Policy 2017, speakers at a webinar urged. They also called for the formulation of a 'Youth Council' to ensure youth empowerment.

The calls were made at a webinar titled "Implementing National Youth Policy 2017: Concerns of Diverse Young People to Address", jointly organised by Dhruvotara Youth Development Foundation (DYDF) and ActionAid Bangladesh.

"Young people constitute a large population of Bangladesh, but they are not being involved in the government's budgetary allocation and decision-making process," DYDF executive director Amiya Prapan Chakraborty Arka said.

"In absence of political will and administrative initiative, the whole thing (the policy) will remain halted at the formulation stage and will not be of any use for the development of the youth," Nazmul Ahsan, manager, Action Aid Bangladesh said.

On behalf of youth development organisations of Bangladesh, speakers also recommend reviewing and re-evaluating the youth budget in a realistic standard, considering especially the plights of marginalised youth.

Several recommendations were also made to emphasise inclusion, so that young people, irrespective of age, ethnic identity, physical disability, locality, income class, and gender can participate.

Youth representatives also recommended that apart from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, every ministry should work by effectively prioritising the youth, while the Ministry of Youth and Sports should be separated.

Besides, alongside the government, financial institutions, banks, domestic and foreign donor agencies should take separate youth-friendly programmes, speakers said.

### Premier to unveil foundation stone of Bangabandhu Rail Bridge on Nov 29: minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday said the prime minister will unveil the foundation stone of Bangabandhu Railway Bridge on Jamuna river through videoconference on November 29.

The bridge's construction will cost Tk 16,000 crore, and all work will be completed by 2025, he said while talking to journalists during inspection of the foundation stone site, on east end of Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge in Tangail.

Sujan said 431 acres of land has already been acquired from Bangladesh Bridge Authority for construction.

## WFP reopens fresh food corners at Rohingya camps

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has reopened its fresh food corners at Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, allowing trade and business activities to resume after months of closure due to Covid-19 prevention measures.

By May 2021, WFP hopes to bring the farmers' market to 30 percent of the population at the camps, with monthly transactions touching \$500,000.

An important economic opportunity for local farmers and traders in Cox's Bazar, the fresh food corners have benefited both the refugees and host community, the WFP said yesterday.

The fresh food corners are part of the Farmers' Market initiative where local smallholder farmers and traders are engaged in selling their produce at WFP e-voucher outlets and farmers' market sites at the camps.

From there, Rohingya families can get a variety of food using their WFP Assistance Card. WFP then transfers the money directly to the farmers and traders.

"This initiative shows the dual benefits that can come out of a humanitarian response. WFP is proud to be supporting the local community and the Rohingya families, to improve their lives and contribute to social cohesion," said Richard Ragan, WFP country director in Bangladesh.

"WFP plans to take this initiative further so that more local farmers and retailers can benefit from this programme," Ragan said.

Before the farmers' market had to be halted due to the pandemic, around \$47,000 were transferred to 12 smallholder farmers and traders from the local community every month.

With the reopening, four market sites are now active, with a combined transaction of more than \$100,000 each month.

## Man shot, robbed of Tk 5.70 lakh in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Unidentified criminals shot a man and snatched Tk 5.7 lakh from him in broad daylight at Savar's Bhakurta area near Turag bridge yesterday.

Victim Amanullah (40) was admitted to Savar Upazila Health Complex with a bullet wound on his left leg.

His wife Shuma told The Daily Star that a gang of ten people on five motorcycles stopped their taxi near a police check-post at Bhakurta at 11am. The couple were on their way home after withdrawing Tk 5.7 lakh from the bank.

"The gang fired around five rounds of bullets at our car, and my husband was wounded. They snatched the money from us and fled," said Shuma. She claimed the gang members were present at the bank when they were withdrawing money.

Contacted, Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of Savar Model Police Station, said they were informed about the incident and are looking into the matter.

## RAYHAN'S 'DEATH IN CUSTODY' None involved will be spared: SMP commissioner

UNB, Sylhet

Newly-appointed Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) Commissioner Nisharul Arif has said those involved in the killing of Raihan Ahmed will be brought to justice.

"The incident is unwanted and some police officials were involved in it. I'm ashamed. Those who committed the crime will be brought to book no matter which profession they belong to," he said while visiting Raihan's house on Tuesday night. Law enforcement agencies are trying to arrest the criminals, and legal action will be taken against those who helped Akbar flee, he said.

Replying to a question about the role of police administration, he said, "I've joined today and I'll verify it. Besides, there are some instructions from higher concerned and I believe in the plan, placement, and control policy. I believe it'll be possible to bring everything under control."

Referring to suspended SI Akbar, Nisharul said, "All units of law enforcement agencies are working to arrest him."

**In Memory of Our Dearest Mother Mrs. Nurjahan Huq by Ahmed Amanullah, Ahmed Nasrullah & Farida Chowdhury**

**On September 17, 2020** we lost our mother to her long battle with breast cancer undergoing treatments at Johns Hopkins.

She has been loved by a long list of family members, friends and acquaintances. In her memory, we are asking for your prayers and forgiveness and may Allah bless her with Jannat. She leaves behind, 3 children and their spouses, sister, grandchildren, many cousins and nephews and nieces.

### Missing

FROM PAGE 3

"We asked them to go to Banshkhali Police Station along with the witness to lodge a complaint there," said the OC.

Several mid-level police officials told this newspaper on condition of anonymity that a general diary should be recorded in such a case with the police station concerned of the missing person's last known whereabouts.

Contacted yesterday, boat owner Mamtaj said majhi Ariful, who he had rented out the trawler to, has gone into hiding after stealing some items from the boat.

"Ariful's phone is switched off since the boat came back. I have filed a complaint with Patenga police against him, mentioning that some items are missing from my trawler," he told this correspondent.

The missing fisher's brother-in-law Abdul Kader and son told this newspaper yesterday that they are preparing to file a case with the court as they are not sure what Banskhalhi police will tell them if they go there. "They may end up saying that part of the sea is out of their jurisdiction as well," said Emran.

## MISAPPROPRIATING Tk 3.78CR Three former AB Bank officials among four get 13-year sentence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four people, including three former officials of AB Bank Ltd, to 13 years' rigorous imprisonment in absentia for misappropriating Tk 3.78 crore from the bank.

Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka handed down the sentence and also fined them Tk 2 crore and 10 thousand each.

If they fail to pay the fine, they will have to serve another year in jail.

The accused are: Abu Saleh Md Abdul Mazed, former senior vice-president and branch manager; Faruk Ahmed Bhuayan, former principal officer of AB Bank in Motijheel Branch; ANM Bodiuzzaman, former vice-president of Mohakhali's AB Bank; and Khondaker Md Alam Nadim, proprietor of M/S One Thread & Accessories Ltd.

All the accused went into hiding upon getting bail from courts on different dates, according to the prosecution. The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender, the court added.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 11 prosecution witnesses, including the case's complainant.

According to the prosecution, it was alleged that Nadim in January 2014 took Tk 3,78,88,000 as loan from AB Bank and later misappropriated the money in collusion with the bank officials.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against them with Motijheel Police Station on February 9, 2015.

After investigation, ACC Deputy Assistant Director Md Zainul Abedin pressed charges against the four on January 21, 2016. The court framed charges against them on February 24 last year.

**Flat for Rent**

3600sq.ft. 4 bed room, 4 attached bath, 1 common room, 5 veranda, drawing and dining, servant room and toilet, excellent interior at Old DOHS, Banani, Dhaka. Apt-2, House-9, Road-4. Mob: 01712975583. D-128

**Jamuna Oil Company Limited**  
(A subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)  
Jamuna Bhaban, Agrabad, Chattogram

**e-Tender Notice No. 08-2020-21**

Memo No. DGMHR/01/2020 Date: 27.10.2020

This is notify to all concerned that the following tender has been published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID, Reference No. & date of publishing	Name of goods	Last selling, closing and opening date & time
Tender ID: 507300 Reference No. 28.24.0000.350.02.04.20 Publishing date: 27.10.2020	Printing and Supply of Wall Calendar 15000 Nos. and Desk Calendar 2000 Nos. along with Calendar Design and envelope	12.11.2020 12:00 12.11.2020 15:00 12.11.2020 15:00

The interested bidders may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for further details.

**Md. Masud Karim**  
Deputy General Manager (HR)

GD-1719

**Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)**  
BSCIC Industrial Park, Sirajganj (3rd Revised)  
E-mail: [pdsirajganj@bscic.gov.bd](mailto:pdsirajganj@bscic.gov.bd), Website: [www.bscic.gov.bd](http://www.bscic.gov.bd)

**e-Tender Notice No. 05/2020**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works details in table.

Memo No.	Name of work	Package No.	Tender ID
BIP/Siraj/RCC Drain and Culvert Construction-107/2	Construction of internal drain of BSCIC Industrial Park at Sirajganj	PKG/DEV/BIP-SIRAJ/EGP-04/2020-21	506887

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 26/11/2020 at 4.30pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Mohammad Ataur Rahman Siddique**  
Project Director  
BSCIC Industrial Park, Sirajganj  
(3rd Revised)

GD-1722

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়  
জেলা কার্যালয়, মুন্সীগঞ্জ

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পত্র নং-৪৮.০৪.৪৯০০.০৮৮.০৪.০০২.২০-২০২৫ তারিখঃ ২৮-১০-২০২০

১	মহাপ্রাঙ্গন/বিভাগ	স্বর্ণী মহাপ্রাঙ্গন
২	প্রোগ্রাম/সেবা	কারা অফিসের, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা।
৩	সম্পর্ককারী সত্তা	জেলা সুপার, মুন্সীগঞ্জ।
৪	দরপত্রের নাম	বিভিন্ন প্রকারের বাস্তবায়ন সরঞ্জাম।
৫	মেসার/কাল	০১-০১-২০২১ হতে ০১-১২-২০২১ পর্যন্ত সময়ে বিভিন্ন প্রকার বাস্তবায়ন সরঞ্জামের ১ম বাতের দরপত্র।
৬	দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর	১১/২০২০
৭	দরপত্রের প্রাপ্তি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
৮	প্রকার বিস্তারিত	দরপত্র দাখিলের বিস্তারিত
৯	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, জেলা কারাগার, মুন্সীগঞ্জ ও কারা ট্রান্স-অপারেশনের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা।
১০	দরপত্র দাখিলের মুদ্রা	৪০/০।, সেরাশের প্যাসপোর্ট টিকিট।
১১	সরকারের কার্যক্রম	দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়সীমা/সিদ্ধান্ত
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	মুন্সীগঞ্জ জেলা কারাগারের প্রধান কার্যালয়, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, মুন্সীগঞ্জ ও সার কার্যালয়, মুন্সীগঞ্জ।
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের বিস্তারিত	১৫-১১-২০২০ অবধি চলারামীন ২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৪	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১৫-১১-২০২০ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৬-১১-২০২০ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা।
১৬	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	১৬-১১-২০২০ বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকা।
১৭	ব্যাংক ও কারা কার্যালয়	আন্তরিক রাজস্ব তহবিল।
১৮	পাবলিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিধিমালা	২০০৬ ও ২০০৮ অনুযায়ী দরপত্রের সলল কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করা হবে।
১৯	দরপত্র সত্তার অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী	জমা রাখা সর্বশেষের সাবে (অফিস চালুকালীন সময়ে) যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।
২০	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে দরপত্রের বাতিলের ক্ষেত্রে	কোন/কোন দরপত্র বাতিল/প্রত্যাহার করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

জেলা সুপার (স্বর্ণী প্রাঙ্গন)  
জেলা কারাগার, মুন্সীগঞ্জ  
ফোনঃ ৭৬১১০১২ (স্বর্ণী)

জিডি-১৭১৮

Save the Children

**Date: October 29, 2020**  
**Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children**

**Invitation for Tender**

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting for tender from interested experienced bona fide vendors for supplying Services for its offices and other locations in Bangladesh. For details please see the IFT schedule, which is available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

**Description, submission time & date:**

SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Tender Meeting Schedule (Virtual through Zoom - details in Tender Schedule)	Last date of Tender Submission
1	Framework Agreement for Air Ticket Service	IFT/SCI/BDCO/F Y-20/(Manual)/08	November 12, 2020 at 10:00 AM	November 19, 2020 on or before 02:00 PM
2	Group Life and Medical Coverage Insurance	IFT/SCI/BDCO/F Y-20/00012	November 12, 2020 at 12:00 PM	November 19, 2020 on or before 02:00 PM

**Special Instruction:**  
**(a)** All activities in connection with the said procurement of services will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies. **(b)** If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.

Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

**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.: 25.36.2600.130.00.000.00.717 Date: 28/10/2020

**CORRIGENDUM NOTICE (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

This is to inform all concerned that the following correction have been made in the "Invitation for tender" this office Memo No.25.36.2600.130.00.000.00.717 Date: 22/10/2020, for the work (1) Double-base whole body sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to represent his 7<sup>th</sup> March Speech of 1971 & (2) Sculpture replicating Surrender ceremony of Pakistan Army at the Ramna Race Course Ground in Dhaka (the capital of Bangladesh) on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1971

SL No.	To be replaced as
1.	Registration period will be 29.10.2020-05.11.2020 between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM instead of 08.11.2020-12.11.2020 between 10.00 A.M to 5.00 PM.
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.

**(Mohamud Showkat Ullah)**  
Executive Engineer  
City PWD Division, Dhaka.

GD- 1721





Farmers busy planting Aman saplings on land that has recently been reclaimed from Kawadighi Haor in Moulvibazar's Rajnagar upazila.

PHOTO:  
MINTU DESHWARA

## 400 hectares land reclaimed from Kawadighi Haor

Farmers hope for better days as longstanding water logging problem partially solved after 20 years

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Several thousand farmers are finally cultivating Aman rice again on about 400 hectares of land, in Kawadighi Haor of Moulvibazar Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas, which otherwise had been under water for about twenty years.

Last year's renovation conducted on Kashempur Pump House -- originally built in 1983 under Manu River Project, commissioned with the objective to utilise vast areas in the haor to produce Boro rice and other crops -- has made the reclamation of the land possible.

Out of 24 thousand hectares of cropland covered under the project, about 14 thousand hectares became permanently waterlogged over the past twenty

years, when eight pumps in the pump house started to weaken and failed to disperse water to their full capacity, said officials at Water Development Board (WDB) and Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Moulvibazar.

Ranendra Shankar Chakraborty, WDB executive engineer in Moulvibazar, said after the pumps lost efficiency, farmers could not cultivate any crop on around 14 thousand hectares of land within the project area due to permanent stagnation of water.

But after the recent renovation of the old pumps and installation of a few new ones, water pumping capacity of the pump house increased and, as a result, hundreds of farmers in the two upazilas are now planting Aman on about 400

to 450 hectares of land that used to be under water before, he added.

Farmer Muhibur Rahman, from Rasulpur village in Rajnagar upazila, said for the past fifteen years, he had not been able to cultivate any rice on 15 bighas of his land inside the project area due to the water logging.

He is happy this year as the water has receded and he hopes to harvest a substantial amount of Aman rice that he just planted there.

Many other farmers this correspondent spoke with -- including Jidan Mia, from the same village; and Kajal Mia, from Banishree village -- said they also look forward to a better future as they have planted rice on their land after a long time and the weather

seems favourable too.

Nazrul Islam, a farmer from Biraimabad village of Rajnagar upazila, said, he was preparing 15 acres of his land for Aman cultivation.

Kazi Lutful Bari, deputy director of DAE in Moulvibazar, said they set a target of cultivating Aman on 1 lakh and 200 hectares of land this year in Kawadighi Haor, where the crop was cultivated on 1 lakh and 150 hectares last year.

He also said thousands of farmers will benefit from the renovation of the pump house this year and a larger area in the haor, which has remained under water for the past twenty years, will gradually come under cultivation in the near future.

## Fair price brings smile to early variety cabbage farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Cabbage farmers in four upazilas of the district are very happy as they are earning a good profit from sale of early variety of the winter vegetable.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Faridpur, six hectares of land Boalmari, Saltha, Madhukhali and Sadar upazilas have been brought under early variety cabbage cultivation this year.

Under a program titled "Safe Vegetable Production through Environmentally Friendly Techniques", growers of different areas in the upazilas have been cultivating cabbage for the last two years, said Asutos Biswas, sub-deputy director of DAE in Faridpur.

Farmer Sujit Kumar Sikdar of Narayanpur village in Sadar upazila said he has cultivated cabbage on his 40 decimals of land this season, spending Tk 25,000. He has already got Tk 80,000 from sale of 50 maunds of the early variety vegetable. Per maund of cabbage was sold at Tk 1600.

He hopes he will get Tk 20,000 more from sale of the cabbage.

He used only organic fertiliser in his land with the help of a local NGO, added Sujit.

Md Shariful Islam, another cabbage grower of Bhimpur village in Boalmari upazila, said he has been cultivating early variety cabbage for five years. This year, he has cultivated the cabbage on 25 decimals of land spending Tk 30,000.

He hopes that he can sell the winter vegetable next week.

"I hope I will earn a profit of Tk 40,000 from sale of the early winter vegetable this year," added Shariful.

Another farmer of the same area Somir Kumar Biswas said, early variety cabbage cultivation is more profitable compared to

other vegetable in this season.

"I planted the cabbage saplings on the last week of July and hope I can sell it from the next week," he said.

A good number of farmers are showing interest to cultivate cabbage this season, he added.

Md Mocha Mollah, a cabbage grower of Baghat village in Madhukhali upazila, said



An early variety cabbage field at Narayanpur village in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

he has already earned a good profit from sale of the early variety vegetable.

"I have cultivated cabbage on 50 decimals of land. I have already started selling cabbage at Tk 65 to Tk 75 per kg this year, which was Tk 40 to Tk 65 last year," he added.

DAE official Asutos Biswas said they have provided all sorts of necessary support to the early variety cabbage farmers this year.

The growers are earning a good profit from selling the winter vegetable this season, he said.

## Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

The Awami League parliamentary party in a four-hour meeting today completes the examination of the amendments suggested to the draft constitution. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman presides over the meeting. Shah Moazzem Hossain, chief whip of the ALPP, informs that some minor amendments improving the draft constitution here and there have been accepted by the parliamentary party. Bangabandhu is learnt to have expressed satisfaction in the parliamentary party's meeting at the hard work put in by the members to give the nation a constitution within such a short time, reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people who had to make unprecedented sacrifices for achieving independence.

SOURCES: October 30, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

## Massive

FROM PAGE 12

research organization Schmidt Ocean Institute announced Monday.

The reef was first discovered on October 20, as scientists completed an underwater mapping of the seafloor of the northern Great Barrier Reef.

At 500 meters high, it is taller than the Empire State Building (381 meters to the top floor), the Sydney Tower (305 meters) and the Petronas Twin Towers (451.9 meters.)

## Internet to remain slow

FROM PAGE 12

which will continue till November 2," said Global Services Management Center, Bharti Airtel Limited while informing its counterpart organisation in Bangladesh.

Earlier on Tuesday, Airtel said its upgradation activities in the Seabone cable from Chennai to Singapore will begin tomorrow and continue till November 2.

On October 26, Bharti Airtel Ltd said they were planning to start the maintenance work from Tuesday midnight.

Airtel, however, yesterday said, "As per the latest DPR [Development Progress Report] received from the Cable ship today, the cable diversion activity of i2i is expected to start tentatively from October 30 and continue till November 2."

"The planned outage schedule may change depending on the progress of the preceding cable diversions and weather conditions," it also said.

Industry experts have said that internet users may face reduced speed in some areas for five days starting tomorrow.

"Latency and congestion are likely to increase in some destinations, especially during the peak hours -- 8:00pm to 1:00am," Ahmed Junayed, secretary general, International Internet Getaway Association, Bangladesh (IIGAB), told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also said Bangladesh may experience outages of between 100 gigabytes per second (gbps) and 150gbps due to the equipment changes being by Bharti Airtel Limited at their Seabone cable at the Singapore end.

Junayed, who is also the vice-president of Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) and managing director of Level 3 Carrier Ltd (IIG), said Bangladesh currently has 1,700gbps bandwidth.

"Therefore, outages of 100 to 150gbps bandwidth would not have much effect on internet usage," he added.

The latency and congestion level in internet usage may be at a minimum, he said.

IT expert Junayed said major IIG operators have already taken some alternative arrangements to tackle the situation, adding, "We hope internet users will not face much problem from October 30 [tomorrow] to November 2."

There are 39 IIGs in Bangladesh, of which 25 to 30 are operational.

Only the top three would be affected by the maintenance work, industry experts said.

IIGs import bandwidth from abroad and sell them among ISPs. There are 2,100 licensed ISPs across the country.

The South East Asia -- Middle East -- Western Europe 4 (SEA-ME-WE 4) is an approximately 18,800 km-long submarine cable connecting Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Italy, Tunisia, Algeria and France.

"The SEA-ME-WE 4 is up. There is no maintenance over it. Only those IIGs that are using the SEA-ME-WE 4 from Cox's Bazar to Chennai and then are connected to the i2i to reach Singapore would be affected," said an industry insider.

The total number of internet subscribers rose 8.3 percent to an all-time high of 10.82 crore at the end of August, compared to February's 9.99 crore.

## 2 witnesses fail to appear

FROM PAGE 12

controversial raid conducted by Detective Branch of police in 2016.

Judge Tehsin Iftekhar of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-15 of Dhaka passed the order after the prosecution filed a petition.

Ten prosecution witnesses out of 13 have so far testified, court sources said.

In the petition, the prosecution said the two witnesses failed to appear before the court for unknown reasons. So, the hearing should not be held.

During a raid at the Hotel Bondhu in the capital's Paltan on November 6, 2016, a team of plainclothes officials from the Detective Branch of police detained hotel manager Hasan Majumdar and chef Sohel Rana. The CCTV camera of Hotel Bondhu captured it all.

But the first information report prepared by the police a day after the incident, on November 7, gives a completely different story, contradicting the video clips and multiple witness accounts.

According to the FIR lodged with Motijheel Police Station, officers arrested Hasan and Sohel from an alley near Fakirapool Fish Market area around 4:15pm. The two were held 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.

Sub-Inspector Dewan Uzzal Hossain of Motijheel Police Station pressed charges against the duo on September 19, 2017. On October 29 that year, the charges were framed against them.

Following the incident, Hasan and his brother Hossain Majumdar lodged 10 complaints -- six with the Police Headquarters, two with Dhaka Metropolitan Police, one with the Prime Minister's Office, and one with the home ministry -- on different dates over the last four years.

Multiple probe committees were formed by the Police Headquarters and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police to investigate the allegations against nine DB men of Motijheel Zonal Team who conducted the controversial drive.

## Delhi to start issuing

FROM PAGE 12

travelling facilities to the maximum number of Bangladeshis.

Indian High Commission currently issues medical, business, employment, entry, journalist, diplomatic, official, UN official and UN diplomatic visas.

At the programme, he also said that airlines were the safest mode of travelling, maintaining health guidelines amid Covid-19 situation.

Bangladesh is one of the 14 countries with whom India has Air Bubble Agreement. Indian High Commission in Bangladesh used to issue between 7,000 and 10,000 visas to the Bangladeshis every day. Now, it is issuing around 1,000 visas a day.

"We hope it could pick up rapidly... Bangladesh is a priority. Those who need to travel urgently, please come to us. We will be happy to facilitate visas," he said.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Vice-Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said they were cautious to ensure peoples' health safety as they operate flights.

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 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.

US-Bangla Airlines will operate flights on Dhaka-Chennai, Dhaka-Kolkata and from Chittagong-Chennai routes.

The national flag carrier, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, will also resume regular passenger flights to India from today. Biman will operate weekly three flights each on the Dhaka-Delhi-Dhaka route from October 29, Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka route from November 1, and Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka route from November 15, Biman Managing Director and CEO Mokabbir Hossain said.

Biman, US-Bangla Airlines and 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 under the agreement.

## Trump

FROM PAGE 12

on Nov. 3, instead of counting ballots for two weeks, which is totally inappropriate and I don't believe that that's by our laws," Trump told reporters at the White House before leaving for campaign rallies in three states.

## 23 more

FROM PAGE 12

General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the coronavirus death toll reached 5,861, which is 1.45 percent of all cases -- 403,079 -- confirmed in the country.

The authorities reported 1,493 new infections after conducting 12,357 tests at 111 testing centres in those 24 hours, said the release, adding that the positivity rate was 12.08 percent.

## No space

FROM PAGE 12

"The boundary question is a bilateral matter between China and India.

The two sides have been discussing disengagement and de-escalation in the border areas through diplomatic and military channels. China and India have the wisdom and ability to handle their differences properly.

There's no space for a third party to intervene," said a statement released by the Chinese Embassy.

## Two held for gang-raping

FROM PAGE 12

"Bashar and the victim knew each other [from before]. The girl used to work as a domestic help in the port city.

"Bashar helped the girl get the job, after which the employer told him that they did not need her and to take the girl home. He came to the port city and took the girl to Banshkhali instead to rape her. After Bashar, his friend Jamir raped her," added the OPC.

Hearing the girl's screams, locals rescued her and informed police, who arrested the duo that very night.

The victim was sent to the One-Stop Crisis Center of Chattogram Medical College Hospital for medical tests, while her mother filed a case against the duo.

Another two people were arrested from Chattogram for raping a girl in Moulvibazar.

Besides, a court in Dhaka recorded statement of a 13-year-old rape victim.

According to the statement, the girl, who is a theatre activist, met Fazlul Haque, founder of a theatre group, on October 20.

When Fazlul found the girl alone, he took his friend Akther's help to rape her, said Abdul Momen, sub-inspector of Hazaribagh Police Station.

On the other hand in Faridpur, two men -- Zahurul and Abdullah -- forcibly picked up a girl and took her to a secluded spot where one Elias was waiting to rape her, said Md Aminul Rahman, OC of Boalmari Police Station.

Sensing trouble, locals caught Elias and handed him over to police.

In Jashore, a court yesterday sent a man to jail on charge of raping a woman.

Manik Hossain, 24, a resident of Barandipara area in the district town, raped the girl on October 27 after making promises of marriage.

Later, the victim called an official of the administration, after which law enforcers rescued her and arrested the alleged rapist, said Moniruzaman, OC of the Jashore Kotwa Police Station.

In Moulvibazar, another young man was sued over rape charges on Tuesday at Kamalganj upazila.

The accused is Jubayed Ali Shakil, 25.

On Tuesday, the girl gave her statement before a court in Dhaka, police sources said. Meanwhile, a housewife was gang raped in Panchagarh and a case was filed in this regard with Boda Police Station on Tuesday night, after which police arrested four accused in an overnight drive.

They were produced before court yesterday afternoon, after which they were sent to jail.

(Our correspondents from Faridpur, Chattogram, Benapole and Moulvibazar contributed to the report.)

**ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়**

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক  
প্রধান কার্যালয়  
ঢাকা

তারিখঃ ১১ কার্তিক, ১৪২৭  
২৭ অক্টোবর, ২০২০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নংঃ ১৩৫/২০২০

**সমন্বিত ৪টি ব্যাংকে 'কর্মকর্তা (সাধারণ)' পদে নিয়োগ প্রসঙ্গে**

বিগত ২১/০৬/২০১৯ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত ও ২৫/০৮/২০১৯ তারিখ হতে ১৮/০৯/২০১৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মধ্যে ১৬৯ (একশত উনসত্তর) জন প্রার্থী সমন্বিত ৪টি ব্যাংকে 'কর্মকর্তা (সাধারণ)' পদে ২য় পর্যায়ে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন। নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে (<https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) upload করা হয়েছে।

নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রম সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ব্যাংক, কর্মসংস্থান ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত হবে।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-  
**আরিফ হোসেন খান**  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক  
ও  
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২০-৩০৩৯  
তারিখঃ ২৮/১০/২০২০  
জিডি-১৭২৩

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

ডাক ও টেলিযোগাযোগ বিভাগ  
লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ  
মেইলিং অপারেটর ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান  
ডাক ভবন, ঢাকা-১০০০

২৬ আশ্বিন ১৪২৭  
তারিখঃ ১১ অক্টোবর ২০২০

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার "The Post Office Act, 1898" এর অনুবৃত্তিক্রমে প্রণীত সংশোধনী "The Post Office (Amendment) Act, 2010 Section 4B এ প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাবলে এস আর ও নং- ৩৪৯ আইন/২০১৩ মূলে "মেইলিং অপারেটর ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস বিধিমালা-২০১৩" জারি করেছে। উক্ত বিধিমালায় ১১(১) বিধি অনুযায়ী লাইসেন্স ব্যতীত কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক মেইলিং ও কুরিয়ার ব্যবসা পরিচালনা করা সম্পূর্ণ বেআইনী ও আইনতঃ দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ।

সম্প্রতি লক্ষ করা যাচ্ছে, কিছু কিছু প্রতিষ্ঠান লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ, মেইলিং অপারেটর ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ না করেই কুরিয়ার ব্যবসা পরিচালনা করছে আবার কিছু প্রতিষ্ঠান মেয়াদোত্তীর্ণ লাইসেন্স নিয়ে ব্যবসা পরিচালনা করছে। এমনকি লাইসেন্সবিহীন কিছু প্রতিষ্ঠান পত্র-পত্রিকায় ও অনলাইনে কুরিয়ার ব্যবসার বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও এজেন্ট নিয়োগের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচার করছে। এধরনের কর্মকর্তা সরকারি নিয়ম-নীতির সম্পূর্ণ পরিপন্থী ও বেআইনী। সরকারি নিয়ম-নীতি বিহীন অবৈধ কর্মকর্তা থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে সতর্ক করা হলো।

এছাড়াও লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ, মেইলিং অপারেটর ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ ব্যতিরেকে অথবা হালনাগাদ লাইসেন্স নেই এমন কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের এজেন্ট নিয়োগ না হওয়ার জন্য এবং উক্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে ডাক দ্রব্যাদি শ্রেণের না করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা হলো।

মেঃ শাহাদাত হোসেন  
চেয়ারম্যান (অতিরিক্ত সচিব)  
লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ  
মেইলিং অপারেটর ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান

জিডি-১৭১৩



NEWS IN BRIEF

US senators push Uighurs 'genocide' bill

US senators sought Tuesday to declare that China is committing genocide against Uighurs and other Turkic-speaking Muslims, a step that could ramp up pressure on behalf of the estimated one million-plus people in camps.

US firms fund deforestation, abuses in Amazon: report

Major US financial firms are helping fund environmental destruction and indigenous rights abuses in the Amazon with billions of dollars in investments in questionable companies, according to a report published Tuesday.

Millions queue to vote in Bihar under Covid gloom

Millions of Indians turned out to cast ballots in a state election in the world's biggest vote since the coronavirus emerged, with booths packed out and many ignoring government advice on wearing masks and social distancing.

A method behind the madness!

After a chaotic term, 'Trump Doctrine' remakes US approach to world

AFP, Washington

With his insults of US allies, soft spot for autocratic rulers and contempt for international agreements, President Donald Trump has turned US foreign policy on its head over a chaotic four years.

But behind the bombast, is there in fact a "Trump Doctrine," a method behind the madness on which voters will decide on November 3?

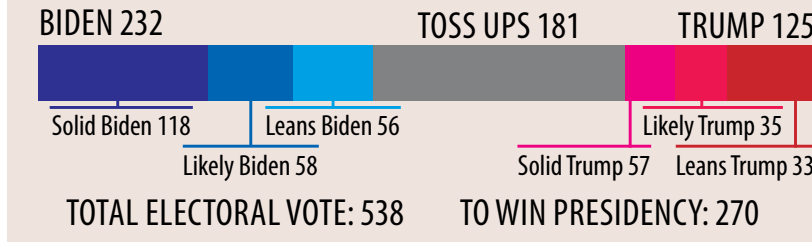
Trump has embraced the term "America First," reflecting his campaign promises four years ago of curbing immigration, confronting a rising China, winding down "endless wars" and renegotiating trade deals that the tycoon charged had hurt US workers.

Colin Dueck, a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and author of "Age of Iron: On Conservative Nationalism," said that Trump's worldview has on some core issues been strikingly consistent.

"I think there is a kind of Trump Doctrine, even though it obviously doesn't fit the usual DC pattern at all," Dueck said.



US ELECTION Electoral vote map (Projected)



SOURCE: REALCLEARPOLITICS

Dueck noted that Trump has constantly prioritized US commercial interests and has questioned the need for military deployments, most recently vowing to speed up the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

In style, the real estate mogul -- who has boasted for decades of his negotiating skills -- has shown a

willingness to engage widely, putting out not just barbed tweets but also eyebrow-raising praise.

"He's open to negotiating with almost anybody other than ISIS," Dueck said of Trump. "The up-and-down ladder of escalation is characteristic."

Even if Trump is not known to be a student of history, Dueck said that

Trump was reviving a pre-Cold War US approach to the world.

Leaders of Trump's Republican Party a century ago similarly ran on the "America First" slogan -- slamming the brakes on immigration, rejecting the fledgling League of Nations and vigorously promoting economic goals.

The US as an independent actor, not thinking of multilateral commitments of having primary importance, and just looking at the world from the point of view of does this serve American interests narrowly defined -- it was a dominant strain of American foreign policy for generations prior to World War II.

On the flip side, Trump has for the first time raised questions about US commitments to the Nato alliance and aggravated the impact of the Covid crisis, Thomas Wright, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said.

"I think there's uncertainty about America's role in the world that wasn't there before," Wright said.

Even if Trump loses, his impact will likely be long-lasting for the United States and the world.

REUTERS/IPSON POLL

6 SWING STATES

Biden leads Trump nationally by 10 percentage points, according to the poll. Five percent said they were considering a third-party candidate and only 2% said they did not know yet how they would vote.

Michigan (16 Electoral votes): Biden 52%, Trump 43%

North Carolina (15 Electoral votes): Biden 49%, Trump 48%

Wisconsin (10 Electoral votes): Biden 53%, Trump 44%

Pennsylvania (20 Electoral votes): Biden 50%, Trump 45%

Florida (29 Electoral votes): Biden 50%, Trump 46%

Arizona (11 Electoral votes): Biden 49%, Trump 46%

'He speaks directly to the people'

AGENCIES

Melania Trump raged against the 'sham' impeachment of her husband, the media and "divisive" Democrats in rare political attack.

In her speech Trump, an anti-bullying campaigner, also defended her husband's daily social media attacks.

"For the first time in history the citizens of this country get to hear directly from their president, every single day through social media," said Ms Trump.

"I do not always agree with the way he says things but it is important to him that he speaks directly to the people he serves."

The first lady went after the Democrats for "caring more about removing our elected president" than concentrating on coronavirus when it broke out in the US earlier this year.

Trump's fiery accusations on Tuesday came during her first campaign event in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, less than a week before election day.

"The Democrats have chosen to put their own agendas ahead of the American people, they intend to create a divide, a divide, that causes confusion and fear instead of security, that is not leadership," she said.



'Tweeting ... doesn't fix things'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Speaking at a Biden-Harris campaign rally in Florida, Barack Obama ridiculed Donald Trump for being jealous of the media coverage that the coronavirus pandemic receives.

"What's his closing argument? That people are too focused on Covid. He said this at one of his rallies. 'Covid. Covid Covid,' he's complaining. He's jealous of Covid's media coverage," the former president said.

He took the administration and Trump personally to task over the response to the pandemic that has now cost the lives of 226,000 Americans.

"You can't think of anything you might be doing differently?" Earlier, regarding the coronavirus response, Obama had mocked



Trump with the line: "Tweeting at the TV doesn't fix things."

He urged voters to vote early. "We can't be complacent. We were complacent last time... Look what happened... Not this time, not in this election," he said.

Obama's speech was covered live by all of the major news networks.

A reference to Trump's "secret Chinese bank account" and the fact he had paid more in taxes in China than the \$750 he reportedly paid in the US, elicited a response from the president himself.

"Now Fox News is playing Obama's no crowd, fake speech for Biden, a man he could barely endorse because he couldn't believe he won. Also, I PREPAID many Millions of Dollars in Taxes," Trump tweeted.

Outsiders now can buy land in Kashmir

REUTERS, Srinagar

India has amended a law in Jammu and Kashmir allowing Indian citizens to buy land in the disputed territory, said officials, sparking opposition criticism about a steady erosion of the rights of Kashmiri people.

A notification issued on Tuesday stated that the term "being permanent resident of the state" as a criteria has been "omitted", paving the way for even non-Kashmiri Indians to purchase land in the Himalayan region.

Until last year, the region enjoyed a special status, guaranteed by the Indian constitution, which allowed it to make its own rules about permanent residency and property ownership.

Opposition leaders in Kashmir have criticised the Modi government for rewriting the land laws.

"The amendments have put Jammu and Kashmir up for sale... These new laws are unacceptable to people of J&K," said former J&K CM Omar Abdullah in a tweet.

Pompeo slams 'predator' China on Sri Lanka trip

AGENCIES

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called China's Communist government a "predator" yesterday, during a trip to boost ties with Sri Lanka, which has received huge investment and diplomatic support from Beijing.

Pompeo made his latest attack on China after talks with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on security cooperation to keep open vital Indian Ocean sea lanes just south of Sri Lanka.

"A strong sovereign Sri Lanka is a powerful strategic partner for the United States on the world stage," Pompeo told reporters as he wrapped up a 12-hour visit, the second stop on a four-nation tour.

Pompeo described how Washington has provided military training and recently gifted two coastguard vessels, contrasting its assistance with China.

"We see from bad deals, violations of sovereignty and lawlessness on land and sea that the Chinese Communist Party is a predator, and the United States comes in a different way, we come as a friend, and as a partner," Pompeo told a televised news conference in the capital, Colombo.

The Chinese embassy in Colombo hit back, tweeting a promotional image for the "Aliens vs Predator" video game.

"Sorry Mr. Secretary Pompeo, we're busy promoting China-Sri Lanka friendship and cooperation, not interested in your Alien vs Predator game invitation," it said.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena made no reference to China,



but at a press conference with Pompeo, told reporters that the country maintains a non-aligned foreign policy.

Sri Lanka borrowed billions of dollars from China for infrastructure when Rajapaksa's brother Mahinda was the country's leader from 2005 until 2015. Unable to service a \$1.4 billion loan to build a deep sea port, the country was forced to lease the port to a Chinese firm for 99 years in 2017.

On Tuesday, the Chinese embassy accused Pompeo of trying to "coerce and bully" Sri Lanka with his visit.

Anti-China comments have been a key theme of Pompeo's Asian tour this week, which began in India and will now take him on to the Maldives and Indonesia.

China has in the past helped Sri Lanka fight off allegations of human rights violations, particularly in the final months of a decades-long civil war, when the current president was the country's top defence official. Washington has insisted on credible investigations into charges that Sri Lankan troops killed at least 40,000 civilians as they crushed Tamil Tiger separatist rebels in 2009.

Virus ravages Europe, US

Germany, France among countries to enact new tougher restrictions

AFP, Paris

People in France and Germany were bracing yesterday for tough new curbs on their daily lives as Europe struggled to contain an alarming surge in coronavirus cases with winter looming.

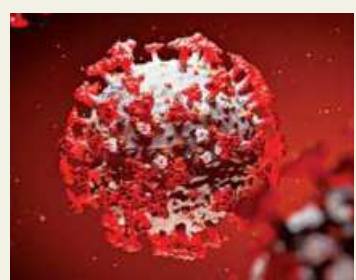
The deepening gloom across the continent contrasted with the jubilation in Australia's second city of Melbourne where champagne corks popped to celebrate the end of a months-long lockdown.

The pandemic has unleashed devastation across the global economy since emerging in China at the end of last year. And in the absence of a vaccine or effective treatment, countries are being forced to impose widely unpopular Covid-19 restrictions that have sparked violent clashes in Italy.

In Europe, the main stock markets tumbled as investors fretted over the tighter measures expected to be imposed in the EU's leading economies.

Daily cases of Covid-19 in France have topped 50,000, while Germany is regularly reporting 10,000 new infections.

French President Emmanuel Macron is to address the nation yesterday evening to present new measures, with doctors warning that many hospitals are just days away from



US reports half a million cases in a week

Cases in India nears 8m

Australia cheers end of Melbourne lockdown

being overrun with patients. Reports say Macron might extend the hours of an overnight curfew already imposed on 46 million people, possibly with a full lockdown on weekends, or else order targeted lockdowns for the hardest-hit regions.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is also expected to push for tighter restrictions in crisis talks with regional leaders. The proposed measures include closing restaurants and bars and putting strict limits on private

and public gatherings while keeping schools, daycares and shops open, according to the Bild daily.

And in Russia, an order making masks mandatory at public gatherings, on public transport and in elevators is set to come into force Wednesday.

The new restrictions are likely to test the resolve and patience of many. Anger has already boiled over in Italy, where thousands have protested in recent days against anti-coronavirus curbs.

But there was exhilaration and relief Down Under yesterday as Melbourne's five million people were able to return to shops and restaurants after months at home.

Across the world, the coronavirus has infected close to 44 million people, with well over 1.1 million deaths. In the United States, President Donald Trump and his challenger Joe Biden are trading barbs over the handling of the pandemic as campaigning enters the final week ahead of the November 3 vote.

The US is reporting tens of thousands of new cases every day, with the overall caseload fast approaching nine million and a death toll over 225,000.

After the US, India is the most infected nation on the planet, with nearly eight million cases and tens of thousands of new infections daily.

Official notice from the Bangladesh Police regarding the 2020-2021 recruitment exam. Includes details on exam dates, subjects, and a table of exam fees for various categories.



FRESH OFF THE PRESS: FICTION

# Rumaan Alam's New Novel Is Impossible To Leave Behind

SARAH ANJUM BARI

One of my favourite books in the world is Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Not much of this has to do with the usual American dream metaphor. No, I love *Gatsby* because it is deliciously readable, because it speaks to something fundamental in the individual reader's hopes, fears, habits, those flitting half-thoughts that flicker in the twilight zone between thought and speech or act.

Rumaan Alam's latest novel, *Leave The World Behind* (Ecco Books, 2020)—which will soon star Julia Roberts and Denzel Washington in a Netflix adaptation directed by Sam Esmail of *Mr Robot* fame—promises exactly the same experience, except it is more crisp and tense, it concerns a little more mundane and therefore relatable.

Clay and Amanda have booked an Airbnb on a secluded patch of Long Island to vacate with their teenage son and daughter. They have left their cramped New York apartment behind for some respite away from the jobs they're addicted to, the classes Clay teaches and the book reviews he owes to the *Times*, the work emails Amanda needs to feel needed, to indulge in a house that "ha[s] the hush expensive houses do", owned by people

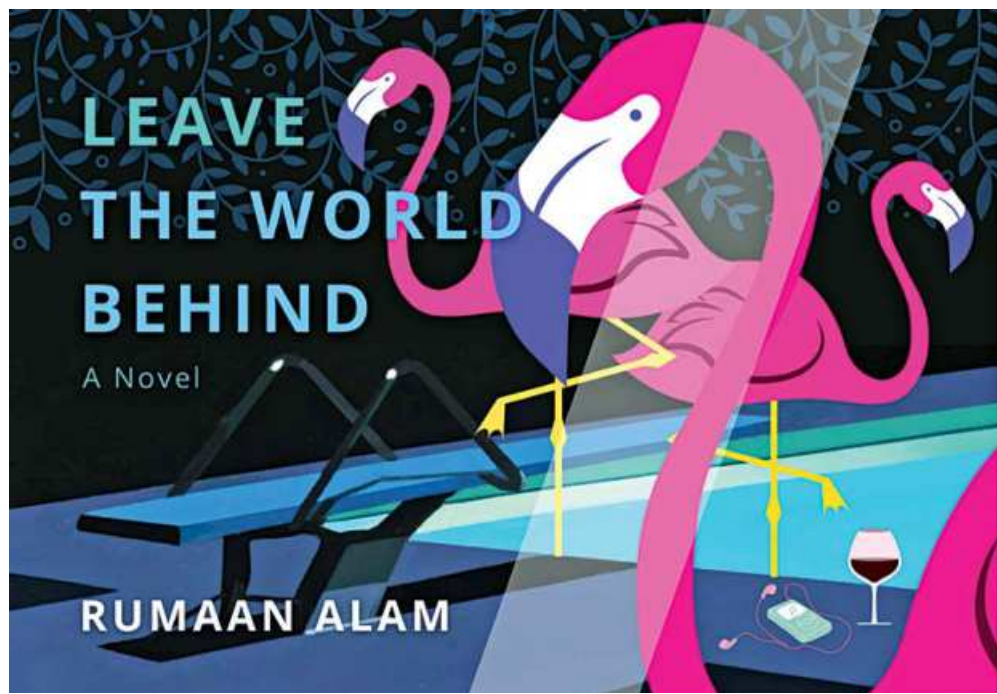


PHOTO DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

the cowardice, selfishness and courage of human nature shaped by class, race, and tribal instinct.

The downside is that there isn't much in the way of character or plot development, and the interiors of one half of the families feels less deeply explored than the other. The plus side is that the characters are supposed to appear fully baked. This book is more about working out the ingredients that went into the mix and facing discomfort and shame when we recognise parts of ourselves in the characters' responses to danger.

All of which could have been tedious reading in the hands of a lesser writer. But Rumaan Alam just has an easy grace about him that leaks into his prose, lending it humour, edge, and a certain fluidity. He is interested in contradictions—our presumptions of who should own what, in the textures of modern life—"an anticipatory scream, then they met the water with that delicious clash", and in letting the detritus of life under capitalism contribute to character-building—"She bought organic hot dogs and inexpensive buns and the same ketchup everyone bought. [...] She bought three pints of Ben & Jerry's politically virtuous ice cream and a Duncan Hines boxed mix for a yellow cake [...]. because parenthood had taught her that on a vacation's inevitable rainy day you could while away an hour by baking a boxed cake."

These elements of contemporary life are more than props, however. As the danger

begins to make itself more apparent, this relationship of object-consumer is turned on its head, so that we're suddenly forced to reassess what the things we consume stand for in themselves. What is a human being without her access to news and Wifi? What are DVDs and *Friends* in the absence of human life?

Focusing on these dynamics allows Alam to economise on length and indulge in mood-building, so that one whizzes through the 256 short pages, drinking up the incredibly relatable nuances of what it means to be a mother, a father, grandparents, a black man, a white woman, a teenage boy, an almost-teenage girl and, above all, alive, which is such a precarious thing to be. Alam, whose Bangladeshi parents moved to the USA in the 1970s, writes through the lens of an American family steeped in American politics and consumerism; but the nuances of his writing resonate far and wide.

Upon arriving at the last page, the reader of *Leave The World Behind*—just like the reader of Fitzgerald's last lines in *Gatsby*, "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past", is sent back immediately to the very first page. They are stuck in the loop of its compulsive readability.

Sarah Anjum Bari is editor of Daily Star Books. Reach her at [sarah.anjum.bari@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.anjum.bari@gmail.com) and [@wordsinteal](https://www.instagram.com/wordsinteal) on Instagram.

FROM PAGES TO PIXELS

# "It's you, it's me, it's us": Bly Manor's Homage to Henry James

SHEHRIN HOSSAIN

Effigies with their own minds, tinkling music boxes, mysterious cracks in the wall, and a long-haired spectre trailing the grounds of a vast, echoing mansion in her deathbed nightgown—the Gothic horror story is well and alive in 2020 in Mike Flanagan's *The Haunting of Bly Manor*, the follow-up to the wildly popular 2018 Netflix series *The Haunting of Hill House*.

While *Hill House* revived the eponymous novel by Shirley Jackson, *Bly Manor* is adapted from a few different works of the horror pioneering 19th century American author Henry James, with his 1898 novella *The Turn of the Screw* at the centre of the narrative.

*The Haunting of Bly Manor*, as in *The Turn of the Screw*, features as its primary protagonist a governess, called Dani Clayton in the show, who arrives at Bly to take on the care of the orphaned Miles and Flora Wingrave. The children's family is made up of only the inhabitants and employees of Bly. Soon after her arrival, Dani starts to suspect that the place is haunted by two former employees of the manor.

For fans of Flanagan's earlier project, the ghosts and tragedies of *Bly* might seem tame in comparison to the jump-scares and tangibly thrilling action of *Hill House*; here, they are swapped out for psychology and atmosphere. The narrative drags at some points, with overly sentimental dialogue, convoluted screenplay, a few anticlimactic build-ups and, yes, some bad acting. But what makes *Bly Manor* special is the homage it pays to the very specifically psychotic Gothic horror that James explored in his work.

*The Turn of the Screw* is not an easy read. Most of its seemingly never-ending passages are dedicated solely to mapping the governess's internal conflicts, with little space for actual plot development. The story shuffles along at a snail's pace that might be considered ill-suited to its genre. And yet, it's bone-chilling.

Inside the great manor, against an idyllic backdrop and beneath the bright-eyed innocence of the orphaned children shift the currents of centuries-old secrets. The governess is faced with new, increasingly existential questions every day, while the reader can't help but wonder whether it's not her sanity that should be questioned.

Psychotic and impressionistic, James's stories lead the reader through such mental mazes where the real terror that rears its head is perception or knowledge itself. The resulting feeling is, of course, entrapment. And trapped is exactly what the inhabitants of Flanagan's Bly Manor are as well, whether they are living or dead.

Such entrapment is a state we can all relate to in the current time, stagnating in Netflix-binging loops, monotonous domestic routines and stale interactions—a collective inertia that forces us into the corners of our minds, where memories of happier, easier times taunt us, making us wonder if things ever really were that good. In that sense, with regret as its central theme, *Bly* resonates deeply. It charts precisely the ways in which rage and loneliness have the power to efface and erase us.



ILLUSTRATION: ZAREEN MAHIA

*The Haunting of Bly Manor* might not be the scariest horror story there is, but it's certainly one of the most heart-breaking. Even as it diverges from its source material, it stays true to the lesson contained in James's novella, which is to explore the way memories trap us and regret ensnares us if we don't do our best to move forward. Hopefully, the viewer comes away with something of the notion that there is solace to be found, in words like Jamie, the gardener's: "The fear of losing someone shouldn't stop us from loving them."

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who are "rich enough to be thoughtful." They are a middle class white family, and this is important. When after two days of gorgeously languorous beach time, pool time, ice cream-on-the-couch time an elderly black couple knocks on the door late at night, bringing news of a city-wide blackout in New York, the two families are stuck together in a capsule, deprived even of the mind-saving powers of grocery runs and the internet.

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OPINION

# The Untapped Powers of Bengali Folk Horror

RASHA JAMEEL

When I was a child, every night, I'd ask my parents to tell me a story when they tucked me into bed. From talking trees to scheming foxes, the mystical realm of Bengali folklore was a bottomless well from which my pre-adolescent mind drank with thirst. It led me to what can only be deemed as the Holy Grail of Bengali folklore: *Thakurmar Jhuli* (1907).

First published in 1907, the four lengthy volumes anthologised mythological stories from all the corners of Bengal, by the late Dakshinranjan Mitra Majumdar. His three other volumes—*Thakurdadar Jhuli* (1909), *Dadamashayer Thale* (1913), and *Thandidir Thale* (1909)—all conjure a similarly homely atmosphere, in which children discover mysticism in Bengal through the stories of Lalkamal-Neelkamal, Heeramon, Kiranmala, and Rajkanya Kolaboti, narrated by grandparents.

Those stories feel relatable, filling you with a sense of dread that somewhere, somehow, they are real. Yet the genre's biggest appeal lies in its political undercurrents. There are ghosts who reflect religious segregation—the Mamdo Bhoot and Djinn of the Muslim communities, the Shakchunni and Petni who terrorise Hindus; ghosts who illustrate the disturbing dominance of patriarchy in Bengal—Dainee and Pishachini; and classist monsters like Jokkho and Rakkhosh, who prey on beings inferior to them in both strength and stature. The stories ring with the trauma and regressive practices surrounding religious and class-based differences across the Bengali community, for which blood is spilled in the name of superficial purity. Ghosts appear as spirits of vengeance from horrible tragedies of gender-based violence, notably female



ILLUSTRATION: NAVIRA AZMAT

infanticide and forced child marriage.

Many of us are also drawn to the aesthetics of it all. There is always the massive, near-palatial *jomidarbari*, the lavish and intricate décor in the halls within, and the inhabitants dressed with an old-world charm and elegance, all of which offer us Bengali readers a common ground rooted in colonial history, which we couldn't find in the Gothic novels set

in the English countryside.

It is unfortunate that imported horror seems to have trumped all this beautiful, rich local produce. Bengali authors in the past have contributed generously to the preservation of Bengali folk horror in literature, such as in *Konkal* (1892), *Goshaibaganer Bhoot* (1979), *Lal Chul*. That legacy began to wane as the language and style became

less comprehensible—too dense and tiresome—for audiences at home and abroad, but authors like Humayun Ahmed and Muhammad Zafar Iqbal retained the efforts of their predecessors with the *Misir Ali* series and short stories like *O* (2008) and *Pishachini* (1992). But while Anam Biswas's 2018 revival of *Debi* enjoyed both critical and audience acclaim, even that seemed to offer a lukewarm experience compared to the story originally penned by Ahmed.

Enter Netflix's *Bulbbul* (2020) and *Typewriter* (2019), inspired by Tagore and Satyajit Ray's *Charulata* (1964), *Fritz*, *Nastanirh* (1901), and Amazon Prime Video's *Tumbbad* (2018), a period horror about generations of men greedy for cursed inheritance.

As impressive as these efforts are, the problem with them is the same as that with Biswas's *Debi*, which is that they seem to have been adapted with insincerity, offering diluted story lines crammed with mythological references. The scale and content of this genre could have been phenomenal, given the platforms and resources at our disposal. Sadly, audiences with access to streaming platforms are only on the hunt for "binge-able" content these days, instead of insightful exploration.

Amidst the sea of *Dracula* spin-offs and *Exorcist* reboots—with more recent additions like *Hill House* (2018) or *Bly Manor* (2020)—the once-glimmering, marshy ghost-light of Bengali folk horror falters. But all it takes is a peek into the mystical realm inhabited by the likes of the fearsome Brahmodaittyo, and one can never look back.

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DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

## THE SHELF 10 HORROR NOVELS FROM BANGLADESH AND ABROAD

STAR BOOKS DESK

Halloween is merely a cover--our lives seem plenty steeped in horror this year, confined within physical and psychological walls, breathing in particles that could be fatal and contagious. Perhaps reading some spooky fiction, instead of scaring us, can offer some welcome escape and the relief of finding one's struggles reflected on the page. These horror novels published in 2020 in Bangla and English promise to do just that.

All the Bangla books are available on [Rokomari.com](http://Rokomari.com).

Read about the books on *The Daily Star* website, or on [fb.com/DailyStarBooks](https://fb.com/DailyStarBooks) and [@thedailystar-books](https://www.instagram.com/thedailystar-books) on Instagram.



## Another case of questionable arrest and harassment

*Why hasn't any action been taken against law enforcers, despite the CCTV footage?*

It has been four years since Hasan Majumder, manager of Hotel Bandhu, and the then chef Sohel Rana were captured by a CCTV camera being handcuffed and taken away by a group of DB men in civilian clothing. Another camera on the ground floor of the building captured the two being taken away around 12:25 pm. Yet, according to an FIR filled with the Motijheel Police Station, officers had apparently arrested Hasan and Sohel from an alley near Fakirapool Fish Market area around 4:15pm, while the two were "caught" while fleeing the spot with Tk 25 lakh worth of fake notes.

According to Hasan, the FIR and subsequent case had been cooked up by the DB, and the duo have been framed in a false case because they refused to give Tk 3 lakh that the police officers at the DB office on Minto Road had demanded for their release. Hasan already had to spend five months and 17 days in prison because of this. Despite filing 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—it is Hasan who is still being asked to fight to prove his own innocence. Hasan's family has already spent Tk 6 lakh by selling off land to meet his legal expenses. Meanwhile, none of the probes that had begun following his multiple complaints have resulted in any action against the DB members who were seen handcuffing him and Sohel Rana in the CCTV footage—that too, in civilian clothing, which is in violation of a High Court order. Till date, no information has been made available about what these multiple probe committees have found.

Hasan says that he eventually withdrew his complaint under the assurance from the accused DB officials that his name would be excluded from the final report and the charge sheet, which wasn't followed through either. Under the circumstances, where is Hasan supposed to turn to for justice? When there are more than 20 people who have confirmed Hasan's story—they told this newspaper as much—and still nothing has been done, how can Hasan, or anyone for that matter, have faith that our law enforcement agencies or the legal system can deliver justice?

According to one noted rights activist, this is not an isolated incident. Allegations of charge sheet manipulation, arranging fake witnesses, and changing the place of occurrence are quite common in the country. This too has been confirmed by media reports on multiple occasions. In that case, is it not incumbent upon the authorities to look into these allegations even more vigorously and handle them with greater transparency to reinforce people's confidence in them and the system? Unfortunately, however, the probe reports of such incidents are seldom made public, leaving room for further questions and ambiguities.

We call on the authorities to look into this case and address the allegations that have been made by Hasan and Sohel. We also ask the authorities to handle the case with greater transparency and make public all the evidence and information that have been gathered so far.

## Myanmar elections must not exclude minorities

*A transition to democracy must involve free, fair and inclusive elections*

THE UN has expressed serious concerns over human rights violations ahead of the general elections in Myanmar on November 8, including the right to political participation of minority groups such as the Rohingyas and Rakhines. The international body is right to be worried—Myanmar's human rights record has been abysmal of late, with both the UN and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) acknowledging that certain "clearance operations" carried out by the Myanmar military in Rakhine in 2017 could have amounted to genocide.

While Myanmar is being investigated in the ICJ and the International Criminal Court for genocide and/or war crimes, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi has repeatedly assured the international community of the nation's commitment to tolerance and democracy. The upcoming elections were expected to be an opportunity to show the world that this assurance was more than mere words. Instead, the policy has been to continue to push minorities out of public spaces, with Rohingya candidates being barred from contesting in elections and with voting being barred in 56 townships, including in Rakhine, with no public justification from the Election Commission regarding this decision. This disenfranchisement of Myanmar's own citizens in areas largely inhabited by ethnic minorities is especially disturbing when viewed alongside Myanmar's discriminatory citizenship and electoral laws, which have come together to create great inequalities along racial and religious lines, with Muslim minorities being largely excluded from citizenship.

On top of that, civic spaces in Myanmar are still marred by restrictions on freedom of speech and access to information, and a complete intolerance of criticism of the government or the military, as made clear by the recent arrests of at least 34 student activists who were protesting internet shutdowns and demanding an end to the conflict in Rakhine and Chin states. The authorities in Myanmar cannot claim to be transitioning to democracy while conflict continues to escalate, minorities continue to be disenfranchised and dissent continues to be silenced within its borders. We urge the UN and all international and regional stakeholders to hold Myanmar's leaders to account and ensure that free, fair and inclusive elections are held.

SIFAT ISLAM ISHTY and SYEDA TASFIA TASNEEM

THE world has been hit by a "black swan" event, a term used to describe an unpredictable incident that has large-scale economic and social implications. Time and again, economists have reiterated the suggestion: Don't put all your eggs in one basket. The increasing volatility of markets around the world necessitates diversification strategies that help reduce risks and improve the capacity needed to cope with such black swan events.

One of the key drivers of Bangladesh's economic growth, the RMG industry, suffers from a lack of diversification: 70 percent of RMG exports consist of only five products which are primarily cotton-based, and around 83 percent of these exports are shipped to the European and North American markets. In a recent webinar jointly conducted by Serai and HSBC, the president of BGMEA, Dr Rubana Huq, identified several products including non-cotton knitted t-shirts, MMF woven anoraks and wind-cheaters, MMF woven blouses and shirts for which Bangladesh's export share is a trifling 5.3 percent. She further stressed that Bangladesh has not been able to fully utilise its potential in terms of expanding production to goods such as PPE, plush toys, hair accessories, automotive upholstery, travel and campaign products.

Over the last four years, Bangladeshi apparel has suffered a 1.6 percent drop in prices globally, indicating increasingly intense global competition. In the first five months of the current fiscal year, Bangladesh lost its position as the world's second-largest apparel exporter to Vietnam, a country with an RMG industry five years younger than that of Bangladesh. Experts delineated several possible factors behind Vietnam's success: the country's aggressive response to the pandemic, a better-skilled workforce, diversified and higher value-added products, Foreign Direct Investment, and multiple trade agreements with regional and international markets.

However, the increasing competition from Vietnam was not a direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. In fact, before the pandemic, Vietnam's exports to the US rose by 34.8 percent in the first nine months of 2019. The ongoing US-China trade war and rising wages in China escalated the need for many global businesses to diversify outsourcing outside China, popularly known as the "China Plus One" strategy. The economically and politically stable environment in Vietnam and pro-foreign investment government policies made it a lucrative destination for foreign investors and businesses that were looking to relocate their factories. According to

the World Investment Report, the ratio of inward FDI stock to GDP was 52 percent higher in Vietnam compared to Bangladesh in 2017.

Another major reason behind the success of the Vietnamese garments industry has been its highly educated and skilled workforce which offers excellent workmanship, high-quality and value-added products. This has been made possible by Vietnam's long-term commitment towards investing in human resource development: compared to Bangladesh's mere 2 percent, Vietnam's public expenditure on education is around 5.5 percent of its GDP.

"IntellectCut". Although long-term returns from technological advancement are high, low initial profits and high costs deter companies from investing in research and development. Pioneering firms that invest in new technology generate social benefits such as transmission of knowledge which positively impacts all other firms in the industry. However, most of these pioneering companies are not adequately compensated for the initial costs they incur and their contributions to the entire industry, which ultimately deters such investment.

The fashion industry, in particular, has always been turbulent and rapidly

phenomenon prioritises brands with higher product quality, thoughtful design and positive social and environmental impacts. This has created the need for manufacturers and retailers to use artificial intelligence and data science to serve the dual purposes of predicting future demands and trends as well as developing efficient and environment-friendly production processes. At present, Bangladesh has the highest number of LEED-certified green garment factories in the world, which can be used as an advantage in creating a distinctive brand image globally.

As opposed to Vietnam, Bangladesh



File photo of workers at a garments factory in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

To retain its dominance in the global market, it is essential for the RMG industry in Bangladesh to look beyond its comparative advantage in providing low-cost labour. Instead, it is time to focus on diversification and the production of higher value-added products that have stronger and more stable demand worldwide. An essential prerequisite for this is the introduction of new technologies that can improve efficiency. Many Bangladeshi factories are starting to adopt high-end technologies; for instance, Dekko Group, Epyllion Group and a few other manufacturers reportedly optimised fabric usage and lowered wastage by implementing ThreadSol's AI-based fabric planning system called

evolving. The nature of the industry demands that its players always remain vigilant and continually embrace shifting business models and innovation. The recent pandemic has amplified the turbulence further by bringing about huge changes in consumer preferences and behaviour, creating new challenges for both retailers and manufacturers. Mass production and mass solutions are now being supplanted by personalised products with greater value and sustainability. There is a need to cater to smaller and highly specialised orders by engaging with smaller buyers. A phenomenon called "slow fashion" is rapidly transforming standards in the world of "fast fashion". This

has not been very fortunate in attracting foreign investors. Instead, the success in the Bangladeshi RMG industry has been historically driven by local entrepreneurs, and the key to achieving greater dominance lies in designing policies that encourage participation and investment by local enterprises. Nonetheless, there is also an urgent need to recognise the importance of regional trade agreements and foreign investment that will not only facilitate knowledge spillovers, but also allow the industry to embrace more advanced technology, product development and diversification.

Sifat Islam Ishty is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economics and Social Science, BRAC University, Syeda Tasfia Tasneem, BSc in Economics, BRAC University.

## Trump Packs the Court His Way



ELIZABETH DREW

are subject to change. Only the House of Representatives appears certain to remain in the same party's hands (the Democrats). The Republican-dominated Senate could be won by the Democrats. The conservative-leaning Supreme Court is now shifting far to the right, given the Senate's confirmation of President Donald Trump's nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, to the seat previously held by the late liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

One oddity of the US system is that even if Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden wins the election, overcoming barriers already thrown in his way by Court decisions and voter suppression, the presidency will remain for over two months in the hands of a man whose physical and mental stability are in doubt. The current constitutional arrangements to deal with presidential mental or physical incapacity are unworkable. Little is said publicly about this precarious situation; timorous newspapers are reluctant to mention the crazy uncle in the White House, even though Trump's behaviour of late has been even more aberrant than usual, possibly an effect of having had Covid-19 and taking powerful medications.

Perhaps confusing the current race with that of 2016, Trump has resumed attacking Hillary Clinton, turning on his most subservient cabinet members for not indicting her, as well as former President Barack Obama, and Biden—for whatever reasons. Trump tosses around nebulous charges of left-wing terrorism and mail-in voting fraud, though *The Washington Post* has found his charges of ballot fraud fraudulent.

If Biden defeats Trump—the polls, currently in his favour, are considered more reliable than in 2016, but polls can't predict voter suppression—his supporters'

celebrations may be short-lived. Controversies about counting votes are already in the courts, which have changed dramatically as a result of Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell appointing an astonishing 220 federal judges. Moreover, Senate Republicans are already plotting how to undermine a Democratic majority.

But the greatest threat to Biden and any progressive government for a long time to come will emanate from the Supreme

It was all charade. Through the early spotting, close vetting, and years of cultivation of possible Supreme Court nominees by the right-wing, corporate-sponsored Federalist Society, which effectively controls who gets named to the highest bench by Republican presidents, Trump and his aides were fully aware of Barrett's positions on key issues. (Liberal Democrats also have groups that back judges, but they are not as organised and effective as the Federalist Society.)



US President Donald Trump and Jesse M. Barrett watch as Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas swears in Amy Coney Barrett.

PHOTO: AFP

Court. The approval of Barrett (age 48) has produced, almost certainly, a very conservative 6-3 majority. Chief Justice John Roberts, who has tried to keep the Court from going to extremes, will no longer have the controlling swing vote. The legitimacy of the Court is now in question.

The hearings on Barrett's nomination were a sham. This was not because of her unresponsiveness to questions, but because the fix was in. Trump insisted that he had not questioned Barrett on sensitive issues. Trump, Barrett, didn't ask her about her position on such matters as abortion or the Affordable Care Act. Nor would she have discussed her positions with him. How dare anyone question her integrity?

The purpose of such intensive vetting is to have "no more surprises"—no more Republican appointees who start out as conservative but move left. The example that most annoys conservatives is David Souter, appointed by George H.W. Bush. Souter was advertised as a conservative, but became a reliable liberal.

Behind the rush to get Barrett confirmed was Trump's determination to have her seated by Election Day—so that, the president openly said, she would be in place if issues affecting the election came to the Court. Barrett refused to commit to recusing herself from cases that involved Trump's re-election. The rush to confirm her was also a form of protection for conservatives in case the Republicans lose the Senate.

The claim of right-wing judges that their "originalist" jurisprudence reflects judicial restraint and a reluctance to "legislate from the bench" is also a sham. Originalism is seen by critics as a Trojan horse: it rationalises an activist role of striking down progressive legislation such as environmental, labour, and other regulations, on the grounds that no mention was made of such matters when the Constitution was written.

The Barrett appointment is also another reflection of the religious right's hold on American judicial conservatism. Perpetuation of this arrangement is a major reason Trump has retained evangelical support, albeit with some recent slippage. Barrett's Catholicism, indeed, is of the "radical," "ultramontane" sort that sometimes appears to oppose change itself. She has been involved in a charismatic Christian group, People of Praise, which believes that in households men are superior to women, and its members speak in tongues. Though the group removed all references to Barrett from its public documents, a snippet of one has her once serving as a "handmaid," a leadership position.

As for abortion, one does not win the Federalist Society's support unless one has raised objections to *Roe v. Wade*. With Barrett joining other conservative justices—including Trump's two other appointees, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh—it is now possible that *Roe* may be overturned, or nullified through other decisions.

With an unprecedented 60-plus million Americans having already voted, it may be too late for Trump to turn things around. So, with winter coming on, Covid-19 cases reaching all-time highs, and the White House having given up on controlling the pandemic, anxious Americans are left speculating not only about who will win the election, but, for the first time in history, whether the president will honour the result and if the Supreme Court will abet him in subverting it.

Elizabeth Drew is a Washington-based journalist and the author, most recently, of "Washington Journal: Reporting Watergate and Richard Nixon's Downfall". Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org (Exclusive to The Daily Star)



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File photo of workers at a garments factory in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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## Trump Packs the Court His Way



ELIZABETH DREW

are subject to change. Only the House of Representatives appears certain to remain in the same party's hands (the Democrats). The Republican-dominated Senate could be won by the Democrats. The conservative-leaning Supreme Court is now shifting far to the right, given the Senate's confirmation of President Donald Trump's nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, to the seat previously held by the late liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

One oddity of the US system is that even if Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden wins the election, overcoming barriers already thrown in his way by Court decisions and voter suppression, the presidency will remain for over two months in the hands of a man whose physical and mental stability are in doubt. The current constitutional arrangements to deal with presidential mental or physical incapacity are unworkable. Little is said publicly about this precarious situation; timorous newspapers are reluctant to mention the crazy uncle in the White House, even though Trump's behaviour of late has been even more aberrant than usual, possibly an effect of having had Covid-19 and taking powerful medications.

Perhaps confusing the current race with that of 2016, Trump has resumed attacking Hillary Clinton, turning on his most subservient cabinet members for not indicting her, as well as former President Barack Obama, and Biden—for whatever reasons. Trump tosses around nebulous charges of left-wing terrorism and mail-in voting fraud, though *The Washington Post* has found his charges of ballot fraud fraudulent.

If Biden defeats Trump—the polls, currently in his favour, are considered more reliable than in 2016, but polls can't predict voter suppression—his supporters'

celebrations may be short-lived. Controversies about counting votes are already in the courts, which have changed dramatically as a result of Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell appointing an astonishing 220 federal judges. Moreover, Senate Republicans are already plotting how to undermine a Democratic majority.

But the greatest threat to Biden and any progressive government for a long time to come will emanate from the Supreme

It was all charade. Through the early spotting, close vetting, and years of cultivation of possible Supreme Court nominees by the right-wing, corporate-sponsored Federalist Society, which effectively controls who gets named to the highest bench by Republican presidents, Trump and his aides were fully aware of Barrett's positions on key issues. (Liberal Democrats also have groups that back judges, but they are not as organised and effective as the Federalist Society.)



US President Donald Trump and Jesse M. Barrett watch as Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas swears in Amy Coney Barrett.

PHOTO: AFP

Court. The approval of Barrett (age 48) has produced, almost certainly, a very conservative 6-3 majority. Chief Justice John Roberts, who has tried to keep the Court from going to extremes, will no longer have the controlling swing vote. The legitimacy of the Court is now in question.

The hearings on Barrett's nomination were a sham. This was not because of her unresponsiveness to questions, but because the fix was in. Trump insisted that he had not questioned Barrett on sensitive issues. Trump, Barrett, didn't ask her about her position on such matters as abortion or the Affordable Care Act. Nor would she have discussed her positions with him. How dare anyone question her integrity?

The purpose of such intensive vetting is to have "no more surprises"—no more Republican appointees who start out as conservative but move left. The example that most annoys conservatives is David Souter, appointed by George H.W. Bush. Souter was advertised as a conservative, but became a reliable liberal.

Behind the rush to get Barrett confirmed was Trump's determination to have her seated by Election Day—so that, the president openly said, she would be in place if issues affecting the election came to the Court. Barrett refused to commit to recusing herself from cases that involved Trump's re-election. The rush to confirm her was also a form of protection for conservatives in case the Republicans lose the Senate.

The claim of right-wing judges that their "originalist" jurisprudence reflects judicial restraint and a reluctance to "legislate from the bench" is also a sham. Originalism is seen by critics as a Trojan horse: it rationalises an activist role of striking down progressive legislation such as environmental, labour, and other regulations, on the grounds that no mention was made of such matters when the Constitution was written.

The Barrett appointment is also another reflection of the religious right's hold on American judicial conservatism. Perpetuation of this arrangement is a major reason Trump has retained evangelical support, albeit with some recent slippage. Barrett's Catholicism, indeed, is of the "radical," "ultramontane" sort that sometimes appears to oppose change itself. She has been involved in a charismatic Christian group, People of Praise, which believes that in households men are superior to women, and its members speak in tongues. Though the group removed all references to Barrett from its public documents, a snippet of one has her once serving as a "handmaid," a leadership position.

As for abortion, one does not win the Federalist Society's support unless one has raised objections to *Roe v. Wade*. With Barrett joining other conservative justices—including Trump's two other appointees, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh—it is now possible that *Roe* may be overturned, or nullified through other decisions.

With an unprecedented 60-plus million Americans having already voted, it may be too late for Trump to turn things around. So, with winter coming on, Covid-19 cases reaching all-time highs, and the White House having given up on controlling the pandemic, anxious Americans are left speculating not only about who will win the election, but, for the first time in history, whether the president will honour the result and if the Supreme Court will abet him in subverting it.

Elizabeth Drew is a Washington-based journalist and the author, most recently, of "Washington Journal: Reporting Watergate and Richard Nixon's Downfall". Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org (Exclusive to The Daily Star)



## COVER STORY

# An odyssey of music

Sohini Alam is a British-Bangladeshi singer with a musical portfolio consisting of a collection of folk, patriotic, modern and traditional Bangla songs, although she specialises in 'Nazrul Sangeet'. In this interview with Rafi Hossain, Sohini shares stories from her life and talks about important topics in respect to today's society.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

**Rafi Hossain:** Welcome to *Uncensored* with Rafi Hossain. Today, we are here with the British-Bengali singer Sohini Alam. You come from a very musically inclined family. Are your family members your primary teachers?

**Sohini Alam:** I initially started learning music from my mother in London. Then, I learned from my aunts.

**Rafi:** Did you want a career in music ever since you were a child or were you persuaded by your family?

**Sohini:** The short answer to both the questions is yes. Being a part of a family like mine, one can't simply not be involved with music. There was always music in the house. People even came to our house to learn music. My mother taught music outside as well, and took me with her at times. So, I was always involved with music, but I was also not given any option other than to be a musician. Having music so readily available in my life, I didn't realise how important it was to me at that age. I even made it clear that I don't want a career path in this, unless I fail in college or university. But, here I am, a singer. My aunt always says that who is born to be a musician will be a musician no matter what.

**Rafi:** Can you tell us about your childhood?

**Sohini:** I was born and raised in London. When I was nine, I came to Bangladesh and lived there for some years. I then went to the US, then back to London. A story I would like to add to this is when I was seven, I decided that I won't be doing singing classes anymore and do dancing instead. My mother agreed and enrolled me in a dance class. After the first class, I realised that dancing was not for me. No matter what music was, I was at least gifted in it. That's when I learned its true importance.

**Rafi:** Your family is a very classical-music oriented family. How did they react when you told them that you wanted to start a band and how did you deal with their reactions?

**Sohini:** The dealing aspect was easy since I didn't ask anybody's permission. The one thing about my family is that even though they work with traditional music and taught me similarly, they are very progressive. They always taught me that my music is mine and I get to decide how I want to present it. My youngest aunt's philosophy is that we should learn the basics properly first and then decide if we want to sway further away from them. So, I allowed my songs to be inspired from several genres.

**Rafi:** Did you start with 'Lokkhi Terra' before establishing your own band, 'Khiyo'?

**Sohini:** I started working with both of them around the same time in 2006. I was introduced to Kishon Khan, and he offered me a place in *Lokkhi Terra* which was already an established band. Around the same time, I also met Oliver Weeks, and started working on our own music. I also joined another band, *GRRRL*.

**Rafi:** If you were already with 'Lokkhi Terra' why did you decide to start your own band?

**Sohini:** Actually, I already had talks of some projects with Oliver at that time. The thing is, *Lokkhi Terra* is the brainchild of Kishon, and I was simply the vocalist there. In *Khiyo*, however, I decided the music with Oliver, along with the bandmates. *Khiyo* is totally different from *Lokkhi Terra* and so was *GRRRL*. I have also worked as a solo artist for some projects, like for *State of Bengal's* Sam Zaman. However, I prefer *Khiyo* the most since I love collaborating with people and exchanging ideas.

**Rafi:** Can you talk a little about 'GRRRL'?

**Sohini:** *GRRRL* is an electronic band. This is a project of a charity organisation, *In Place of War*. They take artists from countries who have been involved in wars to show that there is an existence outside of war. This is one of their many projects. We initially started with a project named *Voices of Revolution*, but it was such a difficult project, we decided to condense it in the following year. *GRRRL* has six female members:

AWA, vocalist and rapper from Zimbabwe; Lei Di Dai, vocalist from Brazil; AFRODEUTSCHE, singer from Ghana; MABE, DJ from Venezuela; Laima Leyton, music director from Brazil; and me. We met up in London and worked together for two weeks, after which we went on tour and presented the songs we worked on. After the tour, we went back to our own countries, and then met up again for a new project. It's a still on-going project. This band is a way to portray feminist ideas in a fun way.

**Rafi:** Are you a feminist?

**Sohini:** Absolutely!

**Rafi:** It is seen that some people hesitate to answer this question. Why do you think that is?

**Sohini:** I think this is because there is still a debate on what feminism actually means. To me, to believe that women have equal rights as men is feminism. Some may say that feminism preaches that men and women are not the same, but no one is saying that. What I'm saying is that a woman working in a particular field should get the same pay as a man working in the same field. Feminism is not just going out and getting a job. I can be a homemaker and a feminist, but I have to be the one to choose what I want to do. No one gets to have a say in this except me. This is feminism to me.

**Rafi:** How did you start your own company?

**Sohini:** I had professionally started in music around 2006-2007. Then, around 2013, my friends Leesa,



Filiz, Caitlin, and I decided to start a company. We had started working in theatre and were called for different plays where we worked on several projects together. During that time, we felt that if we did those projects ourselves, we could've presenting them a little differently. So, we decided to start *Komola Collective* to work on our own projects.

**Rafi:** How did you get associated with Akram Khan?

**Sohini:** When I was a child, my mother used to teach singing in *Bangladesh Centre* while his mother would teach dancing there. I have known him since then, but I didn't know his proper name. When I came back from the US, he was already a renowned dancer. My friend took me to one of his shows, *Zero Degrees*, and I was truly mesmerised. I still hadn't realised that it was him. Once the show ended, I saw his mother and she immediately recognised me, although it had been around twenty years. That's when it dawned upon me that he was the same man I knew. She suggested that we get reacquainted, but I felt that it wasn't the right time. When he was working for *Desh*, Leesa Apa was working as his consultant. She suggested hiring Jocelyn Pook. She also suggested hiring me to sing. I sang two songs for Jocelyn, and she sent them to Akram to see if he likes them. He loved them and decided on using them. Then only I informed him that it's me who had sung those songs because I wanted to work with him on my own merit, not

through connections. He was very happy to know that it was me. He later offered me to sing live in his shows for *Until the Lions* for the next three years, and I agreed immediately. I also worked on *Father* with him and recently, I've worked on some projects with him for his 20th anniversary. I'm a part of his company now. The company is amazing, and the members are incredible. I love working with them.

**Rafi:** Are you planning on releasing anything soon?

**Sohini:** I love the concept of albums, so I'm trying to release an album from *Khiyo* next year. I hope we can accomplish this. I might not be able to release albums for every project. The record label I'm working with, *Ark Music*, releases a lot of music in the world music scene. We don't hear a lot of Bangladeshi music there, but I'm trying to change that. We could do that with *Khiyo* as our songs had listeners from many countries. By working with Akram, I could sing a Bangla song all over the world in front of large audiences. It made me feel very accomplished. This new album with *Khiyo* will feature a lot of ordinary Bangla songs. We founded *Khiyo* to present traditional Bangla music in new ways, but with time, we decided on introducing some ordinary songs as well.

**Rafi:** You released a rendition of 'Amar Shonar Bangla'. How did you find the courage to this? And how did you handle the controversy?

**Sohini:** When I made it, I didn't realise that it was something of courage. I was working on a play then with Leesa Apa based on *Of Blood and Fire* by Jah-anara Imam. She suggested that singing *Amar Shonar Bangla* in a particular scene would help to portray it beautifully. Oliver and I were in agreement. So, we recorded a part of it for the scene. While doing so, we realised that it sounded quite nice, so we decided on recording the whole song and uploading it. I thought that only our friends would listen to it. I couldn't have ever imagined it gaining so much traction. I was in Bangladesh when everything went down. I was bombarded with messages asking me if I was okay and if I was handling it well. I was afraid at first. I decided to give some interviews to clearly establish that there were no ill intentions behind this and we didn't want to stir any controversy.

**Rafi:** The world is in a state of instability and societal despair. Where do artists stand in this? Can music be used as a form of protest and how effective is it?

**Sohini:** I think that we should protest in whatever way we can. We have seen these things for a long time, but we have tolerated them and kept quiet. The time for being quiet is over now. We should no longer tolerate the injustices we see. Everyone should start speaking up against these. Everyone has their own way of speaking up. So, they should protest in whichever way they feel comfortable. However, protesting isn't the ultimate way of creating change. We have to educate the people. If we're talking about rape, we only discipline the women on how to dress, how to act, when to go out, learn self-defence, etc. While this should be done for their protection, we should also educate the men on what behaviour is acceptable. I think that associating with women would be beneficial to these men because it would demystify women for them. It's natural to be fascinated by what we don't know, but that fascination should not be turned to something harmful. We should learn to give equal respect to both the sexes. I think this situation should be tackled by educating both sides.

**Rafi:** Do you have a final message?

**Sohini:** Thank you for being here. I appreciate each and every one of you. I had a great time talking today. I hope to come to Bangladesh soon and present my songs to you and also see the wonderful works done by the artists here. Thank you for having me here today.

Amina Hossain

## GRAPE VINE

# Sabbir Nasir's Tumi Dom e Dom



Musician Sabbir Nasir's songs *Horsho*, *Phool Photabo*, *Fagun asche*, *Jol Jochona*, among others was well-received by his audience. Recently, the singer released another song, *Tumi Dom e Dom* on his official YouTube channel. Within just two weeks the song got over one million views. The music is composed by Jahid Nirob and tuned and lyrics is written by Omar Faruk Bishal. Sabbir said, "I did not expect to receive so much love and appreciation in such a short time. I am amazed to get this admiration. I want to thank everyone who worked for this song."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Moutushi in a Short Film!

Popular actor Moutushi has proven her acting capabilities by appearing in several unique roles. She has received a lot of praise for her performance in the short film *Arai Mon Shopno* which was released on the online platform *Binge*. This short film, which was directed by Abu Shahed Emon, has a story which is set in the current world while the COVID-19 pandemic is going on. Fazlur Rahman Babu acts opposite Moutushi in it. Regarding the project, Moutushi said, "It felt good to work after so long. I felt that working rejuvenated the actor in me. When I heard people praise me for this role, it felt amazing. Fazlur Rahman Babu bhai did an amazing job, and his performance in this short film gave me more reasons to love his acting. The director also did a great job with the film."

Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

# A New Badhon

During this pandemic, model and actor Azmeri Haque Badhon brought positive changes to her lifestyle and started to rediscover herself. She became habituated to reading books and wrote a diary about her time in quarantine, naming it "Coronar Dinguli". She penned down moments and day to day special events in the notebook. Badhon said, "I am going to be thirty-seven soon. I am a mother. I want to live my life to the fullest and cherish every grateful moment." On the work front, Badhon completed working for her second film directed by Abdullah Mohammed Sader.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

# THE 100

*The 100* is a post-apocalyptic science fiction drama television series on *Netflix*, loosely based on the eponymous novel series by Kass Morgan. It has been developed by Jason Rothenberg, produced by Jae Marchant, among others, under the banner of Warner Bros. Television, alongside others, with Eliza

Taylor in the lead. It is set in a post-apocalyptic world, and follows the journey of one hundred juvenile criminals who are sent back to earth to see if it is habitable again. It was first released on March 19, 2014, with the last episode being aired on September 30, 2020.



# Blackpink: Light Up the Sky

*Blackpink: Light Up the Sky* is a documentary film about the K-pop phenomenon *Blackpink*. It has been directed by Caroline Suh, produced by Zara Duffy, Jon Kamen, Dave Sirulnick, and Cara Mones, under the banner of *RadicalMedia*. The film narrates the story of each individual member of the band and how they, as bandmates, rose to fame. It was released on October 14, 2020 on *Netflix*.

Shreya Shomoyeeta

Here are some binge worthy movie and series you can spend your time watching while you stay at home social distancing, keeping yourself, as well as others, safe.



# Over the Moon

*Over the Moon* is an American-Chinese computer-animated musical adventure film on *Netflix*. It has been directed by Glen Keane, produced by Peilin Chou and Gennie Rim, under the banner of *Pearl Studio*, and features the voices of Cathy Ang, Phillipa Soo and Sandra Oh, among others. The story follows a girl who builds a rocket ship to fly to the moon in the hopes of meeting a mythical goddess. It was initially released on October 16, 2020.





Joshua Kimmich (L) scored a fantastic volley to extend defending champions Bayern Munich's winning run with a 2-1 win over Lokomotiv Moscow while Casemiro (R) scored in the stoppage time to earn a 2-2 draw for Zinedine Zidane's Real Madrid away to Borussia Mönchengladbach in the Champions League on Tuesday night. Elsewhere, Joao Felix (bottom) scored a brace to give Atletico Madrid all three points against visitors Salzburg.

PHOTO: TWITTER

## Bayern stay perfect as Real secure a point

AFP, Paris

Holders Bayern Munich continued their perfect start to their Champions League title defence on Tuesday as Real Madrid had Casemiro's late goal to thank for scrambling a 2-2 draw away to Borussia Mönchengladbach. Liverpool and Manchester City also made it six points out of a possible six in Europe this season, after Bayern needed a late Joshua Kimmich strike to claim a 2-1 win at Lokomotiv Moscow in Group A. Leon Goretzka put the Germans ahead early on in front of a limited crowd in the Russian capital, but Anton Miranchuk tucked in an equaliser for Lokomotiv in the second half -- Miranchuk's twin brother Aleksei scored for Atalanta in the Champions League last week.

But Bayern were not to be denied a record 13th straight win in the competition as Kimmich controlled a Javi Martinez pass and volleyed home low from outside the box 11 minutes from time.

"We had to work hard for the victory," Kimmich admitted to



broadcaster DAZN.

### FELIX BRACE RESURRECTS ATLETICO

In the same group Atletico Madrid came from behind to beat Salzburg 3-2, with Joao Felix grabbing their late winner. The Portuguese starlet had hit the bar with a stunning overhead kick before Llorente put Atletico ahead in the Spanish capital. Dominik Szoboszlai levelled

before the break and then a Felipe own goal put Salzburg ahead just after half-time.

However, Joao Felix equalised on 52 minutes and then won it five minutes from the end.

In Germany, Real were heading for another defeat in Group B, six days after losing 3-2 at home to Shakhtar Donetsk, as Thuram netted twice for Gladbach, either side of half-time. But Casemiro set up Karim

Zeniza to reduce the deficit in the 87th minute and the Brazilian midfielder then scored himself deep in injury time to salvage a point for Zinedine Zidane's team.

"If we continue to play like that, we'll do great things and we'll win matches, that's for sure," said Zidane. It is Shakhtar who lead the section, though, by two points from Inter Milan and Gladbach, after a 0-0 draw with the Italians in Kiev.

### CITY CRUISE PAST MARSEILLES

Pep Guardiola's City eased to a second straight win in Group C with Kevin De Bruyne setting up Ferran Torres for the early opener against Marseille after the hosts had carelessly ceded possession.

Ilkay Gundogan and Raheem Sterling added late goals to make it 3-0, leaving Marseille without a point.

Guardiola was confident City could build on their victory after an indifferent start to the Premier League season which has seen them come in for criticism.

"Part of the criticism was right, but you've got to accept it. It's part of our job," Guardiola told BT Sport.

"It's about where we've come from in the last month, with lack of preparation, injuries and Covid-19, but the Champions League is in a good place now."

In the same group Porto beat Olympiakos 2-0 in Portugal with Fabio Vieira and Sergio Oliveira on target.

### 'TOUGH NIGHT' FOR LIVERPOOL

Meanwhile, Liverpool built on their 1-0 victory at Ajax last week by defeating Danish champions Midtjylland 2-0 in a low-key game behind closed doors at Anfield in Group D.

Diogo Jota finished off a fine move to give Jurgen Klopp's team the lead early in the second half, before Mohamed Salah made sure of the points with a late penalty.

Klopp rested Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino from his starting line-up but his defensive worries deepened as Fabinho went off with an apparent hamstring injury.

"It was a tough night," Klopp told BT Sport.

"It's a bit like in a marriage, there are good and bad times. It's not a bad time but it's a tricky time."

## 'Shakib will come back to achieve more'

SPORTS REPORTER



As of today, the most celebrated cricketer of the country, premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will once again be available for playing cricket -- both at the domestic and international level for Bangladesh. And that would remain as a moment of festivity for fans of Bangladesh cricket who were left shattered and shocked on October 29, 2019 when Shakib was banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for failing to report corrupt approaches.

"It is a joyous occasion for Bangladesh cricket" is how Mohammad Salahuddin, Shakib's mentor, described the star all-rounder's return from ban. "Shakib's presence, in itself, is an encouraging factor for players at any level. Bangladesh, however, did not miss him as much due to the pandemic as they would if it were normal times. But



regardless of everything, his return to cricket comes as a huge news for Bangladesh cricket," Salahuddin explained.

"I don't think he will have any problem in any cricketing activities. Shakib's mental state during a bad or a good period remains almost the same. He is such a strong character that his mental state does not change much during a difficult period," he said.

Shakib was supposed to join the Tigers in their planned tour of Sri Lanka and he had also started training for that purpose at the BKSP after he returned to the country in early September. Shakib, however, went back to the United States after the Sri Lanka tour was postponed.

"He had slight trouble running when he practised at the BKSP. He had gained weight but he got back in shape," said Salahuddin, who along with Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, helped Shakib during his training period at the BKSP.

Salahuddin is certain that this ban has helped Shakib learn a great lesson. "I am sure he took a lesson from this. And I do not have any doubts that he will now come back to achieve more and give even more than he already has to Bangladesh cricket."



## Bartomeu's parting bombshell

AFP, MADRID

Josep Maria Bartomeu resigned as Barcelona president on Tuesday, along with his board of directors, and left with a bombshell admission that he had accepted a proposal for the club to play in "a future European Super League".

Bartomeu's departure comes following mounting pressure from fans and his public falling-out with Messi. His resignation could affect the future of Messi, who will now be given a new project after trying to leave in August.

"I want to communicate my resignation along with the rest of the board," said Bartomeu in an official announcement. "It's a composed and relaxed decision, agreed with all my fellow directors."

However, it was his revelation about a Super League which seems certain to make the biggest waves beyond Catalonia. Bartomeu said he accepted a proposal on Monday for Barcelona to play in "a future European Super League" which "would guarantee the financial stability of the club".

Earlier this month, Barcelona announced losses of 97 million euros (\$114m) for last season, with debt more than doubling to 488 million euros.

Bartomeu and his board could even be held personally liable for the financial shortfall.

## REFEREE AZIZ A bastion of sporting courage

AL-AMIN

Referee Abdul Aziz died on Tuesday afternoon. He was suffering from multiple diseases. He was 68.

As he left us silently, he left behind a legacy of a superstar referee that many of the current generation may not know. But for those who have grown up watching domestic football from the 1970s to early 1990s, Aziz was the most decorated referee the country has ever produced.

His courage and determination in domestic football, especially when it came to the Dhaka derby involving Abahani and Mohammedan at that time, was discussed in the same breath as the game itself.

His iron-fisted handling of the game in that volatile atmosphere in front of over-capacity crowds at the Bangabandhu National Stadium is still fresh in the memories of regular visitors to the country's 'theatre of dreams'.

He was jeered as theta (stubborn) Aizya (Aziz) from the stands. It was actually a compliment for his courage. Be it an important game or a less significant fixture, or any game he was conducting across the country, he was never too far from the centre of attention.

His popularity as a referee was unmatched. Many letters he received from his followers were addressed just to "Referee Aziz, Gandaria".

"Still, we got those letters at our address from the postman," said Aziz's daughter Maksudah Aziz.

She also said how troublesome those years were for her father. "My father used to ride a Vespa. Before every big game he brought us back home from school early as a safety measure. My father received many unnamed letters before every big game with various kinds of threats, like we will be attacked at night and so on," Maksudah said while recalling those heady days.

Referee Mozaffar Hossain often acted as one of the two deputies (linesmen) in those big games. "He was an extraordinary person. Before a big game he always told us don't be afraid, I'm with you. Let's do our job," Mozaffar Hossain told this reporter on Wednesday. Referee Rafiqul Islam was one of the few who tried to emulate Aziz. "I have always tried to follow his style, like rushing to the spot immediately after a foul," said Rafique.

He however admitted that he never

dared to return objects hurled from the stands as Aziz often did. Referee Mahabubur Rahman Mukul said there are many stories that speak of Aziz's courage.

"Fans advanced up aggressively towards him when he was conducting a game in Mymensingh. But he stood firm against all odds with a flag stand in hand. Besides, as a FIFA referee he also conducted games with distinction and there were instances when he overruled the referee's wrong decision as his deputy," said Mukul, adding that Aziz was a true follower of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his ideology. Aziz was not just a referee but also a very good organiser. As an officer of Agrani Bank, he played a key role in making its football and cricket teams popular.

What was perhaps lesser known was his more defining contribution as a physical sports teacher before becoming



a banker. Amiinul Islam, one of the finest athletes and the sole centurion in the country's first-ever Test, knows it better than most.

"Aziz sir was our physical teacher in Gandaria High School. It was the '80s and our annual sports ran for seven days at that time. He was the key person and my brother was with him during that festivity, from which athletes like us emerged. Those sporting activities in schools and localities acted as the base for producing quality sportspeople," Amiinul told the Daily Star from Melbourne.

"Unfortunately, that is missing now. His honesty earned him everyone's respect. He has always been our family friend. With his departure the country has lost a great sports personality," Amiinul concluded.



## HA-DU-DU

The traditional games are not completely disappearing from rural Bangladesh as a game of ha-du-du was held in Domtari village in Khansama Upazila of Dinajpur district in front of a huge crowd yesterday. A festive mood prevailed at the venue with the vibrant presence of people of all ages.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

## Junior Hockey deferred

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangabandhu Al-Arafa Islami Bank Junior (U-21) Asia Cup hockey has been deferred by five months and will now take place in June.

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) was supposed to host the tournament in January next year.

"As the youth and sports ministry don't want to permit hosting international tournament this year in fear of the second wave of coronavirus, we decided to push the tournament till June," BHF acting general secretary Mohammad Yousof said.

### QUIZ CONTEST

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

Email your answer to [starquiz@outlook.com](mailto:starquiz@outlook.com) by 4:00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced today through email.

Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

**QUIZ - 07**  
**Which is the right location for STAR Cineplex Mohakhali Branch?**

**WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 06**

1. Ahsanul Kabir, Bhatara
2. Abeer Hasan Chisty, Uttara
3. Al-Amin Shykat, Dhaka University
4. Asmaul Salim, Khilgaon
5. Yeasir Arafat, West Madartek
6. Fahmida Begum, Gulshan
7. Aqib Zaid, Mohammadpur
8. Md. Shantto Khan, Tejgaon
9. Anisa Khanom, Tejgaon
10. Purnava Siddika, Aftabnagar





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US ELECTION 2020

## Trump questions integrity of US polls

Says counting late ballots would be 'inappropriate'; Biden preaches unity in Georgia; US early voting tops 70 million

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump questioned the integrity of the US election again on Tuesday, saying it would be "inappropriate" to take extra time to count the tens of millions of ballots cast by mail in his race against Democrat Joe Biden.

While Trump, who trails in national opinion polls, cast doubt on mail-in votes, Biden offered a message of unity in two rallies in the state of Georgia as part of a foray into traditional Republican territory with less than a week left to go before Election Day on Nov. 3.

Early voting, both by mail and in person, topped 70 million on Tuesday, more than half of the total turnout in the 2016 election, according to the US Elections Project at the University of Florida.

Americans are rushing to cast ballots in record numbers as they look to avoid exposure to the coronavirus.

The huge volume of mail ballots - more than 46 million have already been cast - could take days or weeks to tally, experts say, meaning that a winner might not be declared the night of Nov 3, when polls close.

"It would be very, very proper and very nice if a winner were declared

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



NEVER TO BE DETERRED... Almost in his 80s, a farmer carrying the green grass he picked from his cropland to feed cattle at his home. The photo was taken yesterday in Ghatar Char village in Barishal's Babujanj upazila.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Internet to remain slow for 4 days in some areas

Work of upgrading undersea cable to begin tomorrow

RASHIDUL HASAN

Traffic interruption in internet usage will begin from the wee hours of tomorrow in some parts of the country and will continue for four days as cable diversion activities of the i2i is expected to start at that time.

The 3,100-kilometre submarine cable, known as the i2i cable network, also connects Bangladesh's international internet gateway (IIG) operators with Singapore, industry operators said.

"The start of traffic interruption will be from October 30 [tomorrow],

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## Delhi to start issuing tourist visas soon

Says Indian envoy as two countries resume flights after 7 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi visitors to India would continue to get tourist visas soon, said Indian High Commission in Bangladesh.

Vikram Doraiswami, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, said, "We will do everything to provide our visa services [to Bangladeshis] from the highest possible level of the High Commission."

He made the statement at a programme, organised to mark resumption of air communication between Bangladesh and India under the Air Bubble Agreement, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, regular flights between Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries, except China, remained halted since March.

On the inaugural day of air communication resumption, two flights of US-Bangla Airlines operated between Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka and Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka routes.

Speaking as the chief guest of the programme, the Indian envoy said his country wanted to ensure smooth

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## Bangladesh wants amity with China

October 29, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

FOREIGN MINISTER'S BELGRADE PRESS CONFERENCE

Abdus Samad Azad, the foreign minister of Bangladesh, says today in Belgrade that Bangladesh wishes friendship with China and agreement with Pakistan. Speaking at a press conference during an official visit to Yugoslavia he says he hopes his country's application for membership of the UN would be satisfactorily settled as most of the members of the UN are in favour of it.

He further says that Yugoslavia has assured support to efforts of Bangladesh for internal consolidation as a young country as well as in other matters like establishing normal relations with her neighbours and securing for herself the right place in the United Nations.

REPATRIATION OF 230 BANGALEES BY NOV 8

The first group of 230 Bangalees is to be sent to Bangladesh shortly with the permission of Pakistan President ZA Bhutto, reports the International Committee of Red Cross. Red Cross is making arrangements for their travel to Dhaka before the end of the holy month of Ramadan on November 8. Meanwhile the governors' conference held in Rawalpindi today and presided over by Bhutto orders the border police to stop smuggling of Bangalees into Bangladesh.

ALPP COMPLETES EXAMINATION OF AMENDMENTS

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



## Two held for gang-raping girl in Ctg

12 more arrested over rape in 4 dists

STAR REPORT

Police arrested two people from Chattogram's Banskhal upazila on Tuesday night for gang raping a 15-year old.

At the same time, around 12 people were arrested on charges of rape - four in Chattogram and four in Thakurgaon and another four in Jashore and Faridpur.

In Chattogram, the arrestee Md Abdul Bashar, 45, and Md Jamir, 35, raped the girl in a paddy field around 10:30pm on Tuesday, said police.

Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Banskhal Police Station, told The Daily Star,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

## 'Massive' coral reef taller than Empire State Building found



CNN ONLINE

A "massive" new reef measuring 500 meters (about 1,600 feet) has been discovered in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, making it taller than some of the world's highest skyscrapers.

Scientists found the detached reef, which is the first to be discovered in more than 120 years, in waters off North Queensland while on an expedition aboard research vessel Falkor, ocean

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

23 more die from Covid, 1,492 test positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-three people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release from the Directorate

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 29

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



OBLIVIOUS TO DANGER Although battery-run auto-rickshaws are banned on highways, many of them continue plying the Dhaka-Tangail highway on a regular basis, posing serious risks of road accidents. The photo was taken near Savar BKSP recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## 'No space for third party'

China rattled by US support for India on border disputes

THE STATESMAN/ANN

A day after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo extended strong support for India's efforts to defend its sovereignty, China yesterday responded by saying that boundary question is a bilateral matter and there is no space for a third party to intervene.

China said that the development of bilateral ties between countries should not infringe upon legitimate rights and interests of a third party and should be conducive to regional peace, stability and development.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

## QUESTIONABLE DB RAID 2 witnesses fail to appear before court

Next hearing in fake currency case Nov 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed November 24 for the next hearing in the fake currency case filed against Hotel Bondhu manager Hasan Majumdar and its chef Sohail Rana as two witnesses failed to show up.

The case was filed following a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
এসএমই এন্ড স্পেশাল প্রোগ্রামস্ ডিপার্টমেন্ট  
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

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

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

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

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

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