



THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY



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ELECTORAL VOTE (270 TO WIN)		POPULAR VOTE	USA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2020	SENATE CONTROL (51)	HOUSE CONTROL (218)
253	213	72,193,412	47	199	
		68,433,458	47	188	

Margins RAZOR-THIN

Biden edges closer to victory as results from key battlegrounds start flowing in; Trump mounts legal challenges to stop ballot count



AGENCIES

Former vice president Joe Biden, making his third run at the White House, was tantalizingly close to victory yesterday as President Donald Trump sought to stave off defeat with scattershot legal challenges.

The cliffhanger race is moving to a pivotal moment in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada as the final votes are counted that could swing the White House toward former vice president Joe Biden or hand President Donald Trump a second term.

The counts expected to trickle in today could offer more clarity of the destiny of the race, reported CNN. Biden currently leads with 253 electoral votes to Trump's 213, and 270 electoral votes are needed to win

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Young activists and Democratic party presidential candidate Joe Biden supporters gather and dance on Black Lives Matter Plaza just outside of the White House (background) in Washington DC yesterday. Many Trump supporters have been protesting in Arizona and Pennsylvania.

PHOTO: AFP

US ELECTION 2020

- Winner may emerge today
- Trump campaign files lawsuits in Michigan, Georgia, Pennsylvania alleging voter fraud, requests recount in Wisconsin
- Trump to address from Las Vegas: lawsuit in Nevada on the cards
- Republicans poised to keep Senate
- Experts say legal challenges unlikely to affect eventual outcome of election

THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZ ANAM

US ELECTIONS UNDERSTANDING ITS HIDDEN MESSAGE

SEE PAGE 8

BUYING 3CR VACCINE DOSES Govt signs deal with India's SII, Beximco Pharma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bangladesh's Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd to collect three crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines from Serum.

Pune-based Serum has an agreement with AstraZeneca to manufacture the vaccine, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, being developed by the Oxford University. The vaccine has been named Covishield in India.

Once the vaccine is approved for human application, Beximco Pharma will buy each dose from Serum for \$4 and then supply it to the government for \$5.

The three crore doses will be delivered in phases with 50 lakh doses every month, according to the agreement.

Each person will need two doses.

The MoU was signed at the health ministry's conference room in the capital, in the presence of Health Minister Zahid Maleque and Indian High Commissioner Vikram K Doraiswami.

Md Mostafa Kamal, additional secretary at the ministry, Rabbar Reza,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

7 CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS Graft gobbled up over Tk 37cr

It's more than half of the total funds, finds a TIB survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than half of Tk 68.16 crore meant for the government's seven climate change mitigation projects have been misappropriated, said a Transparency International Bangladesh report.

Irregularities and corruption had cost the projects Tk 37.07, said the report.

The projects implemented between 2011 and 2018 were approved on political considerations, it added.

Besides, a personal assistant of an erstwhile minister allegedly took 10 percent of the total budget for three projects and got those approved.

TIB, the Bangladesh chapter of global graft watchdog Transparency International, launched the report Climate Change Mitigation Finance and Project Implementation in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and Way Forwards in an online press conference yesterday.

The seven projects were funded by the state-run Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF).

Of the seven projects, four were for afforestation, two for solar street lights, and one for a solar power station.

At the press conference, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the project proposals were submitted, approved, and implemented on the basis of political considerations rather than their need and relevance in the local communities.

As a result, the projects saw "a kind of financial loss" and people did not benefit from these, he added. Instead, an influential quarter and people close to it benefited from the irregularities and corruption.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Country sees highest daily increase since September 10

1,842 infected with Covid, 17 die in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health officials yesterday reported 1,842 new cases of Covid-19 -- the highest in a single day in the last 56 days.

With this, the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases rose to 4,16,006, said a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Earlier on September 10, the DGHS reported 1,892 new cases while July 2 saw the highest 4,019 cases so far.

On March 8, the authorities reported the first three cases of coronavirus in the country.

In the 24 hours preceding yesterday morning, 17 people died from Covid-19.

With the latest figure, the total number of deaths reached 6,021,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BDR MUTINY TRIAL Acquitted, yet can't walk free

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Ever since Abdur Rashid got acquitted in the sensational BDR killing case from the lower court, his family members have been counting days to see him walk out of jail.

Seven years went by and he is still behind bars.

The 53-year-old subedar of the paramilitary force, formerly Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and renamed Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), is being tried in another case filed under the Explosive Substances Act with no chance of getting released anytime soon in sight.

"After serving four years in jail, my father got acquitted in 2013. The government has not filed any appeal against the acquittal. But he is still languishing in jail and we don't know when he will be released," said Rashid's elder son Abdullah Al Mamun Shakil.

The trial proceedings in the explosive case are now moving very slowly and another 10 years would be required, apprehend the lawyer for the accused.

Rashid is not getting bail either, due to various legal complications.

"We are passing days amid uncertainty and financial hardships. My father has been suffering from various health problems, but we can't do anything about it," Shakil, 26, told The Daily Star.

Rashid joined the BDR headquarters at Pilkhana a couple of days before the bloody mutiny that shook the nation to its core. Seventy-four people, including 57 army officials, were massacred during the mutiny on February 25-26, 2009.

He was arrested on March 28, 2009.

On November 5, 2013, a Dhaka court awarded death sentence to 150 BDR members and two civilians, and life

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

RETURNEE MIGRANTS HC throws away case against 219

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday threw out the case against 219 returnee migrant workers from Gulf states, stated a press statement issued by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit.

The bench of Justice Enayetur Rahim and Justice Mustafizur Rahman issued the rule dropping all proceedings against the Gulf returnees.

219 returnee migrants were detained on July 5 under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, following their quarantine period.

The charges under which they were arrested were not specific, and the first information report stated that they were being incarcerated on suspicion that they could perpetrate criminal activities in the future.

"The police also accused them of 'tarnishing the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

YOUR CHANCE TO NOMINATE THE WINNERS ARE IN THE CATEGORIES BELOW :



ONCE AGAIN IT IS TIME TO HONOUR THE LEADERS OF OUR ICT WORLD

5th The Daily Star



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Sonai Beel in Santhia upazila of Pabna.

PHOTO: STAR

Santhia Jubo League chief suspended

Locals accuse him of assault, creating obstruction in catching fish in Sonai Beel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Jubo League's Santhia upazila unit president Ashraf Alam Tutul was suspended on October 28 amid allegations of abduction, torture and obstructing lawful owners from fishing in Sonai Beel, a wetland in the area.

Directed by the central committee of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, its Pabna district unit Convener Ali Murtoza Bishwas Sony and Joint Convener Shibli Sadiq issued the suspension order on Wednesday night.

Ashraf's involvement in "anti-organisational activities" and "alleged torturing of farmers" were stated as reasons for the suspension in the order.

Residents of Hariakahon village in Santhia upazila, where Sonai Beel is located, said a considerable portion of the water body is owned by many of them.

A number of them said they live on catching fish in their submerged low-lying property as well as the water body during the wet season, when they do not have any income from their flooded croplands.

But this year, when the floodwaters started to recede and the landowners made attempts to

catch fish there, their access to the water body and even their own property were blocked by Ashraf and his goons, alleged the villagers.

Many of them claimed that they endured physical assault and torture by the goons for setting up fishing nets not only in Sonai Beel, but in their own land as well.

Hariakahon resident Monsur Ali said he could not grow any crop on his land in the last four to five months as it was inundated with floodwater.

When the floodwater started to recede, he went to set up fishing net there. But the "Jubo League men" took possession of the land and forced him out of there, he claimed.

Many other villagers including Rafikul Islam, said Ashraf first took control of a canal that he leased inside Sonai Beel. But over the past few years, he assumed control of fishing in the entire water body with the help of his henchmen.

Ashraf's brother-in-law Babul Hossain and his thugs forced him out of his own land and damaged his fishing nets when Rafikul went there to catch fish, he also said.

Masud Hossain from the same village said on October 19, he was abducted by Ashraf's

thugs for catching fish in Sonai Beel.

They took him in Ashraf's office and tortured him physically, he also said, claiming that he had not been able to file any case for the assault due to various reasons.

When asked about the accusations being made against him, Ashraf Alam Tutul said he neither leased the canal nor was he involved in fish trade.

Rather, his relative Babul is in fish trade and he gets fish from several fishers, including Kalipada Haldar and Sunil Haldar, from Nandanpur village, who had leased the canal in the beel.

Denying allegations of creating obstruction in catching fish in the water body or physically assaulting any villager, he also claimed that clashes often break out in the area over disputed land in the water body. But he never gets himself involved in those disputes.

Contacted, Santhia Upazila Nirbahi Officer SM Jamal Ahmed said though he did not receive any formal complaint against Ashraf yet, they would take action upon receipt of a complaint.

The canal in the water body was leased out, but no one should have any problem catching fish in their own land, he added.

Pulse farming sees rise in Chowgachha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Mugh and maskalai farming sees gradual rise in Jashore's Chowgachha upazila as it brings good profit.

Farmers have cultivated the pulse on vast tracts of land in different unions of the upazila.

The unions include Swarupdah, Narayanpur, Sukhpukuria, Hakimpur, Jagadishpur and Patibila.

The growers are expecting bumper yield due to favourable weather this season.

According to the Upazila Agriculture Office, 550 hectares of land have been brought under mugh dal and maskalai cultivation this year while it was about 450 hectares last year.

Of them, maskalai has been cultivated on 310 hectares of land in the upazila this season.

Last year, 250 hectares of land were brought under maskalai cultivation while mugh dal was cultivated on 200 hectares of land, said an agriculture officer.

Farmers in the areas are showing more interest to cultivate mugh dal and maskalai than other crops due to its lower production cost and good market prices.

Maskalai has mainly cultivated in Fulsara and Singhajhuli unions of the upazila.

Due to the fertility of soil, the cultivation of Maskalai Bari-3 and Mugh Bari-3 and

Bari-4 has increased in the region.

During a visit, it was seen that maskalai has been cultivated on 30 bighas of land at Kadamtala and Madhabpur villages in Swarupdah union of Chowgachha.

Farmer Kajol Hossain in the union said Maskalai cultivation has become very popular among the growers in the area due to its lower production cost and good profit as well.

This year, he has cultivated maskalai on three bighas of land in the Bangla months of Bhadra and Ashwin, said Kajol, a resident of Madhabpur village.

If there is good market price this year, a maund of maskalai will be sold at Tk 3000 in the local market, he added.

Upazila Agriculture Officer Rois Uddin said farmers in the upazila cultivate mugh dal extensively.

But this year, besides mugh dal, maskalai has been cultivated extensively as it is more profitable than other crops, he said, adding that the cultivation is increasing every year.

The officer added that Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute has developed several high yielding varieties of mugh dal like Bari Mugh-2 (Kanti), Bari Mugh-3 (Pragati) and Bari Mugh-4 (Rupsa).

However, the farmers in the upazila have cultivated Bari Mugh-3 and Bari Mugh-4 varieties extensively, he said.



A farmer works at his maskalai field in Jashore's Chowgachha upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Local people form a human chain in Dinajpur's Nawabganj upazila parishad premises yesterday, urging the authorities concerned to protect the historic Ashur Beel from the clutch of influential grabbers.

PHOTO: STAR

13 shops gutted in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 13 shops were gutted in a fire at Gorjanbunia Bazar in Barguna Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Barguna fire service officials said, primarily they suspect that the fire might have originated from an electric short-circuit at a medicine shop in the market around 1:30am and soon engulfed adjacent 10 shops and three shops partially.

Police said, being informed, firefighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control.

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI)

Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh
Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
BBS Survey, Data Service and Certificate Management
Parishankhyan Bhaban, (Room 310, 2nd Floor, Block-A)
E-27/A Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Firm selection for the program of "BBS Survey, Data Service and Certificate Management"

1	Ministry/Division/ Agency	Ministry of Planning/Statistics & Informatics Division (SID)/ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
2	Procuring Entity Name/ District	Director, FA & MIS Wing, BBS, Dhaka
3	EoI for Selection of	A Firm for "BBS Survey, Data Service and Certificate Management"
4	EoI Ref No & Date	52.01.0000.218.07.003.20-040, Date: 03/11/2020
5	Procurement Sub Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
6	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget & GOB fund
7	Project/Programme Code & Name	Code: 120001210 Name: BBS Survey, Data Service and Certificate Management
8	EoI Closing Date, Time & Place	Date: 24-11-2020 Time: 12:00 am (BST) Place: Room # 402, 3rd Floor, Block # A, BBS, Dhaka
9	Brief Description of the Assignment	The "BBS Survey, Data Service and Certificate Management" includes but not limited to the following services: 1. Survey Design 2. Sample Design 3. Survey Operation & Management 4. Data Capturing & Processing 5. Report Generation & Publication 6. Data Management 7. Approval system 8. Certificate Management System 9. Online Data Sale using Payment Gateway (National & International), etc.
10	Experiences, Resources & Delivery Capacity Requires & Submission of EoI	Applicant must have adequate technical ability and resources. The minimum eligibility criteria are as follows: 1. A registered entity for at least 05 (Five) years having valid trade license (Inception & up to June, 2021); Income Tax clearing certificate for last 3 years (2017-2018, 2018-2019 & 2019-2020); Last three years annual turnover (Yearly turnover at least taka 3 (Three) core); Last two-years bank statement (2018-2019 & 2019-2020); VAT Registration Certificate; Certificate of Incorporation (If necessary); Up-to-Date BASIS Membership Certificate and Audit report for the year 2018-2019; 2. 05 (Five) years proven relevant practical experience (Work Order & Completion Certificate) of developing web and mobile based applications/software/e-governance/e-Service solution in the public sector; 3. Must have experience of designing, developing and implementing of at least 03 (Three) similar (web and mobile based applications/software/ e-governance/e-Service solution) projects for the Government of Bangladesh; 4. Need to have minimum 30 (Thirty) full time ICT personnel related to design, development and implementation of web and Mobile based applications/software/e-governance/e-Service solution; 5. Management capacity (brochures and other documents describing similar assignments, experience, availability of appropriate professional staff and experience among applicant's staff, resources to carry out the assignment); 6. Must have experience for developing & deploying systems using payment gateway (National & International); 7. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the firm shall be Taka 1 (one) crore; 8. Original agreement in case of JV participation; 9. Bio-data/C.V (including photograph) of experts and other personnel to be engaged in the job and duly signed by the respective personnel; 10. List of experiences of similar works; 11. Only work order with completion certificates of similar job along with the details like name, address, fax and e-mail address and contact number of the customer; etc. Two (2) copies of EoI (Original and a copy) must be submitted in sealed envelope and be clearly marked Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of Firm for "BBS Survey, Data Service and Certificate Management".
11	Name, Designation & Address of Official Inviting EoI	Md. Emdadul Haque Director, FA & MIS Wing, BBS, E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
12	Contact Person's details	Md Mafizul Islam, Focal Point Officer, BBS, E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.Mobile: 01726417343, e-mail: mafiz1964@gmail.com
13	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EoI's	

GD- 1769

Md. Emdadul Haque
Director, FA & MIS Wing, BBS

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Family Planning
Logistics & Supply Unit
6, Karwanbazar, Dhaka 1215.

Invitation for e-Tender (OTM, NCT, Goods)

e- Tenders are invited in the national e-GP portal for the procurement of following goods:

SI No	Tender ID No.& Package No.	Brief Description of Goods	Last Selling Date & Time	Last Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
01	492266 PSSM/GD-06/ e4	Procurement of Book Shelf, Computer Table, Photocopier Table, Executive Chair & Arm Chair.	22/11/2020 17:00 PM	23/11/2020 11:00 AM	23/11/2020 11:00 AM
02	492270 FSD/GD-16/ e8	Procurement of 0.033 Million Roll Cotton 100gm.	22/11/2020 17:00 PM	23/11/2020 11:15 AM	23/11/2020 11:15 AM
03	492271 FSD/GD-17/ e9	Procurement of 0.2 Million Bottle Povidone Iodine.	22/11/2020 17:00 PM	23/11/2020 11:30 AM	23/11/2020 11:30 AM

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted through the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP portal. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any schedule Bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal and from e-G help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Ratna Talukder) 11/10/20
Director (Logistics and Supply) &
Line Director (PSSM-FP)
Directorate General of Family Planning
Telephone: 880-2-55012349

GD-1770



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Opportunities Campus Ambassador Program 2021

Youth Opportunities is launching the 3rd season of its Campus Ambassador Program for the aspiring youth of Bangladesh. The program aims at empowering the youth as changemakers in their institutions to promote different aspects of global and local opportunities among their fellow students so that they can avail of these opportunities and transform them into successes. DEADLINE: November 20, 2020 | Volunteer Service



Each set of words by Banglay Boli is based on a relevant issue.

ILLUSTRATIONS: COURTESY OF BANGLAY BOLI

Learning Bangla collaboratively through art

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

Banglay Boli is a collaborative project by Humairah Shams, Omiya Hassan and maliha mohsin. "We have been friends for years and have worked together on several collaborative art and storytelling projects," says maliha, who spells her name in small letters.

Omiya is a graduate student from the University of Missouri, Columbia, USA. She is also an illustrator, a designer, and the founder of the art store, MiyaBhai. Humairah is an illustrator, a designer, a calligrapher, and the founder of the art boutique, Made With Love. maliha is a writer, researcher, DJ, and community organiser, with a focus on queer-feminist political intersections in the arts. She also focuses on the use of arts as a community practice.

The three friends started Banglay Boli as a collective learning process. They were all raised as predominantly English-speaking, and they believe that it is important to be able to communicate in Bangla to have constructive and critical conversations with their immediate communities, especially about matters of social and political importance. "We have often found that we don't know the appropriate vocabulary for many conversations in Bangla," explains maliha. "We have all recurrently tried to reconnect to the

language and learn it. But the pandemic has been a big transitional period for all of us, in terms of acknowledging socio-political issues. We have also come across various projects on the internet made by and for Bengali people to translate, and communicate political campaigns in Bangla within their communities. It is important for us to acknowledge these sources of inspiration, when we talk about our own motivation."

The resources that served as their inspiration reached them on Instagram, as all of them actively learn from independent artists and community organisers who use Instagram as a medium to disseminate essential information, news, and knowledge visually. Since Humairah and Omiya are artists, they knew from the beginning that this was going to be a visual project. "Instagram is a very easy and approachable platform for a visual portfolio. Although we could have a broader audience on Facebook, we realise that reach has become increasingly limited on Facebook for those who do not boost their posts," explains Omiya.

They work on a set of three words at a time. Each set is based upon a relevant issue, and they select keywords that they find are most frequently used when the issue is discussed. "When Black Lives Matter reached its peak on social media

and the news, we found that some of the most relevant keywords were 'racist' and 'discrimination'," adds Omiya. "We work together to select the words and appropriate translations and usage. This curatorial process is driven largely by our political contexts, awareness, and conversations. For example, we preferred to use the word 'physical distancing' instead of 'social distancing', because of the casteist and classist connotations that the usage of the latter term can have in South Asian contexts." However, this process is always a work-in-progress for the three of them, as they are all constantly learning and unlearning.

Visually, Humairah and Omiya work together. With their two distinct lettering styles, they handwrite every word. They fuse their styles together for each set of words. They also set the colour schemes together. maliha mostly works on the texts and research.

"Banglay Boli has been fairly easy to manage, because this is mainly a personal and educational project for us, and we have a great working relationship," says Humairah. However, a major difficulty they face is the compression of the artworks on Instagram. "Oftentimes, the videos we post are compressed and recoloured to a slightly different variation of the original. Another important challenge is conducting actual research on

Bangla and the vocabulary, and deciding on the most appropriate word for a given context," adds Humairah. "We understand that language is not monolithic. It has diverse uses and practices, and the same word can be expressed and used in many different contexts and meanings."

"I grew up as an immigrant in the UAE. My Bengali roots are sometimes as distant to me as are Western values. As someone who didn't grow up speaking Bangla, I learned most of the Bangla that I know today from people, and not from books," adds maliha. "For someone like me whose first language is English, it can get difficult to find resources to learn Bangla. However, I am trying to break away from it and understand the world in Bangla too, because it is socio-politically very relevant for me to do so."

Moving forward, Banglay Boli's team intends to stay relevant to the social realities and political events around them, at any given time. However, they don't think of themselves as teachers or trailblazers. They are just three friends trying to learn Bangla together, while welcoming suggestions and including others in the process.

Madiha Athar Khan gets by in life with books, art exhibitions and making fluid art, hardly remembering that her day job is in technology. Reach her at madihak1923@gmail.com.

UPG Sustainability Leadership Program 2021 in USA (Fully Funded)

United People Global (UPG) is a community that encourages and enables people to participate in making the world a better place. This is achieved in various ways and especially by contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UPG works to raise awareness, strengthen belief, facilitate collaboration, and foster community. DEADLINE: November 30, 2020 | Fellowships

PeaceX Delegate Res Publica (Country Envoy): Call for Applications

PeaceX is an international peace and amity organisation that aims at casting a pall at the striking issues surrounding the development of peoples and is committed to impacting the lives of young people all over the world. Through collective leadership and action, they aim to have a tremendous social, political, economic and academic impact on the world. Pooling together the efforts, skills, zest, determination of the youth around the world will let us achieve the critical mass required to make that lasting positive impact on all nations. DEADLINE: November 22, 2020 | Awards



Team members and volunteers of Udoy paid homage to the Language Martyrs in February 2019.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF UDOY

Shining as a positive light in healthcare and education

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Established in 2016, Udoy is a social organisation working for relief, rehabilitation, reform and development. They strive to facilitate healthcare and education for those in need, free of cost. Their other regular projects include blood donation and campaigns against drug addiction. Their team also provides financial assistance to people in need.

Udoy's journey of helping people began by collecting funds for a girl's marriage, after her father approached a group of young students for aid. They also came across students who dropped out of educational institutions due to poverty. "We realised that people wanted to help, but there weren't enough ways to channel this aid to the ones who need it the most," added A K M Mohiuddin Ahammed, Co-Founder, Udoy. "We created an inclusive platform for people to send in donations, while our members distributed the aid."



Volunteers of Udoy distributed face masks and hand sanitisers in different areas, earlier this year.

The organisation's annual activities include a healthcare campaign, under which they provide free medical facilities and distribute medicines. They invite doctors from different specialties and extend support to over 150 patients each year. They also award scholarships to students for their brilliant results

in their PSC, JSC, SSC, HSC, BSC and MSC examinations. "We have taken the responsibility of the education of five underprivileged meritorious students up to their SSC examinations," added Sheikh Russel, Co-founder of the organisation. During the ongoing pandemic, their team conducted an awareness campaign, post which they distributed 1,000 masks and 200 hand sanitisers. The organisation also distributed food packets among 150 underprivileged families. Furthermore, they provided Eid gifts to 100 destitute families.

Their future plans include ensuring medical assistance for those in need by establishing a community clinic. Udoy also intends to reduce the current drop-out rate by connecting students with responsible donors.

Maisha Islam Monamee likes to read her way through life, and you can always find her scribbling and planning. To send recommendations and help, reach out to her at mislammonamee@gmail.com.

No coordination, urgency or foresight in govt's migration initiatives

Our migrant workers don't deserve such callousness

THE insensitive way in which the migrant workers' crisis has been handled since the onset of Covid-19 seems to indicate that the government only cares about migrant workers when it is time to count their contribution to the GDP but not when it is time to take care of their pressing concerns. Despite repeated pleas to the government from the workers themselves, as well as from migration experts, to prepare for the severe repercussions of an impending fallout due to the pandemic, the authorities deployed their usual rhetoric of "all is well", wasting precious time that should have been spent in formulating and implementing a comprehensive plan to ensure timely and hassle-free return of workers to their workplaces.

The government only started negotiations with Saudi Arabia once the migrants' permits and iqama had already expired and they took to the streets in hundreds to protest the potential loss of employment. Flights are limited and costly, and there's still great uncertainty over whether all of them will be able to return on time. Desperate migrants are paying huge sums of money—at a time when they are already strapped for cash and burdened with debts—for flights, while potential migrants who secured visas before the pandemic but could not travel are being made to go through bureaucratic and costly loopholes again, compelled to provide medical reports and "police clearance" certificates along with fresh papers. Charging an additional fee of Tk 3,500 for mandatory Covid-19 test for all out-going passengers has only added to their burdens. There does not seem to be any coordination among the ministries of civil aviation, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment and foreign affairs, nor any real concern on the authorities' part about how to reduce the migrants' ever-increasing woes.

Meanwhile, the initiative to disburse loans at a 4 percent interest rate to affected migrant workers, through the Probashi Kallyan Bank, is yet to gain any traction as a result of bureaucratic delays and complex requirements which act as hindrances to accessing the loans.

The question is, has the government learnt anything from all this? Is it in a better position to ensure that similar fates do not await those who will be returning to their host countries soon? Are they conducting negotiations with those countries to renew their visas and reduce bureaucratic hurdles for the migrants? Will they ensure timely flights? Will the process of procuring loans be simplified? What other steps will be taken to rehabilitate those who may fail to return to work?

We want to have faith that the government will finally start fulfilling its duty to the migrants, but unless the concerned ministries shape themselves up and treat the issue with the urgency it deserves, we are afraid we will see more of the same in the coming months. Our migrant workers certainly don't deserve such callousness.

Call drops becoming more frequent

What steps are being taken to improve service?

FREQUENT call drops and disruptions became a major problem for more than 16 crore mobile subscribers in the first eight months of this year. There were 112.95 crore call drops between January and August, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), translating to an average of about 47 lakh call drops per day. During the Covid-19 period, this has become an even bigger problem as a large number of people have been working from home and needing better quality service. People in rural areas have been hit the worst, as poor connectivity and call drops have been more frequent there.

Despite the number of mobile and internet subscribers increasing by 1 crore and nearly 2 crores in the last two years, no new cell phone towers have been set up in the country during that time, leading to a gradual decline in the quality of services. In 2018, the government had approved four applications for tower operation licences, but due to a lack of agreement between tower-sharing operator licensees and telecom operators, as well as regulatory issues, there have not been any new towers built yet. In the meanwhile, it is the consumers who are suffering.

This is unacceptable. It is imperative that people should get reliable and quality cell phone service, especially during times of emergency such as the Covid-19 outbreak. It is time for the regulators to toughen their regulatory measures and to ensure customers' rights are protected. This should include customers getting compensation for dropped calls. However, as this paper has previously reported, mobile operators have been reluctant in the past and had cut back on providing compensation for dropped calls between August 2018 and July 2019. The regulators must monitor this, get the operators to provide fair compensation to their subscribers and also ensure that better quality service is provided.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

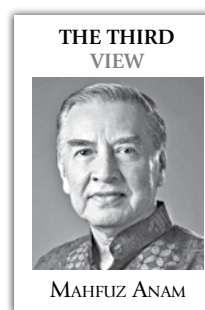
Help jute workers

According to a report, export of goods made from jute rose by 40 percent. The Ministry of Textiles and Jute stated that the influence of jute on the national economy has grown substantially. This is indeed good news as the jute plant is one of the most promising ones to grow on our soil.

However, we have noticed how desperately workers have been protesting against the closure of state jute mills. The government's decision to shut all the mills and lay off thousands of workers was truly heart-wrenching. It should not turn a blind eye to the plight of the workers and must do everything possible to help the industry flourish.

Costa D'Souza, by email

US ELECTIONS Understanding its hidden message



THE THIRD VIEW
MAHFUZ ANAM

THE outside, who eventually wins is, of course, crucial but the message that the election process has revealed is, equally, if not more, important. The election has revealed, far more intensely than ever before, that the US is an ideologically divided country, and dangerously so. The danger is that the division is not on policies but on principles and ideals that this country should stand for. A division that sees the world so differently that it is bound to impact, and in fact dismantle, the world order that has sustained so far.

Millions of votes that Trump got point towards a vision of the US that is radically different from what its constitution proclaims, especially as regards racial equality. There is a rising and vicious racist and white supremacist streak that appears to be endorsed by about 48 percent of Americans. These voters believe that democracy—the US's trademark selling point in the world—is not for all. It also revealed an inexplicable refusal to accept science and fact-based reasoning; it brought out a corruption of politics where partisanship overrides public welfare and where open demonisation of the "other" has become the norm, regardless of how much it harms the country. Republicans crossed no legal line in appointing the latest supreme court judge but it was not lost to anyone that partisan political consideration superseded every other factor. It revealed the dangerous risks that the US is willing to take by destroying the global order that has ensured, in however flawed a manner, a relative peace in the post-World War II period. It has also revealed that the US cannot be counted on as a reliable partner for global collaboration unless American interest is given the highest consideration.

In 2016, Donald Trump was the new kid on the block, the Washington outsider, the non-politician promising to "clean the swamp". His candidacy could easily be considered a "fresh start". Of course, those who really knew him and were familiar with his ways greatly doubted that anything good could come from such a man.

But in this election, he was the incumbent with four years of performance record, of leadership, of policies, of

supporting causes, of taking position and of handling crises to judge him by—not to mention, the four years of outrageous tweeting. He was a one-man demolition squad for many American institutions and did everything to create doubt in the vaunted US election process by presenting it as full of fraud.

Yet so many American voters chose him. They chose him in spite of the fact that nearly 240,000 people have already died of Covid-19—which is twice the total US casualties in WW I, half of those who died in WW II, and four and a half times the number of those who died in the Vietnam war. Health experts have repeatedly said that more than half of them could have been saved through better management of the crisis.

One of the maddening things about the US elections is that it draws us all in, citizens and outsiders alike, with the latter

the Watergate affair in the late sixties and early seventies. The more I saw how the US system held its elected officials, especially its president, accountable—through the myriad committees at state and federal levels, special prosecutor, endless hearings, etc.—and the role of the media, especially the newspapers (those days were far different from today's digital and social media), the more my admiration for the American system grew. It was a welcome antidote to my rising disillusionment due to the US's role in Vietnam. I stood astounded by what one single newspaper—*The Washington Post*, and its editor and two reporters with the firm backing of its illustrious publisher, Catherine Graham—could do when their head of state violated the law. Ultimately, Nixon had to quit office not so much for the break-in at the Democratic Party's office in the Watergate Apartment



US President Donald Trump at a campaign rally held before the November 3, 2020 presidential election.

PHOTO: REUTERS

sometimes being more involved because we understand the implications of the outcome more acutely than perhaps many others. We follow the trends, try to fathom the issues, learn all about the swing states, and attempt to understand how the citizens of the biggest military power, the biggest economy, and the country that has the capacity to do a lot of good and harm to the world, will vote. What was a curiosity became a worldwide concern after the reckless invasions of countries in the Middle East, destroying whatever state structure they had to govern themselves. Now we observe the US elections deeply perturbed about whether or not one of the architects of the present-day international order will resume to play a constructive role or be hell-bent on dismantling it.

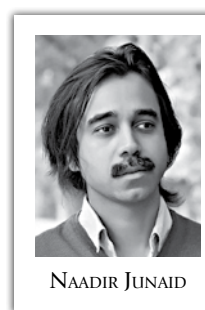
My own fascination with the US elections started with Richard Nixon and

complex (from which the incident acquires its name) but for the cover-up that he initiated.

Nixon's case was a severe jolt for the US system where its highest office bearer was caught breaking the law. From this low in its history, the US emerged, in my view, stronger by showing that it could cleanse itself, even at the very top, and move on because institutions were stronger than individuals.

While Nixon jolted the system, George W. Bush, as the 43rd president, practically destroyed it. He made lying—about the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), to justify invading Iraq—patriotic. While Nixon had to suffer the indignity of being forced to resign—with impending impeachment hanging over his head—for abusing the power of the presidency, perverting institutions of governance and lying to the American people,

How respectful are we of the ideals of Liberation War?



NAADIR JUNAID

IN 1971, the Pakistani military junta wanted to prevent Bengalis of then East Pakistan from pursuing their just demands by using brute force. When the Pakistani army unleashed a genocidal attack on unarmed

civilians on March 25, the people rose up against them, and after a nine-month war that resulted in a great deal of bloodshed and suffering, Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation. The ideals of our Liberation War thus entail, among other things, resistance to unjust display of power, tyrannical and exploitative rule, sexual violence, religious intolerance, and racial hatred. Those who fought for freedom in 1971 hoped that the oppression and prejudices they had experienced before would cease to exist in the independent nation. Our freedom fighters also deeply valued our shared identity as Bengalis that bound people of all religions in the country.

The importance of "upholding the ideals of Liberation War" is often stressed in speeches and remarks by politicians and intellectuals and even ordinary people. But as we near the 50 years of our independence, one may wonder how many people today really understand what constitutes the ideals of Liberation War or what it means to respect them. If people really understood and believed in those ideals, how could there still be such prevalence of problems such as corruption, brazen display of power, repression of women, religious intolerance, etc.—which are totally antithetical to the values of the Liberation War?

Hatred of non-Muslims was one of the common attributes of the Pakistani army. The Pakistani rulers did not like Bengalis' fondness for songs composed by Rabindranath Tagore because he was not a Muslim. It is extremely frustrating to see that religious bigotry still plagues our society. In 2016, some young men occupied the Holy Artisan restaurant in Gulshan and mercilessly killed a number of innocent and unarmed persons in the name of religion. Although those extremists were Bangladeshis, it seems

they were not at all aware of the history of the emergence of Bangladesh. Did they know about the Pakistani atrocities against Bengali civilians in 1971? Did they know how the members of Al-Badr abducted Bengali intellectuals and murdered them in order to debilitate the diffusion of progressive ideas in post-independence Bangladesh? Instead of being inspired by Rumi, Bodi, Jewel, Azad and numerous other young freedom fighters who fought

still do not despise or protest it as strongly as they should. Our politicians often declare their adherence to the values of 1971. At the same time, we witness brazen abuse of power by politically influential people in our society. It is disconcerting to see the "ideals of Liberation War" being reduced to a buzz phrase used for political advantage. In different decades after independence, individuals known for their anti-liberation role were made

the oppressive Pakistani army for the independence of their motherland, these young men embraced religious zealotry. Their blind belief and intolerance turned them into cruel, cold-blooded zealots and, like the Pakistani occupying army and their local collaborators, they murdered innocent civilians. Al-Badr and Al-Shams were formed with Bengali religious fanatics who, like the Pakistanis, used to loathe ideas concerning Bengali nationalism, religious harmony, and a secularist society.

Freedom fighter Ziauddin Tariq Ali once said that he felt very sad that the Bengalis had all but forgotten the genocide committed in 1971. It seems many Bangladeshis have also forgotten that in 1971, the Pakistani army raped thousands of Bengali women. When we hear that between January and September this year, more than three rape incidents on average took place every day, we see in them a grotesque display of the same immorality shown by Pakistani perpetrators all those years back. It is a shame that despite there being such a well-documented history of sexual violence being perpetrated in 1971, many

gradual decline in power of the freedom fighters. After independence, freedom fighters could not remain united, whether in political parties or in the armed forces. Many eminent freedom fighters were killed due to factional divisions and sometimes executed by controversial and unfair military trials. For many years now, articles, documentaries, and discussions concerning Liberation War have appeared in the mass media only on specific days such as March 26 and December 16. How can we expect the current generation to develop a broader understanding of the ideals of Liberation War if their knowledge about the sufferings, sacrifices, and struggles of the Bengalis in 1971 remains scant? Our Liberation War needs to be discussed in the media and in academic institutions in such a way that would help people gain valuable insights about the brutal genocide and sexual violence committed by the Pakistanis in 1971, the systematic liquidation of our leading intellectuals, intense suffering of common people, and the valour and supreme sacrifices of our freedom fighters.

Would it be too difficult to create libraries in rural areas and small towns and inspire young people to read books on Liberation War? The MPs and local politicians can easily lead these initiatives. Television channels should screen Zahir Raihan's *Stop Genocide*, Vanya Kewley's *Major Khaled's War*, Alamgir Kabir's *Liberation Fighters*, Tareque Masud and Catherine Masud's *Muktir Gaan*, Tanvir Mokammel's *1971*, Sukhdev's *Nine Months to Freedom* and such Liberation War-based documentaries more regularly. I think footage used in these documentaries would lead to a deeper engagement of the spectators with the realities of 1971.

The ideals of Liberation War would be revered highly when people from different socioeconomic backgrounds and students studying in Bangla and English medium institutions and madrasas understand why the freedom fighters deserve our utmost respect—and why those Pakistani perpetrators and their collaborators, and those who carry their legacy today, deserve severe condemnation. If we can't convince our people to reject reactionary ideology and resist all forms of oppression, we will be guilty of betraying the ideals of our Liberation War.

The ideals of Liberation War started to lose ground as a discourse because of the

Whatever sobriety there was in US politics is now replaced by breast-thumping, unabashed and self-defeating ultra-nationalism. The US appears to now live in a world of alternative facts and post-truth.

President Bush was hailed as a hero for upholding "American values" for his ill-conceived war on terror. Trump picked up from where Bush Jr. left off and made misrepresenting facts and distorting information a regular practice, thereby destroying the system that runs on facts rather than fiction.

The reason I delve into the past is to bring out the contrast between the political values of the past US administrations and that of the present. It is not to say that past US administrations did not lie—the Pentagon Papers prove it convincingly—but only to differentiate that what was rare then is regular now.

What triggered rejection 50 years ago now generates embrace, what made voters stand up in disgust now provokes amusement, what was a no-no in US politics—like white supremacy and racialism—is now a common yes-yes, what would have once caused total outrage—the failure of leadership in the health sector—is now a fact that appears easily acceptable. Whatever sobriety there was in US politics is now replaced by breast-thumping, unabashed and self-defeating ultra-nationalism. The US appears to now live in a world of alternative facts and post-truth.

The biggest lesson from this election for those of us looking in from the outside is the fact that millions of Americans voted for President Trump and wanted four more years of his rule in spite of what he did, stood for and proposed to do. It is now clear that we don't know and understand this new US that may be emerging, a US that does not want to know and understand the world but is totally wrapped in its own vainglory.

Mahfuz Anam is Editor and Publisher, *The Daily Star*.

Dr Naadir Junaid is Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University.

THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE PROJECT

How to get the best out of our students?

The Academic Experience Project is a faculty-student collaborative work aimed to glean insights about the experiences and expectations of tertiary-level students. Each Friday, The Daily Star will publish op-eds highlighting the findings of the project.



HOW should we see our students: as customers or products? In my four-plus decades in academia, I have seen them quite differently: as co-creators of knowledge. When they are challenged to think, connect, resolve, and create, they are at their finest. Pushed further, they can be serious knowledge producers. For this quality, my respect has only grown for them. In working closely with them, I have been significantly enriched.

Most students are ardent knowledge seekers and enormously creative in their knowledge gathering, processing and dissemination (research reports) abilities. Placed in the right circumstances and given the right opportunities, they can come up with ideas that are simply brilliant.

While some teachers are able to get the best out of their students, many are not. Students attending typical classes are often frustrated and demotivated; they become indifferent and feel a sense of emptiness—a sign that they are not learning. Consequently, their minds disengage quickly and lose both zeal and creativity.

The testing regimes and assessment strategies of typical teachers are also poor: they stress memorisation and regurgitation. As a result, students miss the opportunity to showcase what they can do when they are imbued and empowered with knowledge.

At BRAC University, I have seen students create Mongol Tori (a Mars rover) and present viable ideas like manufacturing cost-effective sanitary napkins from water hyacinths to meet the needs at lower tiers of society. Creativity is in their genes; for many, it is a survival instinct. Yet, in a large majority of classrooms, this instinct is rarely developed and honed.

I also had the privilege of teaching a research methods course involving graduate students at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development. I was delighted when a

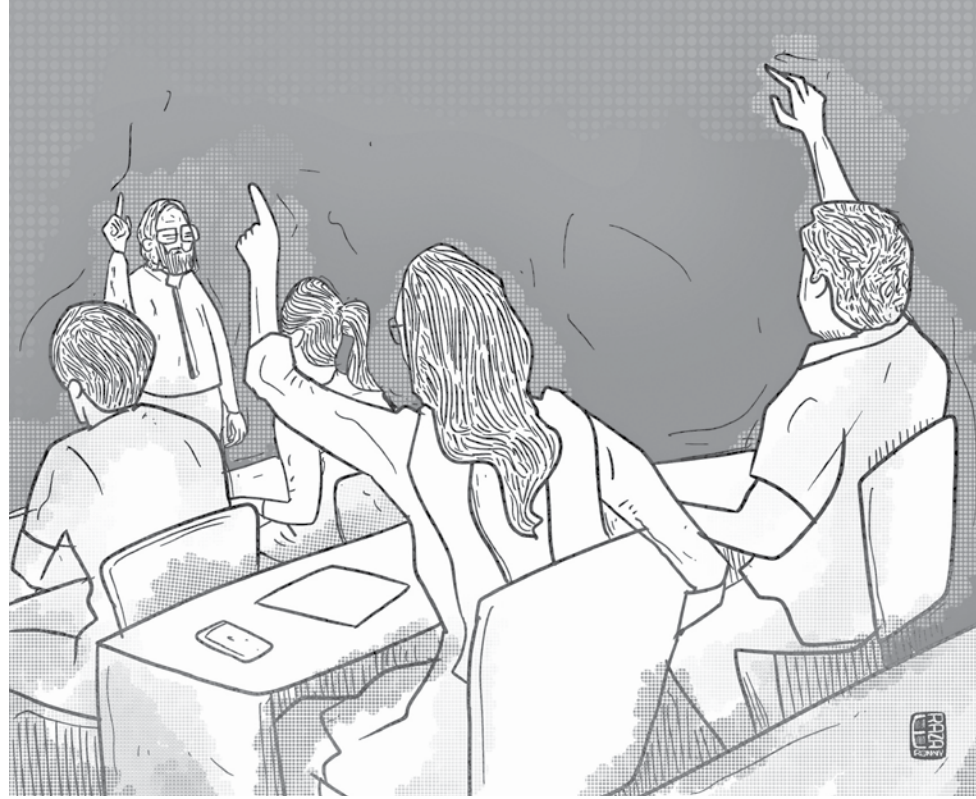
team of three students from the course went on to present a research paper from the course itself at a conference at Yale University. All three chose to continue working with me even after the semester was over.

In my early years while teaching at IBA, I made students go to the factories and business houses to talk to those on the ground, synthesise this learning with textbook propositions and theories, and come up with their own worldview. Aply ingrained with a spirit of inquiry, the confidence they exude is simply elating. Many of my students have gone on to become CEOs, academic leaders, and high-ranking officials. From afar, I have watched them with pride as they successfully managed their affairs. One such CEO shared his classroom experiences in an article published by The Daily Star.

At Penn State, too, where I taught for nearly three decades, my students routinely won awards at the annual Penn State Behrend-Sigma Xi Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishment Conference. I believe this was because they were constantly challenged to dip into the unknown, seeking answers. One bright young student emailed me recently saying, "I just wanted to thank you for everything you've done for me. Without you, I would not have been able to bring the extensive body of research I've done to the interview to show all of the things I am capable of doing."

In January 2020, I was invited to teach at IBA as a visiting professor. Two of the nine DBA students from a course in multivariate analysis are continuing to work with me on retail banking. Another 45 ardent MBA students worked with me on a research project. Designed to glean insights about student experiences with higher education, what started as an innocuous class project began to evolve in a manner that was simply unanticipated.

A survey was placed on Google Forms, the link of which began to circulate among the student population in various universities. The rate and quality of the responses were stunning. It became sadly apparent how many students feel neglected, rate their academic programmes poorly, find a serious absence of well-rounded education, perceive



Placed in the right circumstances and given the right opportunities, students can come up with ideas that are simply brilliant.

ILLUSTRATION: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

a lack-of-fit with their academic environment, are unable to build enduring friendships, and rue their teachers who mistreat them and offer little time beyond the class hour to even have a simple conversation.

Dubbed as The Academic Experience Project (T-AEP), the data set from the class project now represents over 50 universities with over 1,200 respondents and is growing as the survey link continues to be shared. The responses are honest, direct, refreshing, insightful, and remarkably prescriptive. Here are three randomly selected voices:

"As an engineering student, I feel that our institutions shouldn't focus [just] on theoretical enrichment; they should concentrate on applied knowledge. Most

importantly, we need a compact research-based education to compete globally. This is how they can make us [competitive for] the job market."

"Do the institutions try to build a strong sense of ethics in [their] students? Do they try to [make] you feel the sufferings of the people?"

"Academia-industry collaboration should be improved a lot; most of the businesses are focusing on just making money but not collaborating with the universities to develop the human resources they need to compete in the global market."

Interestingly, the T-AEP project made a deep connection with the students conducting the study. So, when asked to tell a story about

Rekindling the Joy of Learning

MIMOSA KAMAL and SYED SAAD ANDALEEB

"The joy of learning is as indispensable in studying as breathing is in running." - Simone Weil

MANY are the number of universities in Bangladesh, both public and private. Large numbers of students graduate every year from these institutions. But how many of them really experience the joy of learning? This question must be answered by the country's academic institutions.

Few things can bring as much joy as learning something new—a powerful experience that feeds one's curiosity and provides deep insights about the world around you. It is a vital part of growing personally and professionally. To prepare the country's future generations as change-makers, they must be equipped with the right education and experience. If they experience no sense of joy in the process of learning, are they even learning anything?

Psychologists portray the joy of learning as an experience of conquering. "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." Frederick Douglass contends that challenges are an indispensable part of learning and growing: Students will only experience deep learning when they taste the achievements of small intervening goals. A balance is also required between the tasks assigned and the mental ability of the students. The struggles should be such that students are not driven to states of stress and depression; rather the level of challenge should help them to discover their autonomy, creativity and innate potential. The process of learning will never be enjoyable if the teachers do not spend sufficient time and effort in making their courses vivid and fun-filled. Chances are also high that students



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Few things can bring as much joy as learning something new—a powerful experience that feeds one's curiosity and provides deep insights about the world around you.

will enjoy their learning experience when their teachers love teaching, and when their dedication and passion are contagious.

Getting admission into one of the better universities in Bangladesh requires some effort, and comes with expectations that students will emerge from a rich and deep learning experience. Most students in the first semester of their universities, after conquering their admission challenges, speak passionately about their institutions. However, for many, that passion begins to wane; for some, rather quickly—almost in the blink of an eye. Instead of being drawn into the realms of discovery, they are burdened with rote memorisation and having to spend time

preparing for one exam after another. And as the institutions fail to engage the students mentally and emotionally, often suppressing their innovative and creative ideas, boredom and frustration quickly replace the anticipated joy from the academic experience.

For many, there is no real learning and they wonder—why am I here? At a leading university, one student commented, "This institution should not be bragging about its glory; it should change its intake procedure, enable students to learn, and update [the] curriculum properly. This world needs skills, not certificates." Unfortunately, most of the students these days have come to believe that the only outcome they are ever going to have

from their university experience is a certificate that may be worth very little.

This situation is common not only in the private universities of the country; some feel it is even worse in the public universities. The nation's primary and secondary education systems are perhaps far worse.

The academic programmes and curricula offered in the present-day universities are unimaginative, outdated and simply boring. The courses promote neither experiential learning nor allow for developing analytical or problem-solving skills. In Bloom's Taxonomy parlance, courses in the higher education sector still focus on "remembering", where students merely recall and recite basic concepts and facts. Some term it as parroting! Reaching higher levels of the taxonomy is something one can only dream about. Even in this era of digitalisation, when students are surrounded with information resources, the academic programmes and curricula are dated and unimaginative, and students are "made to" focus on passing exams that often require them to regurgitate class lectures and notes prepared by their seniors years ago!

The faculty members of the universities are not always to blame. They suffer the deficiencies of an insensitive, ill-trained and non-responsive administrative system that has not figured out how to bring change. Revenues and costs are always big issues, and the faculty are made to slave through unreasonably high course loads to meet targets. If you ask them what demotivates them from being more engaging, interactive and creative, to make the learning process interesting and interactive, one answer will invariably surface: they are overloaded with courses to teach and the overbearing size of a typical class. On top of that, they are expected to handle various administrative responsibilities and conduct

research! They are often so pressured by subtle threats that they shy away from trying to bring any change to it.

To bring back the joy of learning in academia, it is necessary to shake things up a little. Competent, experienced, and motivating teachers often influence student achievement the most. But this requires some element of training. Faculty members, both new and experienced, should thus be exposed to ways in which they can create interactive and challenging learning environments both inside and outside the classroom. Eventually, those who accept, adopt and adapt to new pedagogies (actually, andragogies), and are certified, can become the forerunners of change in the country's academic environment.

Of course, training must be accompanied by different mechanisms of student evaluation, reasonable teaching loads, and rewards for innovative and creative teaching. Such changes are imperative if students are to be converted into human assets, future leaders, problem-solvers, and conscious and conscientious citizens. Today, new thinking must permeate higher education to make it change for the better. With changed thinking, trained teachers will assume the role of competent and creative souls this nation desperately needs today to nurture future generations. A new breed of teachers, at all levels, can be the pacesetters bringing a revolution to academia in this country, with rich dividends. The question is, who will pave the way? When?

Mimosa Kamal is working on her MBA degree at IBA, University of Dhaka. Syed Saad Andaleeb is Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Pennsylvania State University, and former Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. The article is a result of Dr Andaleeb's collaboration with IBA, Dhaka University students to turn the spotlight on higher education in Bangladesh.

QUOTABLE Quote
MEISTER ECKHART (1260-1328) German mystic.
What we plant in the soil of contemplation, we shall reap in the harvest of action.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH
ACROSS: 1 Hawk, 5 Cartoon pig, 10 River catch, 12 Game setting, 13 Fab Four drummer, 14 Singer Neville, 15 Star pitcher, 16 Spell caster, 18 Prison head, 20 Luau strings, 21 Liberal study, 23 Course need, 24 Matching, 26 Listen to, 28 Frodo's friend, 29 Woodland grazer, 31 Cyclops feature, 32 Pop's Andy, 36 Small songbird, 39 King Kong, e.g., 40 Writer Brontë, 41 Musical set in Argentina, 43 Happen again, 44 Out of style, 45 Catch, 46 Toppers, DOWN: 1 Scarecrow fill, 2 Writer Jong, 3 Antisocial one, 4 Galoot, 5 Talk show legend, 6 Test type, 7 Send another way, 8 Rapped, 9 Big Apple player, 11 Stood tall, 17 Worker in a colony, 19 River stopper, 22 Clipped, 24 Exhortation from the pulpit, 25 "West Side Story" song, 27 Mess up, 28 Homes to urban gators, 30 Ram's mate, 33 Port-au-Prince's nation, 34 Made a choice, 35 Main roles, 37 Photo problem, 38 Orpheus played one, 42 Kilmer of "Batman Forever"

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS
C A S B A H O P A L
A P O L L O N I N A
T E P E E S S T Y X
S C E N I C
M A P S E T H E L
A L I W H E E D L E
M E T H I D A R T
B U C K E T S R O B
O T H E R S K Y E
L I O N R O T G U T
E A R L I G U A N A
I N K Y T O P D O G

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER
HOW'S YOUR DIET GOING, SARGE? I LOST A NOTCH! TAKE OFF YOUR BELT AND GET ON THE SCALE!
BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT
HAMMIE IS TOTALLY NUTS ABOUT HIS NEW TEACHER. OH, YEAH. HE PROPOSED TO HER TWICE THIS WEEK YOU NEED TO TALK TO HIM. DEFINITELY! HE SHOULD DATE OTHER PEOPLE BEFORE HE SETTLES DOWN. THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!

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

FACEBOOK LA LIGA

Elche v Celta Vigo
Live from 2:00am (Saturday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE
Bangalore v Hyderabad

Live from 8:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Brighton v Burnley
Live from 11:30pm
Southampton v Newcastle

Live from 2:00am (Saturday)
TEN 2 SERIE A
Sassuolo v Udinese
Live from 1:45am (Saturday)
SONY SIX PARIS MASTERS
Live from 7:00pm



Nepal national football team arrive at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday to play two international friendlies against Bangladesh on November 13 and 17 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. This is the first time that a foreign team have come to the country since TC Sports Club of Maldives visited in March this year for their AFC Cup fixture against Bashundhara Kings before the outbreak of Covid-19. PHOTO: BFF

Nepal arrive to end football's long hiatus

SPORTS REPORTER



Putting behind the anxiety when some of their players tested positive for Covid-19, the Nepal national football team yesterday landed in Dhaka to play two FIFA international friendlies against hosts Bangladesh. Nepal had to leave behind seven footballers – five of whom tested positive during training in Nepal and two who tested positive shortly before the team flew out. Nepal however did not face much problems creating the 25-member squad, even though it is also missing seven members of the squad for the World Cup

Qualifiers tie against Kuwait in Kathmandu in September 2019. Notable among those missing are overseas leagues players – goalkeeper Kiran Chemjong, midfielder Rohit Chand and Abhishek Rijal. Bangladesh have not yet announced their final squad, but midfielder Mamumul Islam was ruled out of the two friendlies due to a fracture on his left hand. Both Bangladesh and Nepal have been out of action since the coronavirus outbreak in the subcontinent in March. Both are however all set to return to competitive football through two matches on Nov 13 and 17. They will also renew their rivalry for the first time in more than two years,

having last played an international when hosts Bangladesh lost 0-2 to Nepal in the SAFF Championship in September, 2018. However, the countries' Olympic teams faced off against each other last December during the South Asian Games. After arriving here, Nepal coach Bal Gopal Maharjan said the two friendlies would help both sides and they are looking forward to performing well, instead of thinking much about the outcomes. "Nepal government gave us the authority to play two FIFA friendlies, which will be good for the development of Nepal football. It is also good for Nepal for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers at home. I think this match will benefit both Bangladesh and Nepal and that's why we

have come here," said Maharjan, who was once a familiar face in Bangladesh's domestic league. Maharjan, who guided Nepal U-23 team to the Bangabandhu Gold Cup title in 2016, said he is focusing on both performance and results. "Focus will be on good performance and good results but I am not talking about wins or losses... we are going to give our best because we have come here for friendlies, and it is also a matter of the FIFA ranking," said Maharjan, who played for Brothers Union from 1991 to 1993 and coached the same team in 2016-17. The Nepal football team are supposed to start training from Saturday, having undergone Covid-19 tests yesterday.

SHAKIB SPEAKS

While responding to questions from fans and journalists around the globe on his YouTube channel on Wednesday, Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan talked about his ICC ban for failing to report corrupt approaches from a bookie, the coronavirus pandemic and the lessons he learnt during this long break. Below are some of the highlights from his answers:

- » The pandemic and the ICC ban helped him to think about life differently...taught him to generate more ideas.
- » He was happy as he didn't miss too many matches during ban.
- » The silver lining of his enforced absence was that he could spend a lot of time with family during the birth of his second daughter.
- » While he said the question of whether he would regain the trust and confidence of his teammates was a bit difficult to answer, the all-rounder thought it would not be surprising to see his teammates not trusting him completely.



- » He could have been banned before the World Cup but it never crossed his mind that he would have to do well just because he was being investigated.
- » He had to play well in the World Cup as he could not do much in the previous editions and he had to do justice to the reputation that he had and age was on his side as he was in a phase of life where athletes usually enjoy their best form.
- » Responding to a question, he also said he wanted his favourite footballer Lionel Messi to leave Barcelona in order to join Manchester City or PSG because he believes Messi would be able to play with freedom at those clubs.



'IT'S A VERY SPECIAL NUMBER'

Rafael Nadal became the fourth man to win 1,000 Tour-level matches on Wednesday by beating Feliciano Lopez at the Paris Masters. The 34-year-old, who won a record-extending 13th French Open title across Paris at Roland Garros last month, followed Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer and Ivan Lendl in reaching the 1,000 mark. Nadal was given a special presentation to celebrate his achievement after the match in a near-empty Bercy Arena, with the event being played behind closed doors after France entered its second coronavirus lockdown last week. "It has been a special moment. I know it's a very special number, 1000," said the 20-time Grand Slam champion. "Even if it's not the same to celebrate something like this without a crowd, I enjoyed it with ATP, with the president of the French Federation, Guy Forget, supervisor and the ball boys. "I enjoyed it and just can say thanks to all of them to make this moment a little bit more special."

PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia confirms cross-country BBL

REUTERS, MELBOURNE



Australia's upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) will be a moving feast, with the domestic Twenty20 competition travelling across the country in a touring model as Covid-19 curbs ease. Cricket Australia (CA) on Thursday locked in the schedule for the opening 21 matches, with the first bracket from Dec. 10 starting in Tasmania state and Canberra before moving to Queensland and South Australia later in the month. Cricket Australia said it would confirm the schedule for the remaining 35 regular season matches and the finals series later. "This is without doubt the most complex fixturing task ever undertaken by the League and we are excited with where it has landed," CA's BBL chief Alistair Dobson said in a statement.

A historic night for Basaksehir

AGENCIES



Manchester United suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at Istanbul Basaksehir on Wednesday, the English side's first loss in three Champions League group matches and the Turkish champions' first victory in Europe's premier club competition.

"We played well in the first two games too, but finally we secured a win. This is a big result for us, we are really proud," said Edin Visca.

United went behind after 12 minutes in Turkey when Visca's pass found Demba Ba in space at the halfway line and the striker ran forward before finishing past Dean Henderson and Basaksehir doubled their lead before the break when Juan Mata lost possession and Ba turned provider for Visca to score.

"Demba Ba, Martin, and Rafael are players with English backgrounds, and therefore it is very important to show themselves again, but they always try to show it in every performance," said Istanbul Basaksehir coach Okan Buruk.

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said his team's defending in the first half of Wednesday's 2-1 defeat was "unforgivable" and admitted "it's not easy to be positive" after an 'unforgivable' performance.

Former United midfielder Paul Scholes said their defending was "embarrassing".

"It's completely down to organisation. It's like under-10s football. What the defence were doing I have no idea. The goal is



Istanbul Basaksehir's Edin Visca celebrates his goal while (below) Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer looks dejected after the defeat.

PHOTO: TWITTER/REUTERS

comical, laughable," Scholes told BT Sport.

Wednesday's result ended Manchester United's longest away winning run in all competitions in their history (10 straight wins) and was their first away defeat in 19 matches since losing in January at Liverpool in the Premier League.

Marcus Rashford is "heartbroken" by Manchester United's recent struggles but remains confident his side can bounce back by returning to the basics.

LAMPARD PLEASED WITH CHELSEA

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said his side's 3-0 Champions League victory over 10-man Stade Rennais on Wednesday showed the progress they were making.

Chelsea extended their unbeaten run in all competitions to seven games and it was Chelsea's fifth straight clean sheet, the first time they have managed the feat since 2010, according to

Opta statistics. "I'm pleased," Lampard said.

STEGEN, BARCA'S REAL HERO Barcelona earned a far from convincing 2-1 win at home to a depleted Dynamo Kyiv on Wednesday. The victory however put Barca on the verge of a place in the knockout stages. Marc ter Stegen returned to the competition in spectacular form as the German was decisive with five high-level interventions against Kiev.

Barca coach Ronald Koeman was visibly anxious on the sidelines and did not attempt to gloss over the sloppy performance.

"We suffered more today than in any other game so far, we need to improve a lot when we don't have the ball. I'm happy with the result but not with certain aspects of our game and luckily we had Ter Stegen around. I think we started well and got the goal early and had some clear chances but after that we lost control and they created a lot of danger. Thanks to

Marc, who was phenomenal, he held on," said the Dutchman.

LEIPZIG BATTLE BACK TO WIN 2-1 OVER PSG

RB Leipzig fought back to beat Paris St Germain 2-1 at home in a pulsating Group H clash that kept them on course for a last-16 spot while putting the French side, who finished the game with nine men, in a precarious position.

MORATA BRACE HELPS JUVE

Alvaro Morata scored twice before two defensive mistakes helped Juventus to a 4-1 Champions League win at Ferencvaros as they bounced back from last week's defeat by Barcelona.

"Games can become easy only



if you play well," said Juventus captain Giorgio Chiellini.

HAALAND TOO HOT FOR BRUGGE

In-form Erling Haaland scored twice as Borussia Dortmund surged to the top of Group F with a comfortable 3-0 victory over hosts Club Brugge.

Dortmund scored all of their goals inside the first 32 minutes as they overwhelmed their hosts with some incisive attacking play. Belgian international Thorgan Hazard gave Dortmund the lead in the 14th minute before Haaland scored twice.



[L-R] Borussia Dortmund's Erling Haaland celebrates his first goal against Club Brugge while Alvaro Morata is ecstatic after scoring twice during Juventus's 4-1 win over Ferencvaros. Meanwhile, Antoine Griezmann congratulates Lionel Messi after the Barcelona superstar successfully converted a penalty against Dynamo Kyiv.

PHOTO: TWITTER/REUTERS

Gayle's heart-warming message for Kohli

AGENCIES

Wishes have been pouring in for India captain Virat Kohli who turned 32 on Thursday. From fans to fellow cricketers, quite a few have taken to social media to wish the modern-day legend. One common narrative in all those special messages has been 'good luck' messages for the IPL 2020 campaign.

Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Kohli on Thursday celebrated his 32nd birthday with his teammates and wife Anushka Sharma on a private yacht in Abu Dhabi.

A day after his birthday, Kohli will lead Bangalore in the eliminator of IPL 2020 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Abu Dhabi. It's an all-important match for Kohli and RCB as they are bidding to end 12-year-long title drought.

RCB supporters will be hoping that the birthday brings luck to Virat Kohli and his men when they face a must-win situation on Friday.

Virat Kohli's former RCB teammate and Kings XI Punjab star Chris Gayle took to social media to wish the 'legend' and send him some luck for the play-offs.

"Happy birthday legend, @imVkohli ...wish you many more KaKa! Bring it home for RCB," Gayle said while posting a throwback photo from their RCB days.

RCB shared a video of Kohli's birthday celebrations on their official Youtube channel. In the video, DeVilliers was heard saying that giving him the IPL trophy this year would be the cherry on the cake for RCB players.

"You are a fantastic person and I just wish you have a wonderful day with us here at the IPL, cherry on the cake obviously for us would be to give you that IPL trophy this year," the former South Africa captain said.

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Rising from the ashes

Gobindaganj Santal families forcefully evicted four years ago are back now, cultivating crops this winter

KONGKON KARMAKER and MOSTAFA SHABUI

Olivia Hembrom, 33, was left wanting for food and work in March when coronavirus and a nationwide shutdown hit Bangladesh.

On April 1, Olivia had told this newspaper that she was enduring hardship, with no work and so no food for her husband and three children who live in the Sahebganj-Bagda farm area of Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila.

Her husband, 39-year-old Dijen Tudu, had lost sight in his left eye four years ago, when police, local administration, and Rangpur Sugar Mill authorities, with the help of local politicians and goons, evicted 2,500 Santal and Bangalee families from the farm area.

In that eviction drive on November 6, 2016, three Santals were killed and 20 others, including nine policemen, were injured.

Dijen still bears some splinters of rubber bullets in his body and cannot tolerate much exposure to sunlight or the cold in winter.

Olivia has had to add farming and providing for the family to her duties since then. But her desperate circumstances have changed in the last six months.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Olivia Hembrom tending to her pumpkin field in Sahebganj-Bagda farm area of Gaibandha's Gobindaganj. Like many Santals, she has started cultivation to run her family after her husband lost sight in his left eye four years ago during a clash over eviction of Santals from the farm area.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

7 Ctg cops test positive for drugs

Process of their dismissal underway; dope test conducted on 32 cops

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Seven police personnel of different units of Chattogram Metropolitan Police have tested positive in dope tests since the Bangladesh Police ordered all its units to test police personnel to identify members who use drugs.

Senior CMP officials said the process of dismissing the seven was underway and they had already been suspended.

CMP sources said the suspended policemen are from assistant sub-inspector rank to constable rank.

Seeking anonymity, a police official of CMP headquarters told The Daily Star, "We have conducted the dope test on 32 police personnel from SI rank to constable rank so far."

"The dope tests have been done at SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

4 Bangladeshis killed in road accident in Mauritius

Another injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four Bangladeshis expatriates died and another was critically injured after a bus carrying 52 Bangladeshis hit a roadside bus bay in Mauritius yesterday.

The dead have been identified as Sanjay Das from Faridpur, Rakib Molla from Kishoreganj, and Faruque Islam and Abdur Razzaque from Chapainawabganj.

The critically injured victim was undergoing treatment in the ICU of a hospital in the Mauritian capital Port Louis, said Ohidul Islam, labour welfare counsellor at the Bangladesh High Commission in Mauritius.

The incident left eight other Bangladeshis injured to different extents. They SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu greets October Socialist Revolution

November 6, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

FRIENDSHIP WILL BE STRENGTHENED

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today sends greetings to the government and people of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. In a message to the Soviet prime minister, Bangabandhu says, "This day which led to the emergence of the first Socialist State continues to inspire the progressive and peace-loving people all over the world. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the great support by the government and the people of the USSR during our War of Liberation and the assistance provided by the government of USSR in the task of rebuilding our economy."

He further says, "We feel confident that the bonds of friendship and understanding existing between our two countries will continue to be maintained

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



UP member, mosque imam arrested on rape charges

STAR REPORT

Rab arrested a union parishad member on charge of raping a woman in Joypurhat early yesterday, while an Imam of a mosque in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila was sent to jail for raping a 10-year-old girl on Wednesday night.

The Joypurhat arrestee, Abdul Kuddus, 46, of Chawkshyam village under Sadar upazila, is a member of ward-8 of Dogachhi union.

MM Mohaimenur Rashid, additional SP of Rab-5 in Joypurhat, said a team of his unit arrested the UP member after getting a written complaint from the victim on Wednesday night.

A month ago, Kuddus offered to get the victim, who was desperately looking for a job,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

'Can't accept useless people'

As Suu Kyi denies genocide, opponents up anti-Rohingya rhetoric

AFP, Naypyidaw

As Aung San Suu Kyi is vilified internationally for denying genocide against the Rohingya, her opponents in Sunday's Myanmar election are ramping up the rhetoric against the Muslim minority.

There was global revulsion at military-backed operations in 2017 that saw hundreds of thousands of people flee burning villages into the squalor of refugee

camps in neighbouring Bangladesh.

The horrifying violence -- including widespread reports of murder and rape -- has left Suu Kyi's international reputation in tatters and sees Myanmar facing genocide charges at the UN's top court.

But Than Htay, leader of the military-aligned Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), insists Myanmar has nothing to be sorry for.

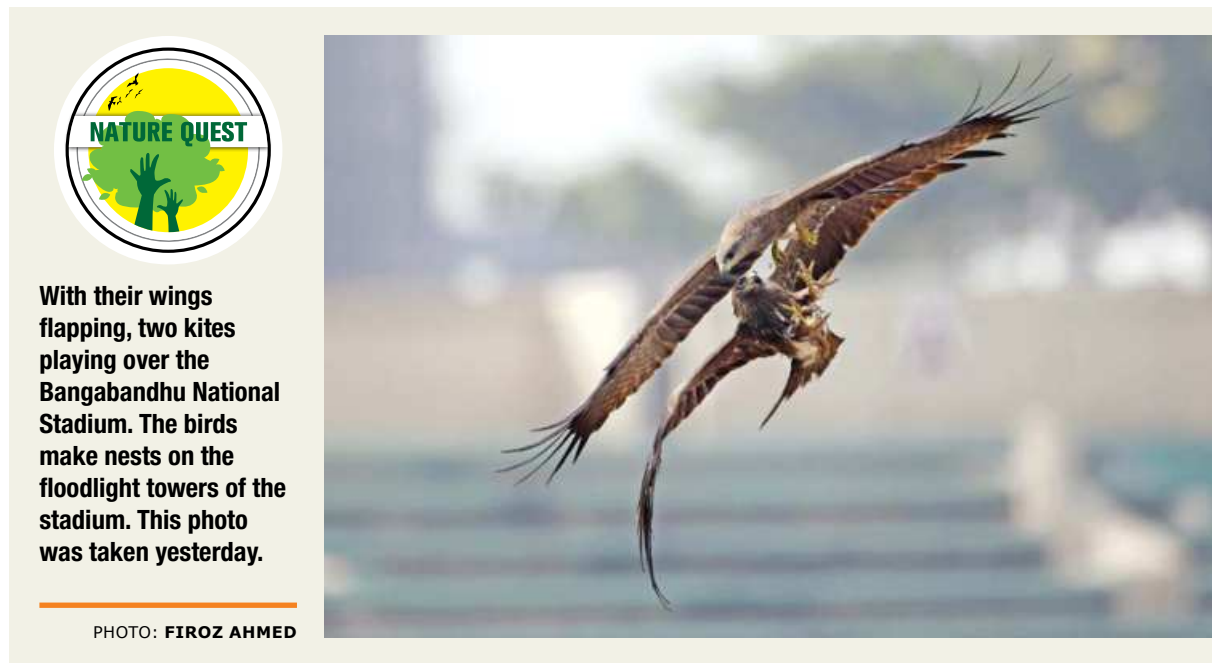
SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 6

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
JAMAAT 5:00 12:30 3:45 5:25 7:00
AZANAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:30 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



With their wings flapping, two kites playing over the Bangabandhu National Stadium. The birds make nests on the floodlight towers of the stadium. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

LALMONIRHAT LYNCING

Police yet to track down key suspect

2 more held; mosque khadem, 3 others remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Eight days into the brutal killing of Abu Yunus Md Shahidunnabi Jewel in the district's Patgram upazila, police are yet to arrest Abul Hossain who allegedly first spread the rumour about desecration of the Holy Quran by the victim.

Yesterday, police picked up two more people, accused in the Jewel murder case, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Entire England put under lockdown

US sees record-high daily cases

AFP, London

England's 56 million people joined much of western Europe in a second coronavirus lockdown yesterday, as the United States set a fresh daily record with close to 100,000 new infections.

European governments are struggling to contain a fresh wave of the pandemic, which has now infected more than 11 million across the continent.

The new stay-at-home orders from London came as Denmark said it would cull its entire population of more than 15 million minks after a mutation of the virus was found to have spread to people from the otter-like mammals.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced an England-wide SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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