

# 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.

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

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government vesterday signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding



Graft gobbled up over Tk 37cr

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

Country sees highest daily increase since September 10 1,842 infected with *Covid, 17 die in a day* 

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Health officials vesterday reported 1,842 new cases

**BDR MUTINY TRIAL** Acquitted, yet can<sup>7</sup>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.

yesterday threw out the

PHOTO: AFP

case against 219 returnee migrant workers from Gulf states, stated a press

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, Rabbur Reza,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

STAFE 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.

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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

The 53-year-old subedar of the paramilitar iorce, 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

atement issued b Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit.

Winner may emerge

Trump campaign files

lawsuits in Michigan, Georgia, Pennsylvania alleging voter fraud, requests recount in

Trump to address from Las Vegas: lawsuit in Nevada on

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

**RETURNEE MIGRANTS** 

HC throws

against 219

away case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench

today

Wisconsin

the cards

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



BANGLADESH UPDATE 1,842 New cases in 24hrs 4,16,006 Total cases 6,021 **3,33,588** Recoveries

GLOBAL

Deaths



## Dhaka focuses on building capacity, not waging war

Says PM while commissioning 5 navy ships

#### UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh wants to strengthen its capacity to resist any external attack.

"We don't want to fight a war against anyone... but we want to attain the capability of resisting any external foes so that we can do that if we are ever attacked by them," she said.

The PM said the Father of the Nation had formulated Bangladesh's foreign policy -- "Friendship to all, Malice to none". "We believe in that policy."

Hasina was addressing a programme marking the commissioning of five modern ships of Bangladesh Navy at the Naval Berth-1 in Chattogram.

Among the five are three warships -BNS Umar Farooq, BNS Abu Ubaidah and BNS Prottasha, and two survey ships -- BNS Darshak and BNS Tallashi. The premier commissioned the

ships through a video conference from the Gono Bhaban. Hasina said the government

has been making efforts to build Bangladesh Navy as a threedimensional force.

She said the commissioning of the five modern ships would further strengthen the country's naval force.

"With this, Bangladesh Navy has moved one step forward towards its progress.

Referring to the construction of the two survey ships at Khulna Shipyard, the premier said Bangladesh has achieved the capacity of building at the Naval Berth.

#### modern ships.

She said her previous government 1996-2001) had handed over the Khulna Shipyard to Bangladesh Navy in order to modernise it further. "As a result, we have achieved the shipbuilding capacity."

Hasina said she firmly believes that the two modern frigates and one corvette made by China and the two modern survey ships would strengthen the capacity of Bangladesh Navy in protecting the sovereignty of the country.

She expressed optimism that Bangladesh would gradually achieve the capacity of building ships for other countries.

#### **BLUE ECONOMY**

The PM said the government has been working to build a vibrant blue economy by utilising marine resources for Bangladesh's economic prosperity.

"We not only want to protect our sea areas, but also use marine resources so that we can achieve economic prosperity. We have adopted the concept of blue economy and have been working on it."

Hasina said Bangladesh attained its sovereignty in a vast sea area as the then Awami League government took proper measures after assuming office in 2009.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral M Shaheen Iqbal, on behalf of the PM, formally handed over the "commissioning forman [statement]" of the ships to their respective captains



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina looks at replicas of Bangladesh Navy ships while commissioning five ships, including three warships, through a video conference from the Gono Bhaban yesterday. The warships are: BNS Umar Farooq, BNS Abu Ubaidah, and BNS Prottasha. The two survey ships are: BNS Darshak and BNS Tallashi.

## Graft gobbled up over Tk 37cr

#### FROM PAGE 1

According to the TIB report, a former assistant of a minister influenced the selection of an implementing organisation, its approval, and the choosing of contractors for the solar street lights project.

In one project, about 650 kilowatts of solar energy were produced each day, but most of the energy was wasted in the absence of an executive order to supply over 50 kilowatts to the consumer level.

Since there was no provision to supply the produced energy to the national grid, about 180 megawatts got wasted each year since 2017.

The TIB report mentioned that the financing organisation approved the solar street lights project proposals with additional expenditures, without proper scrutiny.

Although both these projects of similar capacities were approved around the same time, the difference between the costs for each unit of street light was about Tk 1.01 lakh, it said.

The survey data included interviews of 38 key informants, 29 focus group discussions, and information collected in the field-level between June 2018 and September 2020.

office equipment purchased disappeared from the project office. Besides, the project saw the plantation of about one lakh fewer saplings than originally planned.

Estimated monetary value of this was about Tk 56.25 lakh, said the report.

In the third afforestation project (eco park), about Tk 1.84 crore of the allocated money was embezzled by showing on paper that the project had been fully implemented.

Similarly, about half (Tk 8.66 crore) of the fund for another afforestation project (carbon sink) was embezzled by implementing only around 50 percent of the physical work, while papers said it was fully done.

For one solar street lights project implemented in 2016-2017, an additional Tk 55.90 lakh was spent.

For another solar street lights project 2016-2018, Tk 69.88 lakh was spent additionally.

For the solar power station, inflated expenditures were shown for purchasing

of equipment and four acres of land at an additional cost of Tk 11 lakh per acre. Iftekharuzzaman said the

government's investment priority on coal and other fossil fuel-based projects instead of renewable energy was a clear violation of its national and global commitments.

By doing so, Bangladesh, already vulnerable to the impact of global climate change, is turning out to be a polluting nation, he told the virtual conference, adding that the country might lose its primary success and reputation in environmental diplomacy. "The government has to move away from such stances," he said.

In its recommendations, TIB said the least developed countries (LDCs), under the leadership of Bangladesh, must put combined diplomatic pressure on the developed countries to ensure mitigation funding based on the Paris Climate Agreement.

The graft watchdog said different government bodies, including the forest and environment ministry, finance ministry, and power and energy ministry should take steps to stop investment in fossil fuels such as coal and LNG, and invest in renewables.

## BGB seizes two lakh yaba pills, detains six in Bandarban

5 Rohingyas among them STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday arrested six people and seized two lakh yaba pills from their possession in Bandarban's Naikhyangchhari upazila.

Of the six, five are Rohingyas and one is Bangladeshi, said Lt Col Ali Haider Azad Ahmed, commanding officer (CO) of BGB-34 battalion in a press release.

A patrol team of the BGB confronted the six at Reju Amtali area of the upazila, as they were coming from the Myanmar border around 8:30am, said the press release.

Upon searching, the BGB team found the contraband pills in their possession, it said.

The arrestees were identified as Md Rahamath Ullah, 24, Md Mahmudul Hassan, 21, Md Selim, 22, Md Amin, 22, Md Jiabul Haque 26, of Lambashia Rohingya camp, and Md Joynal Abedin, 25, of Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya. A case is being filed in this

connection, the CO said.

## Country sees

which is 1.45 percent of all confirmed cases in the country.

Yesterday's positive cases were detected after 15,225 tests in 113 laboratories. The positivity rate was 12.1 percent.

The overall positivity rate was 17.3 ercent.

Meanwhile, 1,891 Covid-19 patients recovered, taking the total recoveries to 3,33,588, which is more than 80 percent of all confirmed cases.

Among the 17 deceased, 14 were nale and three were female.

All of them died in hospitals, according to the release.

One of them was aged between 41 and 50 years, two between 51 and 60, and the rest 14 were above 60, added he release.

One each was from Rajshahi and Chattogram and 15 were from Dhaka division.

## Hope for healing

Say experts as Biden inches

towards White House PORIMOL PALMA

As Democratic candidate Joe Biden approaches the magic number of 270 taking him to the White House, many Americans see new hope of healing the scars of divisions in their society.

Analysts say Trump's reelection means the social, economic and political divisions in the US widens, but Biden's victory will help restore the damages, domestically and internationally.

## Man shot dead by 'Rohingya criminals'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazan

A Bangladeshi national was shot dead allegedly by Rohingya assailants in Jadimura area of Teknaf upazila yesterday.

The victim is Abdus Shukkur, 35, of Jadimura area. He was an informer of law enforcement agencies.

His uncle Abul Hashim said a group of seven to eight Rohingya criminals, led by Zakir alias Dakat Zakir, entered the victim's house around 11:00am.

They dragged Shukkur out of the home and opened fire on him. He died on the spot. They also threatened to kill other members of the family.

Contacted, Hemayetul Islam, commanding-in-officer of 16th Armed Police Battalion in Cox's Bazar, said the incident happened around 250 metres away from Nayapara-26 Rohingya camp.

The victim used to work as an informer of law enforcement agencies and helped the government agencies conduct drives against Rohingya criminals. That is probably why he was killed, he said.

"We are working to trace the killers," he added.

Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said the body was sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Margins razor-thin

the presidency.

Fox News and AP news agency projected Biden as the winner in Arizona, which has 11 electoral votes, on Wednesday But other outlets have

#### According to the TIB report, 40 percent or about Tk 1.31 crore of the budget of Tk 3.27 crore of one of the afforestation projects has been embezzled.

In another afforestation project, vehicles and

Rohingya camp, said Hashim.

The process of filing a case was underway, he added.

## Govt signs deal

#### FROM PAGE 1

chief operating officer of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, and Sandeep Malay, additional director of SII, signed the agreement.

Beximco Pharma is Serum's sole distributor in Bangladesh.

"We are signing this MoU under the condition that we will take it [the vaccine] only if it is approved by the World Health Organization," the minister said in his speech at the dealsigning ceremony.

The government plans to vaccinate frontline health workers and people aged 65 and above in the first phase, said a health ministry official.

The health minister said, "We will be able to vaccinate a total of 1.5 crore people with these vaccine doses.

Neither the minister nor any official of his ministry, however, said whether the vaccines would be free of cost for people.

Details of the MoU were not disclosed immediately.

The Beximco will collect and transport the Covishield vaccines to storage facilities under the health directorate's Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) cold-chain network. The vaccine doses must be stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius.

Officials said the EPI has the storage capacity.

"They will supply the vaccines

in phases -- 50 lakh doses each month. We have enough capacity to store them. We, however, will place proposals before our high-ups to increase the capacity if our regular vaccination programme does not get hampered," Shamsul Haque Mridha, director of the EPI programme, told The Daily Star vesterday.

The Covishield, originally named as ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 by the inventor organisations -- Oxford University and AstraZeneca -- is a viral vector vaccine, which is at the final stage trial in multiple countries.

It could be ready as early as December, reported The Indian Express on October 28.

In an interview with NDTV, Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute, which is currently conducting latestage trials of the vaccine in India, said the first batch of 100 million doses should be available by the second or third quarter of next year.

The India Times in a report on August 7 said the SII -- the world's largest vaccine manufacturer in terms of volume -- has capped the price of Covid-19 vaccine at \$3 per dose for low and middle income countries, including India, as part of a new partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

do so and vote-counting continues in the state, where Biden is holding on to a shrinking lead.

If the former vice president wins Pennsylvania, the race will be over. Thousands of mostly mail-in votes remain uncounted so far, with Biden trailing by just more than 115,000 votes. The Keystone State's Lt Gov John Fetterman, a Democrat, told CNN that the result could come as early as today and that he believed outstanding ballots in areas that favour Democrats would deliver a clear win for Biden

In large population centers in the state like in Montgomery County, Biden is outperforming Trump with mailin ballot counts and results to come are from Philadelphia, which has 12 percent of the state's population, and an overwhelming Democratic vote base.

The Democratic nominee has also been making a run in Georgia, which has 16 electoral votes, where the president's lead dwindled to about 13,500 votes overnight as results came in from Fulton County around Atlanta with 98 percent of the state vote count reported. There are only around 50,000 votes left to be counted in the state, according to a statement by Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

The story was reversed in Arizona, where several tranches of votes from Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix, narrowed Biden's lead to just under 69,000 votes with Trump's team insisting that the president will eventually prevail and keep his hopes of a path to 270 alive.

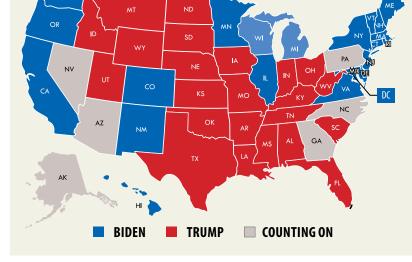
There is also a close contest in Nevada. According to the latest batch of result released by the state, Biden's lead in the state has gone up from 7,647 to more than 11,000. Biden holds 49.4 percent of the vote, while Trump holds 48.5 percent. The final result will come down again to mail-in votes, which could favor Biden since thousands are outstanding in Clark County, around Las Vegas which is usually Democratic territory. If Biden holds leads in Arizona and Nevada, he will get to 270.

However, Nevada is not expected to deliver a complete result until November 12, as it will be accepting mail-in vote deliveries until Tuesday.

The Republican president, who during the long and rancorous campaign attacked the integrity of the American voting system, has alleged fraud without providing evidence, filed lawsuits and called for at least one recount.

Some legal experts called the challenges a long shot unlikely to affect the eventual outcome of the election.

The president appears to have grown more upset as his leads in some states have diminished or evaporated during the counting. Yesterday morning, he



weighed in on Twitter, writing, "STOP THE COUNT!'

The counting and court challenges set the stage for days if not weeks of uncertainty before Dec 8, the deadline to resolve election disputes.

Trump's campaign called for a recount in Wisconsin, where Biden has been projected to win by roughly 21,000 votes out of 3.3 million cast, a margin slim enough to entitle him to a recount. Candidates can ask for a recount in Wisconsin if they are within 1 percent of the winner's vote total -- but the recount cannot be formally requested until completion of the canvass, which could be as late as November 17.

However, elections experts said a recount in Wisconsin was seen unlikely to alter the result.

His campaign also filed lawsuits in Michigan and Pennsylvania to stop vote counting. Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, in charge of elections, called the Trump team's lawsuit "frivolous".

Trump's campaign filed a lawsuit in Georgia to require that Chatham County, which includes the city of Savannah, separate and secure late-arriving ballots to ensure they are not counted.

Delivering a blow to that effort, a udge there dismissed the petition. County elections officials testified that all the ballots had been received on time.

It also asked the US Supreme Court to allow Trump to join a pending lawsuit filed by Pennsylvania Republicans over whether the battleground state should be permitted to accept late-arriving ballots that were mailed by Election Day.

Trump's campaign said it planned to make an announcement in Las Vegas today. Fox News reported the campaign would announce another lawsuit, this one alleging voter fraud in Nevada.

Despite Trump's allegations of fraud and an unsubstantiated charge that Democrats are trying to "steal" the election, US election experts say fraud in

balloting is rare.

The litigation looks more like an effort to allow Trump to continue rhetorically attempting to delegitimatize an electoral loss," said Joshua Geltzer, executive director of Georgetown Law's Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection.

If victorious, Biden would face a tough battle to govern, with Republicans appearing poised to keep control of the US Senate, which they could use to block large parts of his legislative agenda, including expanding healthcare access and efforts aimed at fighting climate change

The contentious election aftermath capped a vitriolic campaign that unfolded amid the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 233,000 people in the United States and left millions more jobless. The country has also grappled with months of unrest involving protests over racism and police brutality.

With tensions rising, about 200 of Trump's supporters, some armed with rifles and handguns, gathered outside an election office in Phoenix, Arizona, on Wednesday following unsubstantiated rumors that votes were not being counted. In Detroit, officials blocked about 30 people, mostly Republicans, from entering a vote-counting facility amid unfounded claims that the vote count in Michigan was fraudulent.

Anti-Trump protesters in other cities demanded that vote counting continue and there were arrests in Portland, Oregon, as well as New York, Denver and Minneapolis. Over 100 events are planned across the country between Nednesday and Saturday

By early yesterday, Biden had drawn about 3.6 million more votes than Trump nationwide.

Trump defeated Democrat Clinton in 2016 after winning crucial battleground states and securing the Electoral College wine even though she drew about 3 million more votes nationwide.

Trump is a cult of personality, said John B Bellinger III, co-founder of Former Republican National Security Officials for Biden, said Wednesday night during an interaction with a group of journalists virtually participating at the 2020 US Presidential Election Reporting Seminar organised by the Hawaii-based East-West Centre.

This is one of a number of organizations, which have raised millions of dollars to run campaigns opposing Trump, considering the Republican Party under Trump moved away from the party's core values of promoting rule of law, human rights, democracy, free trade, and international cooperation.

Bellinger said White and Evangelical Christians and those living in rural America and don't have college education are a strong voter base of Trump. For long, they had a feeling that the politicians had ignored them. Thus, they chose Trump, hoping for a change.

In foreign policy front, withdrawal of Paris Agreement on climate change, nuclear deal with Iran and a harsh trade war with China were also criticized. The trade war with China could be handled in a more sophisticated way, said analysts.

On the other hand, Joe Biden who was ahead of Trump to win the election, talked about how he would be a leader for everyone, calling for unity and bipartisanship.

Bellinger said Trump will not change even if he wins second time because that's his character.

The quality of democracy, freedom of speech and human rights - the core values of America - will deteriorate and it will have implications all across the globe, he said.

On the other hand, Joe Biden, long-time Democrat politician and vice president during Obama administration, is calling for unity. His words give hope and confidence to the Americans. He will definitely work for uniting the people of all colours and races and heal the scars, said Bellinger.

Thomas E Patterson, Bradlee Prof of Government and the Press, Kennedy School, Harvard University, said the number of Asian immigrants, urban population, youths, white educated voters and African Americans are increasing in the US. They basically support the Democrats.

Therefore, within a decade the Democratic Party will be a very strong party," he said. "Meanwhile, I hope Biden heals the division in our country. He has the ability.'

HC throws away case against 219

#### FROM PAGE 1

image of the country' and 'hatching conspiracy against the government and the state'. On police plea, the detention order was extended a few times. Subsequently, two other groups of returnee migrants from Vietnam, Qatar and Lebanon were also detained on almost similar grounds after they finished their quarantine period," said the statement.

They got bail at different stages during the last month.

"Earlier, on October 1 the same bench of the High Court summoned the investigating officer of Turag Thana to appear before it to explain why 219 returnees from three Gulf states were detained under Section 54," said the statement.

"The bench of Justice Enayetur Rahim and Justice Mustafizur Rahman also directed the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court to show cause under what law the detention under the General Diary was continuing until then," it added.

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua made the submission on behalf of one Shahin Alam, a returnee from Bahrain, said the press release.

The plaintiff sought relief under Section 561A of the Code of Criminal Procedure that empowers 'the High Court Division to make such orders as may be necessary ... to prevent abuse of the process of any Court and otherwise secure the ends of justice'," it added.

### CITY

## Missing JnU student sued under DSA

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University (JnU) student Tithy Sarker, who has remained missing for 10 days, was sued under the Digital Security Act yesterday for making "derogatory" comments about religion on Facebook.

Abu Musa Rifat, a student of the same university's zoology department, filed the case with the Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka, Shamim Al Mamun, bench assistant of the tribunal, confirmed to The Daily Star.

After a hearing, judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain took the case into cognisance and recorded the complainant's statements.

The court also instructed the Cyber Crime Investigation Division of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of police to investigate the matter and submit a report to it by December 8.

According to the case documents, Tithy Sarker, a zoology student of JnU, willingly made "derogatory" comments about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Islam on Facebook between October 16 and October 23, hurting people's religious sentiment.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A large gaping hole formed on this road at Chattogram city's Bahaddarhat area yesterday, after a pipeline of Wasa cracked, releasing a huge amount of water underneath the road. The surface eventually gave in to the water pressure, forcing pedestrians and vehicles to precariously circumvent the broken part.

# Over 50pc road crash victims 21-40 yrs old

Says Accident Research Institute report Staff Correspondent

More than half of road crash victims are between 21 and 40 years old, the most productive segment of the population, according to Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Around 43 percent of road crashes happened on national highways, while 23 percent took place on city roads. Out of all city road accidents, 74 percent occurred in the capital, according to ARI research.

Pedestrians are predominantly road crash victims; 70 percent of pedestrians involved in crashes died, it stated.

ARI prepared the analytics based on police's first information report (FIR) on road accidents between 1998 to 2014. ARI Director Prof Md Hadiuzzaman yesterday presented the data at a seminar.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), in association with ARI, organised the event on "Road Safety in Dhaka City and Role and Initiative of DTCA" at a Buet auditorium.

Citing police data, Prof Hadiuzzaman said some 2,700 people get killed and 2,400 injured in more than 3,000 road crashes annually in Bangladesh.

He, however, said police data is "under-reported", as the number of injured persons should be 10 times higher than fatalities.

Prof Hadiuzzaman said 52.4 percent of road crash victims are from 21-40 age group.

When asked for the reason, he told The Daily Star that these people usually must support their families economically, so they must travel by road the most, making them more vulnerable to such crashes.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Unabated sand-mining ruining rivers: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at an online seminar yesterday warned against the dangerous practice of uncontrolled sand-mining, cautioning that this is destroying our rivers.

While it is legal to mine sand from quarries, the conditions under which such mining can be done is not followed, said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela).

The webinar, titled "River Sand Mining and Navigation Management: Costs and Benefits" was organised by the Transboundary Rivers of South Asia project, Change Initiative and Oxfam Bangladesh.

"A location can only be declared as a sand quarry if it is environmentally sound. While sand quarries are legal, how lawfully these are leased out is a question," said Hasan. "From stone quarrying, the government only earns Tk 36 crore per year, but the whole of Sylhet is ruined because of rivers being leased out. We don't know how much revenue is being earned from sand-mining, but it is affecting the environment," she added.

"Sand-mining is managed by the district commissioner. It is not being done according to any plan. The law says a presurvey and a post-survey must be conducted to understand the effects of mining, but it is not done," said Mohammad Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury, secretary to the ministry of shipping.

"Our district commissioners lease out areas around the foreshore for sand-mining, which is very dangerous. I have seen roads collapse as a result," said Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique, head of Climate Justice and Natural Resource Rights.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES Lack of education, jobs pushing them to ultra-poverty: MJF

Due to lack of education, indigenous people living both in plainlands and hill tracts are continuously being deprived of job opportunities, which is pushing them to ultra poverty, a study has found.

The number of ultra-poor among indigenous people is higher than the national rate of ultra-poor, according to the study by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) titled "Understanding the Dynamics of Livelihood of the Indigenous Population: Chittagong Hill Tracts and Plain Land".

The research was conducted jointly by professor of Dhaka University Sadeka Halim, assistant professor of Dhaka University Debasish Kumar Kundu, and senior research associate of Brac Mrinmoy Samadder on 505 indigenous people of both hill tracts and plainland of five SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

# Six arrested with crystal meth worth Tk 60 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A single dose of crystal meth costs around Tk 10,000 to 12,000.

Organised syndicates after smuggling this highly-priced third generation narcotics from Malaysia, Australia, China and Singapore in baggage, supply it to people who live in posh areas of the country.

Following seizure of 600-gramme of crystal meth, the police's detective branch disclosed the findings yesterday.

Also known as ice or de-meth, crystal meth is a colourless form of d-methamphetamine -- a powerful, highly addictive stimulant.

DB officials said price of the seized narcotics is at least Tk 60 lakh and smugglers used to sell each 10-gramme of ice for Tk 1 lakh.

A team of DB Ramna division seized

the narcotics and arrested six persons in this regard after conducting a special drive in the capital's Gulshan, Banani and Bashundhara areas on Wednesday, said AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The arrestees are Chandan Ray (27), Siraj (52), Avi (48), Juwel (50), Rubayet (30), and Kany (36).

Addressing a briefing at DMP media centre, Hafiz Akter said the arrestee, Chandan, admitted that he was the main dealer of ice in Bangladesh and he recently smuggled it from Malaysia through his expatriate relative -- one Shankar Biswas.

Chandan is a gold trader by profession. He and others used to smuggle the narcotics in luggage as it looked like crystals, according to officials.

Hafiz Akter said they are suspecting that SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



## Shawkat Ali on life support

## 22-day hilsa netting |7 ban a success: officials |<sup>t</sup>

30 injured during anti-fishing drives SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

The 22-day ban on hilsa catching was a success, officials of Department of Fisheries (DoF) claimed after the ban period's end yesterday. "The campaign to save hilsa was largely successful this time. In

## Then why do you talk about BNP all the time?

Mirza Fakhrul slams Obaidul Quader's dismissal of the party UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday slammed his ruling party counterpart Obaidul Quader for questioning the existence of his party.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, former deputy speaker, of the parliament, was put on life support at Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH) yesterday.

Suffering from multiple old-age complications, including kidney and heart related problems, he was admitted to CMH on October 29, his grandson told The Daily Star.

The 83-year-old, who was one of the accused in the Agartala conspiracy case, is also suffering from pneumonia, he said.

Shawkat was elected MP from Shariatpur-2 constituency six times.

In the last parliamentary elections, Enamul Haque Shamim was given nomination, and he was elected from the constituency. to favourable weather," said Anisur Rahman Talukder, Deputy Director of Fisheries Department's Barisal divisional office. "This year, more than 50 percent of the mother hilsa have laid eggs," he said.

addition, Breeding and hatching of hilsa has exceeded expectations due

Officials said a lower number of mobile court cases, jails, and fines were recorded compared to the previous year. This was the same for the amount of illegally caught hilsa seized.

However, DoF officials also acknowledged that the number of attempts to fish illegally has increased this year, though most were thwarted. Officials claimed these were mostly undertaken by seasonal anglers.

Abu Sayed, District Fisheries Officer (DFO) said, "Miscreants have shown a new trend this year. Most of the attacks on officials and law enforcement during the ban period came from seasonal fishermen."

According to sources, at least five attacks were committed and at least 30 people, including fisheries officials and law enforcement personnel, we injured during drives.

Barishal division fisheries department records say in 2019, there were 2,538 drives, 1,071 mobile courts and 1,757 cases, while 1,447 anglers were jailed. In 2020, there were 2,505 drives, 1,026 mobile courts and 1,249 cases while 1,133 were jailed. Total amount of fines stood at Tk 48.7 lakh, but this year, it stands at Tk 20.1 lakh.

In 2019, 19.03 lakh tonnes of hilsa were seized and 69.79 lakh tonnes of nets were seized, which is 11.77 lakh tonnes and 82.932 lakh meters respectively this year.

Bimal Chandra Das, fisheries officer of Barishal, said anglers have started fishing after the ban. However, not all mother hilsa have stopped laying eggs, as some eggs have been found in the fish near the end of the ban.

Meanwhile, at least 2,000 maund hilsa from Kalabadar, Meghna, Arial Kha and Bishkhali rivers were brought to the Port Road hilsa fish wholesale market on Thursday.

"They don't see the existence of BNP and they say BNP is in crisis. Then why do you talk about BNP all the time? Because you know that BNP is the only party that can bring democracy back, change the situation and it can put an end to the anarchy you've created," he said while speaking at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club, marking the second death anniversary of former minister and BNP standing committee member Tariqul Islam.

Fakhrul said no BNP leaders and activists joined Awami League, though its chairperson Khaleda Zia was sent to jail, one lakh cases were filed against 35 lakh party followers and repressive acts like killing and enforced disappearance unleased against them.

Fakhrul also alleged that the government is pushing the country towards "darkness" by "holding people hostage".

"Whose interests are they now protecting? The prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed. The price of each item has tripled or quadrupled... They've formed a syndicate which is looting all the profits,"

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

#### Former RHD chief engineer, wife sued over illegal wealth Staff Correspondent

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed two cases against former chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department Mohammad Jawed Alam and his wife Anwara Begum for amassing about Tk 3.09 crore illegally.

ACC deputy director Nasir Uddin filed the cases against them.

The case against Jawed is for amassing about Tk 84.64 lakh beyond known source of income, while the one against Anwara for amassing about Tk 2.24 crore illegally. ACC had issued notices to Jawed and his wife to submit their wealth statements on February 20, 2019.



# 2020 IS A GAMER'S PARADISE

#### EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

Back in the early 2000's I used to head out to Eastern Plaza in Dhaka with my pocket full of hard earned savings to buy games to play. Cracked games mostly and the occasional originals for consoles shared by friends. Wow, those were expensive. And when all else failed, it was time to head out to the shady, makeshift, sweat smelling street corner shops with arcade machines. That still cost money. Two taka per game would add up to many, many 'monies'.

#### FREE FOR MOBILE

Fast forward to 2020 being a terrible year so far, but gamers rejoice. Some of the best games are free. Massive new Call of Duty is a battle royale game competing with similar Valorant, PUBG Mobile (banned in India), Fortnite and Apex Legends. It saw 72 million downloads in the first two months. So many options and they are all free to play on your phone. You don't even need an expensive high end device as long as you are okay with some lag and low graphics. Don't want to shoot people? Grab cutesy creatures in 2016's Pokemon GO which is still going strong at more than 570 million downloads. It earned \$445.3 million in the first half of 2020.

Many developers are giving away free titles to play. As Trump would say looking fondly at his Atari console, "Great titles, very big titles. So big, they are very big titles."

#### PC GAMES GALORE

Developers like Epic and Ubisoft are giving away PC games for taking part in social media promos like watching a video stream of playing a demo. Assassin's Creed Odyssey and Watch Dogs 2 were handed out just like that.

Game stores like Epic and Steam are doing giveaways every month. You just have to keep track of their release dates. I got hold of GTA V this May when they gave it away with a whole lot of add-ons. It was free for seven days as is the norm for most of the free offerings. With a job and a kid growing up, I never got to play Rockstar's 2013 mega hit. Seven years old and it is still an immersive and beautifully rendered game today.

#### **CONSOLE WARS**

Now if you want the newest game titles, get a subscription services serving next gen consoles. Microsoft's Xbox Game Pass and Sony's PlayStation Plus Collection. You can log in and use the monthly Game Pass or PlayStation Plus accounts that cost just under \$10. Tons of games to pick from. And we can pay just like we avail Netflix here.

Heads-up: Superb single player/ multiplayer strategy game Dungeons 3 will be available on Epic from November 6. Features comprehensive campaign and humour.

See more gaming updates on our site. Mail queries to ronnyraza@gmail.com



Tonnes of hilsa fish have started streaming into the Barishal Port Road wholesale market. Yesterday was the first day after the 22-day ban on hilsa netting, and the entire market was in jubilant form for the start of the new season.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Form special tribunal for Jewel murder trial

#### Family urges govt OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Family members, relatives and villagers yesterday urged the government to take initiative to try the accused of Jewel murder at special tribunal.

They also urged the government to take responsibility of Jewel's family. Abu Yousuf Sahidunnabi Jewel, a former librarian of a school in Rangpur city, was murdered by a mob in Lalmonirhat's Patgram on October 29, when he went to his sister's house.

Protesting the killing, the demonstrators brought out a procession from the city's Shalbon area on Thursday noon which concluded at DIG office of Rangpur police range after parading various streets.

People of all walks of life participated in the procession. All shops and businesses of Shalbon area were closed for half day protesting the killing. Later, memorandums were handed over to DIG and the divisional

commissioner, which were received by the additional DIG of Rangpur and additional divisional commissioner (revenue).

The agitators also staged a rally where they said Jewel was beaten to death soon after he ended his afternoon prayers.

The killers have to be given capital punishment by a special tribunal, they said, adding Jewel's family lost their lone breadwinner.

#### Vistara starts flying Dhaka-Delhi route STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vistara Airlines, a joint venture of India's Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, yesterday started operating regular flights between Dhaka and Delhi.

The India-based airlines will operate two weekly flights on the route. To mark its maiden flight on the route, the airlines arranged a programme at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Addressing the programme, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Md Mahbub Ali called upon airlines authorities and passengers to ensure health guidelines are maintained while travelling by air.

The launching of Vistara's flights would make travelling a lot easier and comfortable for people from both countries, who usually travel for medical and commercial purposes, family visit, and tourism, he said.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami; Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman; Air Commodore Md Khalid Hossain and HSIA Director Group Captain Touhid-Ul Ahsan were also present at the programme.

## Lack of

Tracts (CHT).

reads the study.

#### FROM PAGE 3 districts Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Rajshahi and Nogaon.

Most respondents of the study were males who live on agriculture, cattle farming and day labour. According to research findings, indigenous people of plainlands are poorer

than their counterparts of Chittagong Hill

families in Rajshahi were found poor,

followed by 62 percent families in Naogaon.

poor families in Bandarban, Rangamati and

Khagrachhari are respectively 39, 40 and 41.

cope up with the modern agriculture system,

they are lagging behind in crop production.

Halim pointed out the research findings.

The highest of 66 percent of indigenous

On the other hand, the percentage of

Since the indigenous people could not

"It has made them dependent on loans,"

On Wednesday night at in a webinar, Prof

She said indigenous people of plainlands

are less educated than their counterparts of

hill tracts. About 21 percent of indigenous

Bandarban,

CITY DESK

New hotline

appointments

from Nov 11

for United

Hospital

For doctor consultation, telemedicine and of appointment other healthcare services, United Hospital appointment desk is functional round the week, says a press release. The phone number will change to 02222262466 November 11. from However, the hotline 10666 number will continue to remain active like before. Further, anyone can seek an appointment by sending an email to appointment@uhlbd.com. | people from hill tracts were found to be

## Over 50pc

FROM PAGE 3

He said roads are not pedestrian-friendly, yet a huge number of pedestrians take to the streets regularly, and most road infrastructure designs don't have adequate safety measures. When asked about city roads and pedestrian casualties, he said 40-45 percent of commuters in Dhaka city are pedestrians, but 40-50 percent of roads do not have footpaths, and existing footpaths are not properly usable. He said most accidents took place at intersections. Police

CITY

manage most intersections manually, and pedestrians try to cross roads without following traffic rules, falling victim to accidents.

Prof Hadiuzzaman said it would be difficult to halve road crashes by 2030 without taking drastic measures.

#### PROJECT FOR ROAD SAFETY

DTCA, in consultation with ARI, has taken a project to identify most hazardous road locations in Dhaka city and prepare school zoning and road-safety booklets for children, after risk assessment.

Mamunur Rahman, director of Road Safety Management and Capacity Building Project, said the Tk 4.96 crore project is supposed to be implemented between January, 2020 and June, 2021.

However, they started work in September due to the pandemic, he said, adding that they would formulate urban streetscape guideline, road safety audit guideline and work-zone guideline under the project.

#### **ROAD SAFETY OUR PRIORITY: QUADER**

Taking part in the programme virtually, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said ensuring road safety is their priority.

Mentioning that sudden death on roads is not expected, and each death is painful, he said although a lot of discussions, seminars and meetings are held on road safety, progress on implementation is not good.

We are constructing four-lane, six-lane and eight-lane roads, but we could not ensure road safety yet," he said. "There is nothing to hide here; we have to tell the truth. Road crashes are our main concern now.

"Whatever infrastructure development is taking place, if we can't bring discipline in the road and transport sector, we can't ensure safety. All our development would fall flat," he said.

With DTCA Executive Director Khandakar Rakibur Rahman in the chair, Buet Vice Chancellor Prof Satya Prasad Majumder, pro-VC Prof Abdul Jabbar Khan, Road Transport and Highway Division Secretary Nazrul Islam and road-safety activist Ilias Kanchan, among others, spoke at the programme.

educated, whereas the number is only 16

percent for indigenous people of plainland.

people of hill tracts get opportunity to

indigenous people of plainlands. Half of

the respondents of Naogaon said they could

not take admission at primary schools, " said

motivation to indigenous people on

animal husbandry and adopting modern

organisations to take effective measures

to ensure their education and design a

dedicated social safety net programme for

Badsha, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka

University AKM Maksud Kamal, Raja

Devasish Roy, Dhaka University's Prof Dr

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam

Among others, lawmaker Fazle Hossain

They asked both government and private

Researchers recommended providing

continue study at tertiary level.

Prof Halim.

agricultural practices.

indigenous people.

However, only three percent of indigenous

"The situation is dire among the

#### Missing JnU FROM PAGE 3

Tithy was suspended from the university on October 26 as well as from her post of office secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad's JnU unit on October 23, following the same charges, the case statement also said.

On October 23, some screenshots of Tithy's Facebook posts and comments about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Islam went viral on social media. Since then, JnU students have been demanding her punishment.

On the same day, Tithy Sarker filed a general diary (GD) with Pallabi Police Station, claiming that her Facebook account was hacked.

According to the family members, Tithy went missing since October 25 morning, after she went out of her Pallabi house for the local police station.

On October 27, her sister Srity Rani Sarker filed a general diary with Pallabi Police Station, following the missing incident.

"The family members are distraught over Tithy's missing. We are requesting the government and authorities concerned for her safe return," said Seba Dashi, Tithy's aunt.

Police are trying their best to find out her whereabouts, Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of the police station, said.

#### Unabated FROM PAGE 3

He also warned against indiscriminate dredging of rivers.

"There is a dredging festival going on throughout the country. Dredging is supposed to be conducted to increase navigability of rivers, but now, dredging is politically motivated," he stated.

Ainun Nishat, professor emeritus of Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research at Brac University, said, "Taking on dredging projects without any data about what river needs to be dredged and where, will not lead to any benefits."

He said in the name of improving navigation, private parties choose just about any location and create huge holes in the riverbed without any regard for environmental impacts.

"For example, instead of dredging the Gomti, there are two dams upstream -- if you release waters from the dams, the navigation would be easier," he added.

"In Chandpur, there are 315 bulkheads that remove 50-60 lakh cubic feet sand from the riverbeds every day. While we stop fishing to protect breeding hilsa, we don't see the same level of initiative to stop dredging even though this is hurting the same fish. This is caused by legally allowed sand-mining; none of this is illegal," said Md Mokhlesur Rahman Chowdhury, project coordinator at Center for Natural Resource Studies.

Meanwhile Nahid Hasan, president of Gono Committee from Chilmari upazila spoke about how the ponds are being filled up with sand from the Brahmaputra even though there are no legally declared mines. "There is vast sand-mining going on without any lease from the government," he said.

#### Former RHD FROM PAGE 3

On May 26 that year, Jawed submitted his wealth statement, in which he mentioned having immoveable property worth Tk 38.95 lakh and moveable property of about Tk 84.86 lakh, according to the case statement.

Anwara declared immoveable property worth Tk 1.7 crore and moveable property of about Tk 59.69 lakh, it added.

"The total amount of Anwara's illegal wealth is about Tk 2.24 crore which she had actually gotten from her husband, who earned it illegally," read the case statement.

Analysing income tax returns of Jawed, ACC found that between 1999 and February 2019, he has earned about Tk 90.47 lakh from salary and his expenditure was Tk 55.56 lakh. Therefore, his saving stands at Tk 34.91 lakh.

Jawed declared making a profit of Tk 18.45 lakh from FDR and saving certificates between 2007 and 2017 but no legal sources of the funds against the investment was found.

HOUSE/OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

At 115/A (153/A), Old Airport Road, Monipuri Para, Tejgaon

ভবন ভাড়া হবে এসএফটি+বেইজমেন্ট। 28,000 বার্ড়ি # ১৮/সি, রোড # ১০৬, meth had entered the country through গুলশান, ঢাকা। যোগাযোগঃ the syndicate earlier but it

already

০১৭১১৬৯৮০৭৬/০১৪০১৪৭৮৯২৫

Dhaka-1215, entrance through VVIP Road, first floor (4000+sft). 5 bed with bath, dining, big living room, large veranda, parking space. All rooms are fully air-conditioned and partly furnished rooms. Drive way entry. Please contact: Md. Faruk-01732634542, Md. Rafik-01722428232. D-130



Aviation Dhaka Consortium (ADC) is seeking to fill vacancies in manager-level positions for the HSIA project terminal.

ADC is a joint venture entity participated by Mitsubishi, Fujita, and Samsung C&T Corporation, and upholds global-level standards in terms of safety, security, compliance, quality of work. Employees are entitled to benefits far exceeding those stipulated by local labor laws.

#### Notice to applicants:

ADC does not delegate recruiting of personnel to third party agencies or vendors. Therefore, any request from a third party for any type of information or amount in fees in relation to job openings at ADC is a fraud. We hereby provide clear notice to all persons to not respond to any request for recruitment except those made directly by ADC. ADC shall not be liable for any losses arising from responding to fraudulent offers and communication concerning staff/labor recruitment.

#### Job Opening Positions:

1. Manager - Infrastructure

2. Manager - Building Construction

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2020, KARTIK 21, 1427 BS

#### Thon why I HEH WHY FROM PAGE 3

The BNP leader said, "The salaries of government officials have been raised by three to four times. Have the incomes of our farmers, labourers and small traders increased? They have, in fact, become almost paupers during this coronavirus period. There are now many people who can't eat two square meals a day. You (govt) have

now created that situation. You're lives!" he exclaimed. pushing the country towards darkness by holding people hostage."

Fakhrul said the government is giving people a false impression about the country's GDP growth, resorting to lies. "Go to neutral economists and they'll tell you the facts. Go to a farmer, rickshaw-puller, and labourer, and ask how they are leading their

delivered welcome speech at the event.

Niaz Ahmed Khan also spoke.

BNP standing committee member Gaveshwar Chandra Rov said Tariqul Islam had involvement with progressive democratic politics since he was a teenager.

On November 4, 2018, Tarigul died at Apollo Hospital in the capital at the

crystal meth and MDMA. The DNC team also arrested Rakib Uddin (45) from Mohammadpur and his associates -- Md Jakaria (30), and Helal Hossain alias Saddam (32) -- from Eskaton with 160 yaba tablets and 5g crystal meth. Based on information from the arrestees, they later bused the lab.

60

্ য<u>়াউচ</u>

Six arrested

can be said for sure after

interrogating the arrestees.

have

got some names of the

syndicate members and are

conducting drives to arrest

Department of Narcotics

Control arrested Nigerian

national Ajah Anayochuka

Onye Anwusi in Khilkhet

and seized 472-gramme of

On February 28 that year,

DNC busted a narcotics

manufacturing laboratory

and seized a consignment of

two types of drugs, including

At the time, DNC

claimed it was the first time

in Bangladesh they detected these types of narcotics --

crystal meth, from Jigatola.

crystal meth from him.

On June 28 last year, the

FROM PAGE 3

"We

them," he added.

this crystal

3. Manager - Structural Design Engineering 4. Manager - Safety / Heavy Equipment 5. Manager - Scheduling (Civil)

#### Qualifications:

- 1. All candidates must have more than 15 years of experience, with a minimum 3 years of experience at an overseas high-rise site
- 2. All candidates must have experience in local/international airport or related construction work
- 3. Requisite: BSc in Engineering (Relevant to position) Optional: MSc in Engineering from foreign institute.

ADC Please send your CV / Resume to - dhakaairport@samsung.com

#### OBITUARY



Five katha land with one storey house for sale at Shankar, Zafarabad, Buddhijibi Road, Dhaka. No Broker Contact: 01309346062

ফ্ল্যুটি বিক্রয়

LAND SALE

the daughter o ate Mr. Borhan uddin Ahmad, CŠP office and Writer Nazneen was a soft spoken, kin and simple lady. She has two daughter Seemin Ahsan and Shazia Ahsan, both ar ngineers settled in Australia. We (Nasin Neaz, Ejaz, Nawshin, Naween) reques you all to pray for her departed soul Mav Allah arant her Jannatul Ferdou

#### নর্থ গুলশানে স্বনামধন্য কোম্পানীর তৈরী দক্ষিনপূর্ব কর্নার প্লটে ইন্টেরিয়র ডেকোরেশনসহ ২৭২৮ বর্গফুটের ব্র্যান্ডনিউ ফ্র্যাট ২টি পার্কিংসহ বিক্রয় করা হবে ০১৭১৪০৪৫৩৪৩, ০১৭১১৫২০২৫৩

## FLAT FOR IMMEDIATE SALI

Fully renovated brand new bathrooms, kitchen and floors of Flat -A4 (4th Floor) approx. 2350 sqft for immediate sale in House-23, Road- 6, Baridhara, Dhaka.

Direct Buyers only interested to purchase to approach NO BROKERS PLEASE Contact no. 01755-587400 (Atick)

## LAND FOR IMMEDIATE SALE

5 I	khata	land fo	r immediate	sale	at Plot-24,	Road-	12,
Se	ctor- (	оз <b>, U</b> tta	ara, Dhaka.				

Direct Buyers only interested to purchase to approach NO BROKERS PLEASE

Contact no. 01755-587400 (Atick)



কুমিল্লায় বসবাসরত বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতির মেয়ে সুশ্রী (২৭) BBA & MBA (IUB) পাত্রীর (৫' ১") জন্য শিক্ষিত ও প্রতিষ্ঠিত পাত্র চাই। উপযুক্ত পাত্রের অভিভাবকগন ইমেইলে যোগাযোগ করুন। কোন মিডিয়া গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

yousufliton1974@gmail.com janto2221@gmail.com

REFUGEE COUNCIL
Invitation to Bid for the Supply of Construction Materials
Under Purchase Agreement in Bangladesh
ITB Reference No.: ITB-BD-CXB-2020-0001

age of 73.

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has received grants for the implementation of the humanitarian aid operation entitled emergency response to Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar. Part of this operation DRC is seeking suppliers to procure Construction Materials. Therefore, DRC is requesting experienced and established national suppliers/vendors relevant in field to submit their interest to the following e-mail: bgd.procurement@drc.ngo requesting for detail full ITB:

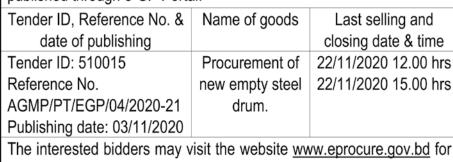
Line	Item	Time, date, address as appropriate
1	ITB published	04-November-2020
2	Closing date for clarifications 5.00 pm (GMT+6), 13 Nov Email: bgd.procurement	
3	Closing date and time for receipt of Tenders	5.00 pm (GMT+6), 25-November-2020
4	Tender Opening Location	DRC Bangladesh Sayeman Heritage Residence (1st Floor Sayeman Road, Baharchara, Jhawtola, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
5	Tender Opening Date and time	10.00 am (GMT+6), 26-November-2020
OR, In	send your request/interest for RFQ to I order to download the full tender pack //drc.ngo/media/t0eberdz/itb-bd-cxb	



Memo No. AGMP/006/2020-21

GD-1766

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



further details. Md. Amjad Hossain

Assistant General Manager (Purchase)





D-130

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a post of Programme Coordinator (ICS-10 equivalent to NO-C) for UNDP Cox's Bazar Crisis Response Office.

The duration of the Fixed Term Appointment (FTA) is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: https://jobs.partneragencies.net/erecruitjobs.html?JobOpeningId=33527

Applications should be received no later than Wednesday, 18 November 2020.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female and people living with disabilities are encouraged to apply.





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 Ashraful 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 Sadik issued the suspension order on Wednesday night.

Ashraful's involvement in "antiorganisational 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 thugs for catching fish in Sonai Beel. and even their own property were blocked by Ashraful 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 Ashraful 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

Ashraful'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 Ashraful's

They took him in Ashraful'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, Ashraful 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 Ashraful 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.

13 shops

gutted in

Barguna

Our Correspondent Patuakhali

Police

At least 13 shops were gutted

in a fire at Gorianbunia 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.

said,

being

firefighters

## 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

#### **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** 



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.

informed, rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under PHOTO: STAR control.

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	Tender ID No.&	Brief Description of	Last Selling	Last Closing	Opening
No	Package No. Goods		Date &	Date & Time	Date & Time
	_		Time		
1	2	3	4	5	, 6
01	492266	Procurement of Book	22/11/2020	23/11/2020	23/11/2020
	PSSM/GD-06/ e4	Shelf, Computer	17:00 PM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
		Table, Photocopier			
		Table, Executive			
		Chair & Arm Chair.			
02	492270	Procurement of 0.033	22/11/2020	23/11/2020	23/11/2020
		Million Roll Cotton	17:00 PM	11:15 AM	11:15 AM
	FSD/GD-16/ e8	100gm.			
03	492271	Procurement of 0.2	22/11/2020	23/11/2020	23/11/2020
		Million Bottle	17:00 PM	11:30 AM	11:30 AM
	FSD/GD-17/ e9	Povidone Iodine.			

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) 112020

Director (Logistics and Supply) & Line Director (PSSM-FP) Directorate General of Family Planning Telephone: 880-2-55012349

#### 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"

	Ministry/Division/ Agency	Ministry of Planning/Statistics & Informatics Division (SID)/ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic (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 "BBS Survey, Data Service and Certificate Management" includes but not limited to the				
	the Assignment	following services:1.Survey Design2.Sample Design3.Survey Operation & Management4.Data Capturing & Processing5.Report Generation & Publication				
10	Experiences,	Applicant must have adequate technical ability and resources. The minimum eligibility criteria a				
	Resources & Delivery Capacity Requires & Submission of EoI	<ul> <li>as follows:</li> <li>A registered entity for at least 05 (Five) years having valid trade license (Inception &amp; up 1 June, 2021); Income Tax clearing certificate for last 3 years (2017-2018, 2018-2019 &amp; 2019-2020); Last three years annual turnover (Yearly turnover at least taka 3 (Three) core); La two-years bank statement (2018-2019 &amp; 2019-2020); VAT Registration Certificate; Certifica of Incorporation (If necessary); Up-to-Date BASIS Membership Certificate and Audit repor for the year 2018-2019;</li> <li>05 (Five) years proven relevant practical experience (Work Order &amp; Completion Certificate of developing web and mobile based applications/software/e-governance/e-Service solution the public sector;</li> <li>Must have experience of designing, developing and implementing of at least 03 (Three) simili (web and mobile based applications/software/ e-governance/e-Service solution) projects for the Government of Bangladesh;</li> <li>Need to have minimum 30 (Thirty) full time ICT personnel related to design, development ar implementation of web and Mobile based applications/software/e-governance/e-Service solution;</li> <li>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);</li> <li>Must have experience for developing &amp; deploying systems using payment gateway (National &amp; International);</li> <li>The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the firm shall be Taka 1 (one) crore;</li> <li>Original agreement in case of JV participation;</li> <li>Bio-data/C.V (including photograph) of experts and other personnel to be engaged in the job and duly signed by the respective personnel;</li> <li>List of experiences of similar works;</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Two (2)</li></ul>				
11	Name, Designation & Address of Official	and Certificate Management ". Md. Emdadul Haque Director, FA & MIS Wing, BBS, E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207				
12	Inviting EoI Contact Person's	Md Mafizul Islam, Focal Point Officer, BBS, E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.Mobile:				
13	details	01726417343, e-mail: mafiz1964@gmail.com				
	The procuring entity re	serves the right to accept or reject all EoI's				

GD-1770

"ছেলে হোক, মেয়ে হোক, দু"টি সম্ভানই যথেষ্ট"

#### **BATTLEGROUND STATES**



ARIZONA (Electoral votes 11) BIDEN 50.5% TRUMP 48.1% Votes counted: 86 percent

To keep in mind: Trump needs to win nearly two-thirds of the remaining votes to capture the state. Final results likely to come Friday or Saturday

#### NEVADA (Electoral votes 6) BIDEN 49.4% TRUMP 48.5%

Votes counted: 89% **Keep in mind:** Biden leads by more than 11,000 votes, but only Democratic-leaning late mail and provisional ballots to be tabulated. Counting has been suspended in Nevada until 11 pm BST Thursday. An projection of winner is expected as early as Friday

#### PENNSYLVANIA (Electoral votes 20) BIDEN 48.5% TRUMP 50.2%

Votes counted: 92% Keep in mind: Biden needs to win about twothirds of the remaining votes. Counting left in Democratic leaning populous urban counties of Philadelphia, Allegheny.

A winner may projected on Friday

#### GEORGIA (Electoral votes 16)

#### **BIDEN 49.2% TRUMP 49.5%** Votes counted: 98%

Keep in mind: Many of the votes still coming in are in suburbs of Atlanta and other populous counties that have been breaking for Biden. Biden must win around 60 percent of the remaining votes to pull ahead.

**Results may be out early Friday or later** 

**NORTH CAROLINA** (Electoral votes 16)

#### BIDEN 48.6% TRUMP 50.0% Votes counted: 95%

Keep in mind: With most votes now tabulated, Biden would need to win about two-thirds of the remainder to pull ahead.

Results may not come until 12 November. Though, a winner may be projected sooner than that

SOURCE: CNN

#### France fighting extremism, not Islam: Macron AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron has said his country is fighting

# Could courts again decide US election?

Legal experts say Trump cases may not prevent a winner being declared and US SC may not have final say

While President Donald Trump wants the US Supreme Court to weigh in on a presidential race that is still too close to call, it may not be the final arbiter in this election, legal experts said, adding it might not also prevent states declaring a winner.

Agencies

They said it was doubtful that courts would entertain a bid by Trump to stop the counting of ballots that were received before or on Election Day, or that any dispute a court might handle would change the trajectory of the race in closely fought states such as Michigan and Pennsylvania.

After Trump declared he was ready to go to the US Supreme Court to dispute the vote counting, his campaign announced a recount demand in Wisconsin and lawsuits in Michigan and Pennsylvania, three states critical to winning the presidency. In Michigan, the Trump campaign sued to halt ballot counting saying they were not given "meaningful access."

Late Wednesday the Trump campaign filed suit in a fourth battleground, Georgia, as the president's lead there shrank to less than a percentage point. The Georgia suit wants counties to "separate any and all late-arriving ballots from all legally cast ballots" that arrived by the 7:00 pm Election Day deadline, Trump deputy campaign manager Justin Clark said.

Americans cast more than 65 million mailin-ballots in 2020 election.

However, legal experts said that while there could be objections to particular ballots or



if such disputes would determine the final mat in a close race. outcome.

Ned Foley, an election law expert at Ohio State University, said the current election does not have the ingredients that would create a situation like in the 2000 presidential race, when the Supreme Court ended a recount in George W Bush's favor against Democrat Al Gore.

"It's extremely early on but at the moment it doesn't seem apparent how this would end up where the US Supreme Court would be decisive," Foley said.

Both Republicans and Democrats have voting and counting procedures, it was unclear amassed armies of lawyers ready to go to the later to be counted. Voter lists' books are pictured after **Election Day at the Kenosha Municipal** Building in Kenosha, Wisconsin, US, on Wednesday. America yesterday waited for a winner two-day after election election

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Count Every Vote'

Arrests made as anti-Trump protesters rally in Oregon

Trump attorney Jenna Ellis on Wednesday defended Trump's bid to challenge the vote count and evaluate his legal options. "If we have to go through these legal challenges, that's not unprecedented," Ellis told Fox Business Network in an interview. "He wants to make sure that the election is not stolen.

The case closest to being resolved by the Supreme Court is the Pennsylvania dispute in which Republicans are challenging a September ruling by Pennsylvania's top court allowing mail-in ballots that were postmarked by Election Day and received up to three days

The Supreme Court previously declined to fast-track an appeal by Republicans. But three conservative justices left open the possibility of taking up the case again after Election Day.

Even if the court were to take up the case and rule for Republicans, it may not determine the final vote in Pennsylvania, as the case only concerns mail-in ballots received after Nov. 3.

David Boies, who represented Gore in 2000, said it is unlikely that the Trump campaign would succeed in a possible third effort to block the extended deadline.

"I think that it's more posturing and hope than anything else," Boies said, adding that the Pennsylvania outcome could even become irrelevant, depending on the result in Michigan and Wisconsin.

In a separate Pennsylvania case filed in federal court in Philadelphia, Republicans have accused officials in suburban Montgomery County of illegally counting mail-in ballots early and also giving voters who submitted defective ballots a chance to re-vote.

If Biden secures 270 electoral votes without needing Pennsylvania, the likelihood of a legal fight in that state diminishes in any case, legal experts said.

And any challenge would also need to make its way through the usual court hierarchy.

"I think the Court would summarily turn away any effort by the President or his campaign to short-circuit the ordinary legal process," said Steve Vladeck, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law.

"Even Bush v. Gore went through the Florida state courts first."

## 'Stop the steal!'

.....

Armed Trump supporters gather outside Arizona vote centre

#### REUTERS

A crowd of Donald Trump supporters, some armed with rifles and handguns, gathered outside an election center in Arizona on Wednesday night after unsubstantiated rumors that votes for the Republican president were deliberately not being counted.

Chanting "Stop the steal!", and "Count my vote", the mostly unmasked protesters stood in front of the Maricopa County Elections Department in Phoenix, as Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden held a razor thin lead in the critical battleground state. Some news outlets have called Arizona for Biden, but Trump's campaign says it is still in play.

A victory for Biden in Arizona would give the Democrat 11 electoral votes, a major boost in his bid to win the White House, while severely narrowing Trump's path to re-election.

On Election night Fox News and the Associated Press called Arizona for Biden, even though only just over 70% of the vote had been counted, a move that infuriated Trump and his aides.



Some of the roughly 200 protesters, who were faced by a line of armed county sheriffs, chanted "Shame on Fox!".

Rumors spread on Facebook Tuesday night that some votes were not being counted because voters used Sharpie pens to mark their ballots. ocal election officials insisted that was not true.

afternoon in downtown Detroit, where city election officials blocked about 30 people, mostly Republicans, from entering a vote-counting hall amid unfounded claims that the vote count was fraudulent.

REUTERS

Police in Portland declared riots, arrested 11 people and seized fireworks, hammers and a rifle, as Oregon Governor Kate Brown activated the National Guard in response to protests on the night after voting in the US presidential election.

The protesters involved in the clashes had earlier attended a 300-strong peaceful rally in a downtown park hosted by a coalition of anticapitalist groups featuring lectures, music and slogans including "The Vote is Over. The Fight Goes On.'

Rally organizer Evan Burchfield told AFP the city had been using the police as a "tool of political repression" for years and that "nothing is actually going to change" if Joe Biden is elected.

Another group of protesters who had gathered by Portland's river Wednesday vowed to "protect the results" of Tuesday's close-run election and held banners proclaiming "Count Every Vote."

Several of the demonstrators were openly carrying firearms, including rifles, and one

**REUTERS**, New york



WE DON'T WANT BIDEN-

WE WANT REVENCE!

anti-racism and anti-imperialism banner showed an image of an assault rifle, with the slogan "We Don't Want Biden. We Want Revenge."

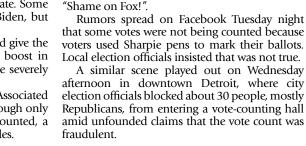
In New York, police said they had made about 50 arrests in protests that spread in the city late on Wednesday.

Demonstrations, mostly small and peaceful, were held in cities across the United States by anti-Trump supporters. Four arrests were made in Denver as protesters clashed with police, the Denver Police Department said.

#### Iran's supreme **GROWTH IN DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION** leader mocks NY Times profit US democracy beats estimates AFP, Tehran

The New York Times reported better-than-expected results on Thursday as revenue from digital-only signups surpassed print subscription revenue for the first time in a quarter dominated by news related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the US presidential election. The company hit the milestone after years of focus on online subscriptions for its news, crossword and cooking products to offset an industry-wide decline in print readership and fickle advertising revenues New York Times said it added 393,000 paid digital-only subscribers during the quarter. Of this, 275,000 subscribed for its digital news product, while the remaining were for its cooking, games and audio products. "The news cycle certainly played a role, but as we are increasingly seeing with each passing quarter, so too did the breadth of our coverage and our improving ability to mean more to more people," Chief Executive Officer Meredith Kopit Levien said. The media company said it expects digital-only subscription revenue to rise about 35% and ad sales to decline about 30% in the fourth quarter. Revenue from subscription rose 12.6% to \$300.95 million in the third quarter, while ad revenue dropped 30.2% to \$79.25 million. Advertising sales have been unpredictable as companies slashed ad budgets to cope with a sharp drop in business due to cronavirus-led lockdowns.

Iran's supreme leader has mocked the rancorous aftermath of election day in the United States, saying that the vote has exposed the reality of US democracy.



"Islamist separatism, never Islam", responding to a Financial Times article that he claimed misquoted him and has since been removed from the newspaper's website.

In a letter to the editor published Wednesday, Macron said the British paper had accused him of "stigmatising French Muslims for electoral purposes and of fostering a climate of fear and suspicion towards them".

"I will not allow anybody to claim that France, or its government, is fostering racism against Muslims," he said.

An opinion article written by a Financial Times correspondent published Tuesday alleged that Macron's condemnation of "Islamic separatism" risked fostering a "hostile environment" for French Muslims.

The article was later removed from the paper's website.

The French president sparked protests across the Muslim world after last month's murder of teacher Samuel Paty -- who had shown his class a cartoon defamatory to Muslims -- by saying France would never renounce its laws permitting blasphemous caricatures.

Following the protests and boycotts of French goods across the world, Macron told the Al-Jazeera network over the weekend that he understood the caricatures could be shocking for some.

But recounting a wave of Islamist attacks in France since 2015, Macron warned in his letter this week that there were still "breeding grounds" for extremism in France.

"This is what France is fighting against... hatred and death that threaten its children -- never against Islam. We oppose deception, fanaticism, violent extremism. Not a religion."



A vendor selling traditional snacks waits for customers on Rajpath street amid smoggy condition in New Delhi. New Delhi, the capital city with the worst air quality worldwide, suffered its most toxic day in a year yesterday, recording the concentration of poisonous PM2.5 particles at 14 times over the World Health Organisation safe limit. PHOTO: AFP

Well over 24 hours after the last polling stations closed in the ŬS state of Alaska, the battle for the White House remains undecided.

**US** President Donald Trump has caused disquiet among even leaders of his own Republican Party by flatly alleging fraud, while his Democratic challenger Joe Biden's campaign team has accused the incumbent of seeking to deny the electoral rights of tens of thousands of postal voters.

"What a spectacle!" supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tweeted late Wednesday.



Win or lose, Trumpism stronger than ever

#### AFP, New York

The US presidential election is still up in the air, but one thing is for certain: the movement created by Donald Trump is alive and well, and more solid than pundits expected.

No matter if he wins or loses, Trumpism looks set to live on.

Republican political pundit Sophia A. Nelson summed it up quickly: "The Trump movement is real. And it's here to stay

Despite being repeatedly -- and wrongly -- described as only older, white and rural, Trump's base will help deliver the third highest vote total in American political history -behind only Joe Biden, and Barack Obama in 2008.

Hispanic voters, often expected to lean left, turned to Trump this time around -- their turnout in Florida helped him easily defeat Biden in the Sunshine State in Tuesday's nailbiter of an election.

"Ahead of the election, a lot of pundits talked about how Trump wasn't bringing new voters to his camp," said Abraham Gutman, who is on the editorial board at The Philadelphia Inquirer.

But he will have, at a minimum, won about five million more votes this time around then he did in 2016 against Hillary Clinton.

"Regardless of the eventual outcome -- in the state contests for electors or in the popular vote margin -the media needs a serious post mortem to explore how, despite so much ink spilled on Trump voters, the story of the growth of the Trump movement was totally missed," Gutman said.

Trump staged dozens of campaign rallies in the run-up



former vice president. He was regularly greeted by sizeable crowds

Truck parades for the Republican incumbent rolled through town after American town, as did boat processions in waterfront communities.

All were evidence of a wide base of support.

"His supporters love him. They love him for this fact that he keeps America first and Americans first," Jim Worthington, the founder of People4Trump, told AFP in a phone interview.

They realize that he's fighting for them. We broadened our coalition," added Worthington, who owns two gyms.

Trump's controversial handling of the coronavirus pandemic, which has so far claimed the lives of more to Tuesday's showdown at the polls with the Democratic than 233,000 Americans, his tough immigration policies

and his brash style of speaking have not dissuaded his fans.

The real estate mogul turned world leader is still one of the most popular Republicans in recent memory, since Ronald Reagan.

His supporters "have a real affection for this guy despite all of his flaws or maybe because of his flaws, said John Feehery, a lobbyist with EFB Advocacy who has worked with several Republican lawmakers.

That's a strange thing. I think part of it is because he's so authentic. (...) He says what's on his mind. And people like seeing what's on his mind.

He also strikes a chord with voters who has a "desire for nationalism," Feehery said.

If Trump eventually wins the election, his future and political legacy won't be clear for another few years.

If he loses, "I don't think the movement goes away," said Worthington. "I think everybody regroups. He'll decide what pathway for all of us that we would take and I think we would galvanize together.'

As for his overall influence on the Republican Party, which has massively rallied behind him over the past four years, many think a loss in 2020 would likely not adversely affect it.

Even with a narrow White House defeat, the Republicans are on course to maintain their Senate majority and did not lose in spectacular fashion in the House of Representatives.

For David Hopkins, an associate professor of political science at Boston College, Trump "has had and will continue to have a major influence on the Republican Party" for at least the next four years, even if he loses.

Feehery said that if Trump loses this time, "I wouldn't be surprised if he ran again."

n US history. Who says that? The president who is currently in office. "His rival says Trump intends to rig the election! This is how #USElections & US democracy are."

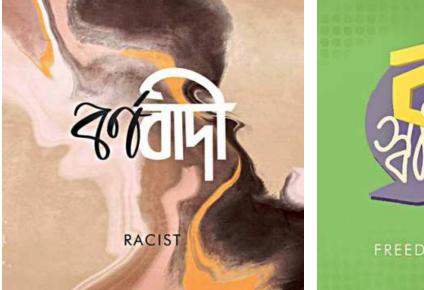
The deepening polarisation of US politics since Trump's surprise election victory four years ago has drawn expressions of concern even from Western allies, with Germany warning of a "very explosive situation" in the aftermath of the poll.

Despite US allegations that Tehran sought to use social media to influence voters in the run-up to polling day, Iran's leadership has publicly insisted it favours neither candidate, despite their sharply divergent policies towards Tehran.

most fraudulent election











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

Lach set of words by bangiay boil is based on a relevant issue.

# 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 sociopolitical 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.



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



## 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 surmounting 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.

### EDITORIAL



FOUNDER EDITOR LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2020, KARTIK 21, 1427 BS

## 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 igama 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



House. However, for those of us watching the US elections from 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

goes to

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



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

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.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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 headfor abusing the power of the presidency, perverting institutions of governance and lying to the American people,

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

political advantage. In different decades

after independence, individuals known

for their anti-liberation role were made

the "ideals of Liberation War" being

reduced to a buzz phrase used for

Whatever sobriety there was in US politics is now replaced by breast-thumping, unabashed and self-defeating ultranationalism. 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 enwrapped in its own vainglory.

Mahfuz Anam is Editor and Publisher. The Daily Star.

How respectful are we of the ideals of

## **US** Elections Understanding its hidden message

the Watergate affair in the late sixties

and early seventies. The more I saw how

the US system held its elected officials,

through the myriad committees at state

especially its president, accountable-

and federal levels, special prosecutor,

endless hearings, etc.--and the role of the media, especially the newspapers

digital and social media), the more my

It was a welcome antidote to my rising

disillusionment due to the US's role in

(those days were far different from today's

admiration for the American system grew.

Vietnam. I stood astounded by what one

single newspaper—The Washington Post,

and its editor and two reporters with the

Catherine Graham—could do when their

head of state violated the law. Ultimately,

Party's office in the Watergate Apartment

Nixon had to quit office not so much

for the break-in at the Democratic

firm backing of its illustrious publisher,

What steps are being taken to improve service?

REQUENT 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.



#### 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



the Pakistani army unleashed a genocidal attack

N 1971, the

Pakistani

Bengalis of then

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

Liberation W

L military junta they know about the Pakistani atrocities wanted to prevent against Bengali civilians in 1971? Did they know how the members of Al-Badr abducted Bengali intellectuals and East Pakistan from murdered them in order to debilitate the pursuing their just demands by using diffusion of progressive ideas in postbrute force. When independence Bangladesh?

Instead of being inspired by Rumi, Bodi, Jewel, Azad and numerous other young freedom fighters who fought

> 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.

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 ministers. Even in those days, parties in power did talk about upholding the ideals of Liberation War. But when a party turns a blind eye to the increasing influence of anti-liberation forces, its professed devotion to the spirit of Liberation War becomes questionable.

Perhaps inspired by the problematic notion that politics makes strange bedfellows, pro-liberation parties of our country sometimes liaised with the anti-liberation forces. May be such decisions were deemed practical by some politicians. But in their blind pursuit of political mileage, those pro-liberation forces ignored the fact that such alliances helped anti-liberation forces gain a firm footing in the realm of politics. It is also necessary to remember that any attempt to appease the forces that have no interest in espousing liberal and progressive ideas would contribute to the strengthening of extremist elements in society. Providing reactionary forces with concessions would make them stronger and eventually their influence would serve to weaken the spirit of the Liberation War.

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

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.

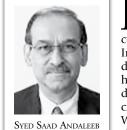
Dr Naadir Junaid is Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University

they were not at all aware of the history still do not despise or protest it as strongly of the emergence of Bangladesh. Did as they should. Our politicians often declare their

## 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.



OW should we see our students: as customers or products? In my four-plus decades in academia, I have seen them quite differently: as cocreators 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. Aptly 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 researchbased 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

student experiences, drawn from the data, their pens flowed in a torrential cascade. These stories were converted into a series of op-eds that are stirring, sometimes strident and bitter, but more often making powerful appeals to the higher powers to listen. I am thankful to *The Daily Star* for providing the platform to share these voices. What will thus follow is a series of op-eds every Friday, followed by their Bangla renditions, representing student voices beseeching change.

It is imperative that academics and administrators listen to these voices. They will learn what is not working. They will learn that students need to feel that they are part of a caring institution, which provides goaldirected nurturing, and is able to build their capacities that fit into the evolving 4IR future. I am willing to wager that if our universities can meet these three conditions, the human assets this country will produce will give back to their families, their institutions, their employers and their country in far greater measure than we can imagine.

For optimal returns, it behoves our primary and secondary education system to adopt modern pedagogical tools, hire-train-motivate teaching staff of higher calibre, and become far better aligned and integrated with our higher education goals.

My appeal to my fellow academics is a simple one: Create and develop a culture of listening to these young people. I believe, in their respectful ways, they will suggest how we can engage with them better. Then blend your ideas with theirs to give them an unforgettable educational experience. Bangladesh is making strides as recent global indicators suggest. But the country can do even better as we continue to empower the next generation. They are the future of the nation; for their sake, we ought to provide a better educational experience. Change We Must! 

Syed Saad Andaleeb is Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Pennsylvania State University, and former Vice Chancellor BRAC University.

This article serves as a preamble to several op-eds about the state of higher education in Bangladesh that resulted from faculty-student collaboration at IBA, University of Dhaka. Students from any institution who wish to contribute additional essays to The Academic Experience Project may contact Dr Andaleeb at bdresearchA2Z@ amail.com

# 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

ANY are the number of universities in Bangladesh, both public and **LVL** private. Large numbers of students graduate every year from these institutions. But how many of them really experience the joy of



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. 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, and ragogies), 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? 

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

#### 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.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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

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

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 artic a result of Dr Andaleeb's collaboration with IBA, Dhaka University students to turn the spotlight on highe education in Bangladesh.

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## Rising from the ashes

These correspondents, who visited the farm area on November 1, found many Santals as well as Bangalees busy harvesting crops from Kuamara Beel in the area they were evicted from back in 2016.

This year, Olivia cultivated bitter gourd on 30 decimals of land, pumpkin on 40 decimals of land, and Ropa Aman paddy on 100 decimals in the Sahebganj-Bagda farm area.

Olivia has taken a Tk 20,000 loan from a local cooperative to plant the paddy crop and vegetables.

Olivia's family has already harvested the bitter gourd and sold it twice for Tk 10,000, and their pumpkin field looks set to give a good harvest -- she is hopeful of selling the pumpkins for over Tk 13,000. Their one acre of Aman paddy has already ripened and is ready to be harvested.

"It's like a dream comes true. These past months, our family has managed with the help of relief goods from others," Olivia told The Daily Star.

"Now, we have plenty of crops in the field and are earning extra money after taking care of our own needs."

She is hoping to get 50 maunds of rice from her paddy crop which will suffice for the family's needs for a year, and a further 30 maunds which she can sell for cash.

A NEW LIFE

Santal women like her are growing their own food and cultivating paddy, meaning they no longer have to venture out of their area to earn a living, Olivia said.

"If we can continue this cultivation, we can be self-reliant and will not suffer from hunger."

However, the fear of being evicted a second time remains for the 1,300 Santal families of the area who have set up shacks and cultivated crops on small parcels of land once again, with the attacks of four years ago fresh in their memories.

husband had also pumpkins on 15 decimals of land near their village of Madarpur.

"We had harvested some pumpkins on November 5 that year, but the next day local goons looted all the pumpkins from our field during that eviction," she recalled.

Sabina Hasda, 38, and her daughter Sima Mormu, 14, of Madarpur village were seen harvesting Aman paddy on their one acre of land

Sabina said they have already harvested Aman on 33 decimals of land and got 11 maunds of paddy. They are set to get 37 more maunds of paddy -- which, she said, will provide the family with enough food for a year for their family of six.

"After the eviction, we were in dire straits due to the lack of steady income and hunger," she said.

Budrai Soren, 65, of Joypurpara village, said he cultivated Aman paddy on five bighas of land and got 60 maunds.

At the current price of Tk 950 per maund of Aman paddy, he is set to get a good price for the 30 maunds he will sell after putting the rest aside for his family's needs over the next six months.

"If we get our forefather's lands back, we will be free from forced labour and won't need to go to other's homes to seek work," said Kartik Soren, 30, another Joypurpara farmer.

At least 1,200 Santals and Bangalee families have cultivated crops on around 800 acres of land in the farm area this winter -- Aman paddy on around 680 acres and winter vegetables in the remaining 120 acres, according to a local leader.

"We already harvested two percent of the Aman paddy and everyone is hopeful of getting a good harvest, said Philimon Baske, president of the Sahebganj-Bagda Farm Bhumi Uddhar Sangram Committee.

Khaledur Rahman, Gobindaganj Back in 2016, Olivia and her upazila agriculture officer, estimated a

cultivated harvest of 1,872 tonnes of Ropa Aman paddy from the land cultivated by these families.

The farm area is elevated, and thus usually sees drought during the Ropa Aman season, but the continuous rains this year meant the farmers there are getting good harvests now, Khaledur added.

Contacted, UNO of Gobindaganj upazila Ramkrishna Barman said, This area actually belongs to the Rangpur Sugar Mill area legally. We don't know whether they cultivated crops in the area."

The UNO was reluctant to talk about the issue, still a matter of contention between local authorities and the Santal community, and a case over the attack ongoing.

Philimon Baske told The Daily Star they urged the government to return the Santal families' ancestral land so that they can earn a livelihood with dignity among their own people and be able to afford to educate their children.

#### 'CONTENTIOUS LAND'

In 1962, the then government had acquired 1842.30 acres of land from these families' forefathers to cultivate sugarcane for the Rangpur Sugar Mill under certain conditions over its use.

When the mill authorities later violated these conditions, the Santals and Bangalees who had traditionally farmed these lands, returned in mid-2016.

However, police, local administration, and mill authorities launched an eviction drive on November 6, 2016 with the police opening fire on the Santals, leaving three dead and several others seriously injured.

Houses of Santal families were oted and burnt in the aftermath.

Every year, protests are carried out on the day, calling for justice, rehabilitation and compensation for the attack

## Acquitted, yet can't walk free

#### FROM PAGE 1

imprisonment to 160 others for their roles and involvement in the carnage.

The court handed down rigorous imprisonment to 256 people, mostly BDR soldiers. It acquitted 278 others but the government later appealed against the acquittal of 69.

The High Court started hearing the death reference and appeals from the convicts in January 2015 and pronounced the verdict on November 27, 2017

The HC confirmed death penalty of 139 and upheld life sentences of 185 and three to 10 years' imprisonment of 256.

It acquitted 200 accused and Rashid is one of them.

Three years went by, but neither the defence nor the state could file appeals with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the HC verdict as they were yet to get the certified copy of the judgment from

the office concerned of the court. As a result, 456 accused -- including

would be released anytime soon, although no explosive substances were recovered from them.

There are 1,260 witnesses in the case filed under the act, but the court has so far recorded statements from around 150 witnesses, he told The Daily Star.

"At least 10 more years will be required for recording statements from all the witnesses and finishing the trial proceedings," said Aminul.

The defence counsel said the financial conditions of most of the families are bad and they cannot afford to pay the fees to the lawyers. Now only two lawyers including him are appearing for them in court without any fees.

Aminul added 57 out of 200 accused who got acquittal from the HC in the BDR killing case moved a petition before the trial court first on September 7 and then on October 8, seeking bail in the case filed under the explosives act.

#### the carnage case.

Nine months have gone by, but neither the defence nor the state are yet to get the certified copy of the judgment from the office concerned of the court. As a result, they could not file appeals.

An official requesting anonymity said the appeal section of the HC is now comparing the composed copy with the original one in order to prepare the certified copy.

He, however, could not specifically say when the certified copies will be ready.

Defence counsel Aminul Islam said the convicted accused will collectively move appeals before the Appellate Division challenging the HC verdict on them. Therefore, they will need at least three certified copies of the HC verdict for filing the appeals.

Contacted, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told this newspaper that the government will appeal to the Appellate Division against parts of the

## Afghan violence soars despite peace talks: watchdog

AFP, Kabul Violent attacks in Afghanistan surged by 50 percent over recent months

even as the Kabul government and the Taliban launched unprecedented peace talks in September, a US watchdog warned yesterday. Despite brief lulls during two

temporary ceasefires over the summer, fighting has raged across the country as the Taliban launched devastating attacks on provincial capitals and security installations, with fears the violence may jeopardise negotiations.

Attacks against Afghan forces and civilians were 50 percent higher in the three months to the end of September when compared to the previous quarter, the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said.

## 7 Ctg cops

FROM PAGE 12 Dampara divisional police lines

hospital after collecting samples from the policemen," he added. CMP sources said information on such police personnel are being collected through their own intelligence and based on their suspicious behaviours. Suspects are later asked to give their samples at the

hospital. The hospital authorities collect urine and saliva from them and store these for dope tests, said the sources.

The test reports were later sent to the assistant commissioner (AC) (force) office of CMP from where the reports, if positive, were forwarded to high officials for the next course of action.

Contacted, Amena Begum, additional commissioner (admin and finance) of CMP, told this paper that seven policemen of CMP have so fai tested positive.

"Their termination process is underway," she said, adding that the dope tests would continue.

#### Bangabandhu FROM PAGE 12

and further strengthened."

SAMAD TALKS WITH WINZER Official talks between the German Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Bangladesh open today in Berlin. They cover current international problems and questions pertaining to the further development of bilateral relations in all spheres. The GDR delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Otto Winzer while Foreign Minister Abdus Samad leads the delegation of Bangladesh. BANGLĂDESH ADMITTED ТО

COLOMBO PLAN

Bangladesh today is unanimously admitted to the Colombo Plan by the Consultative Committee of the Organisation, which is currently meeting in New Delhi. South Vietnam, which had been objecting Bangladesh's membership to since the preparatory stages of the

## UP member, mosque imam

FROM PAGE 12 employment in Saudi Arabia and send her to the Gulf country. After the offer, the woman prepared her passport.

With passport in hand, the woman went to Khanjanpur in Joypurhat municipality area on Wednesday afternoon to meet Kuddus, who took her to a nearby house and raped her.

Kuddus fled when the victim cried out for help, and locals took her to a hospital.

Rab members handed Kuddus over to the Joypurhat Sadar Police Station after the mother of the victim filed a case accusing him.

In Rangpur, police arrested Atiqui Islam, 30, an Imam of a mosque at Jhakuapara village in Taraganj upazila, for raping a 10-year-old hearing-

impaired girl on Wednesday. A district court sent him to jail yesterday.

He is a resident of the upazila's Jummapara village.

Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Taraganj Police Station, said police arrested the Imam on Wednesday night from his home after the victim's father filed a case in this regard.

Police, quoting family members of the victim, said the girl went to the Imam for lessons on Wednesday morning. However, the Imam raped her in a nearby room, they said.

After her parents learnt of the incident, the father filed a case on Wednesday evening.

Police sent the victim to hospital for medical tests.

the high commission was trying to

send the bodies home on the next

available cargo flight and that regular

cargo flights from Mauritius remained

Ohidul said local police was

According to the expatriates'

message,

welfare ministry, the victims worked

as construction workers under a

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran

Ahmad expressed deep sorrow at the

AFP in an interview late August at the

USDP's opulent headquarters in the

military, they wouldn't have prepared

the pro-democracy movement under

the former junta -- is widely expected

to be returned to office in Sunday's

outright military rule a decade ago and

the armed forces still wield enormous

power, retaining control of a quarter

of parliamentary seats and three key

the USDP is now trying to downplay

its links to the military in a country still

of Major General before retiring,

insisted: "I'm a civilian now," although

conceded army chief Min Aung Hlaing

a hugely flawed election in 2010,

boycotted by the NLD and other

parties. In 2015, the party won 28

percent of the popular vote, although

the country's electoral system meant

this translated as only eight percent of

Than Htay underlined to AFP what

The USDP ruled Myanmar after

was an old childhood friend.

deeply suspicious of the institution.

Stacked with former army officers,

Than Htay, who attained the rank

The nation only emerged from

their bags as if going on a picnic."

"If they'd been running from the

Suu Kyi's NLD party -- born out of

suspended at present.

company in Mauritius.

capital, Naypyidaw.

In a condolence

investigating the incident.

#### 4 Bangladeshis killed funeral service, he said, adding that

FROM PAGE 12

were undergoing treatment, he said, adding that several others received primary treatment.

Ohidul said the accident occurred around 7:30am local time near Port Louis when the bus carrying the Bangladeshis, who were picked up from their dormitories, was heading towards their workplaces.

The driver, a Mauritian also injured in the incident, lost control over the steering and hit a roadside bus bay, he told this newspaper over the phone. The bodies were kept in a mortuary

under the responsibility of a local

## 'Can't accept useless people'

deaths.

polls.

ministries.

electable seats.

They have no mainstream he saw as the NLD government's

FROM PAGE 12

"I cannot accept useless people in our country," Than Htay told AFP of the stateless Rohingya.

The USDP is the main opposition group standing against Suu Kyi's ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) party in this week's polls, Myanmar's second after emerging from outright military rule in 2011.

Than Htay told a campaign rally

he was free of "Muslim or Chinese"

blood, while his deputy slurred an

NLD Muslim candidate, according to

USDP supporters even created a

Stripped of citizenship and rights

over decades, the Rohingya are

widely referred to in Myanmar by the

pejorative term "Bengali", implying

The uncompromising campaign

rhetoric shows that anti-Muslim

rhetoric in mainly Buddhist Myanmar

remains "fair game", Yangon-based

parties to speak out against either the

Rohingya or Muslims in general," he

Just four percent of Myanmar's

political representation and are often

"There is no danger for political

analyst Khin Zaw Win told AFP.

said.

parody of an NLD anthem, claiming

Suu Kyi's party had welcomed "Bengali

local news site Myanmar Now.

Muslims as if they were gods".

they are illegal immigrants.

200 acquitted -- remain stuck in jail.

Their families, in the meantime, have been struggling to make ends meet amid financial difficulties as many of them used to be the lone bread earners.

"Our family was almost ruined after my father's arrest. Me, my younger brother and our mother started providing private tuition, but the earnings are hardly enough to run our family. Even, we now cannot pay the fees of the lawyers for moving the cases, said Shakil, who recently completed master's and is seeking a job. то

#### REQUIRED YEARS '10 COMPLETE TRIAL'

Aminul Islam, a defence lawyer for some 400 accused, said the trial proceedings of the explosive case are now moving very slowly and it is still uncertain whether the 456 accused bail as a bail petition of a particular accused is pending with the HC.

The lower court of Judge Imrul Kayes refused to give the certified copies of the orders -- for this they cannot move bail petitions before the HC, he added.

Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Kajol said the trial Hossain proceedings of the explosive case was delayed for around six months due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The lower court concerned is now holding the trial proceedings of the case for two days a month," he told The Daily Star.

He hoped that the proceedings will be finished by this year.

#### LENGTHY PROCEDURE

The HC on January 8 released the 29,059-page full text of its verdict in

But the court refused to grant them HC verdict that acquitted the accused, and seek due punishment for them. WHAT COULD BE DONE?

Criminal law expert Khurshid Alam Khan said the defence lawyers could have sought advance short order for the accused who got acquittal from the HC when the verdict was pronounced in 2017.

If they had got an advance short order from the HC, they might have been released from jail, he said.

Khurshid, also the editor of Days Law Reports (DLR), added that the defence lawyers now can move petition before the HC seeking а necessary directives on the lower court concerned for providing them with relevant documents so that they can move bail petitions before the HC for the accused who have been cleared of the original BDR carnage case.

22nd Colombo Plan Consultative Committee meeting, raised its voice of dissent at today's ministerial level meeting also but finally withdrew its objection after 12 countries supported Bangladesh.

SOURCES: November 7, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

discriminated against in schools of when applying for ID cards or jobs.

55-million population are Muslim.

The brutal ejection of the Rohingya in 2017 was seen very differently inside the country, where the government maintains the military was simply rooting out Rohingya insurgents and did not force the community to flee.

"They left happily," Than Htay told

economic failures during its five-year term -- a drop in GDP, more debt and an increase in living costs.

But the USDP has "failed to rebrand itself", concluded watchdog International Crisis Group.

Analyst Khin Zaw Win warned a "tacit" alliance between the military and NLD could even make the USDP redundant.

Secretary, BGMEA



2.

## TENDER NOTICE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION OF INTERIOR AND FITOUT WORK FOR 3RD & 4TH FLOOR OF BGMEA COMPLEX AT HOUSE # 7/7A, BLOCK-H1, SECTOR -17, AVENUE-06, UTTARA, DHAKA.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from reputed suppliers (Local Agents/Sole distributor) for supply, Installation of interior and fitout work for 3rd & 4th floor of BGMEA Complex at House no-7/7A, Sector-17, Block-H1, Avenue-06, Uttara, Dhaka.

The Tenderers must have following qualification criteria for eligibility to purchase the Tender Documents:-

- a) The Tenderer must have minimum 5 (five) years of overall experience in the same field. 1.
  - b) The Tenderer shall produce the proven documents of executed works during last 3 (three) years out of which at least one certificate of successfully completion shall be of Tk.2,00,00,000/-(Taka Two crore) in a single work order at the time of schedule purchase.
  - c) The Tenderer must have up to date Trade License, Income Tax clearance certificate, VAT Registration certificate as per prevailing Govt. rules and regulations.
  - d) The Tenderer shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract.
  - The Tenderers must visit the site before submission of tender with their own expense.
- 3. The intending Tenderer shall submit their offer in sealed envelope as per instructions of the tender documents. The prescribed tender schedule with Bill of Quantities (BOQ) shall be available in Accounts Section of BGMEA at Tk.5,000/= (Taka Five thousand) only in cash (non-refundable) during office hours from 07.11.2020 to 16.11.2020.
- 4. Tenders shall be received on 24.11.2020 up to 12:00 noon in the tender box kept in the reception area of BGMEA Complex (3rd floor), House# 7/7A, Block-H-1, Sector-17, Uttara, Dhaka-1230 and shall be opened on the same day at BGMEA PR office, Gulshan (Rangs FC square, Level-6, Plot# 6/A, Road # 32, Gulshan avenue , Dhaka-1212) at 4:30 p.m. in presence of tenderers, if any.
- 5. The Tenderer must submit 1% earnest money of the total tendered amount in favor of "BGMEA" in the form of Pay Order from any schedule commercial Bank. Without earnest money the offer shall be treated as non-responsive tender.

BGMEA Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason (s) whatsoever.

#### Entire England put under lockdown FROM PAGE 12

shutdown as daily death tolls hit their worst levels since May and with warnings that hospitals could soon be overwhelmed.

It prompted crowds across the nation to queue outside soon-to-close shops, book a last-minute haircut or head to the pub for a final pint, as business owners fretted over the impact of the lockdown on their bottom line.

"We will be paying this off for years," said Joe Curran, landlord of The Queen's Head pub in central London. "This lockdown will cost us thousands on top of the thousands so far."

The new restrictions run until

December 2 and mandate a return to areas and people largely confined to working from home where possible, along with the closure of all nonessential shops and services. Schools will stay open.

Britain is among the world's hardest-hit countries with just over a million virus cases and nearly 48,000 deaths.

England's lockdown follows similar measures in the other nations of the United Kingdom -- Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland -- as well as France and Germany.

Parts of Italy will join that list from Friday, with shops selling nonessential goods to be shut in hard-hit

Authorities have also announced a nationwide curfew between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am. "We don't have alternatives,"

their homes except for work, health

and emergency reasons.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said during a televised press conference on Wednesday night.

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently said he had no plans for a lockdown but that resolve may be tested after the country set two new records Wednesday -- for daily infections, at nearly 20,000, and daily death toll, at nearly 400.

## Police yet to track down key suspect

#### FROM PAGE 12

from Burimari village in the same upazila. The two are Abu Naeem and Abdul Gani.

With them, a total of 23 people, including 11 teenagers, have so far been arrested over the murder.

Patgram OC Sumon Kumar Mohanta said they were looking for Abul Hossain. He said they were probing how the teenagers got involved in the murder.

Meanwhile, a Lalmonirhat court yesterday placed four other arrestees on three-day remand each after the Detective Brach of police produced them before it seeking five-day remand for each.

khadem of Burimari Jame Mosque, Lalmonirhat district administration, Anwar Hossain, Rabiul Islam, and Mehedi Hasan. Jewel, 50, from Shalban Mistripara

area of Rangpur city, was beaten up and burnt to death by a mob in Burimari village on October 29 over the rumour.

Abul Hossain, who allegedly first spread the rumour, owns a decorator store at Burimari Bazar. He was active in Awami League politics 10 years ago. Later, he became involved in the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami, said villagers.

The 44-year-old went into hiding after the murder incident. His cellphone is switched off now.

Police said probes by the National Among the four are Jobed Ali, Human Rights Commission, the

intelligence agencies and investigating officers found that Abul spread the rumour. Speaking to The Daily Star, Abul's

wife Jharna Begum yesterday said her husband parted ways with the AL about 10 years ago.

"I don't know where my husband is now. He has many relatives in India. We could not contact him since the murder incident.

Claiming her husband to be a pious man, Jharna said she was not sure whether her husband was guilty of committing the murder.

Of the 23 people arrested so far, nine are now on remand and the rest behind bars.

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2020, KARTIK 21, 1427 BS



**FACEBOOK LA LIGA** Elche v Celta Vigo Live from 2:00am (Saturdav) **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 (Saturdav) **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



team yesterday landed in Dhaka to play two FIFA international friendlies against hosts Bangladesh.

Putting

anxietv

behind

when

of their players tested

positive for Covid-19, the

Nepal national football

the

some

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,

AGENCIES

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.

"I'm pleased," Lampard said.

in the knockout stages. Marc ter

Stegen returned to the competition

in spectacular form as the German

was visibly anxious on the

sidelines and did not attempt to

gloss over the sloppy performance.

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

"We suffered more today than

interventions against Kiev.

## **SHAKIB SPEAKS**

While responding to questions from fans and journalists around the globe on his YouTube channel on Wednesday, Bangladesh allrounder 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.



# A historic night for Basaksehir

Manchester United suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at Istanbul

Basaksehir

on



Marc, who was phenomenal, we held on," said the Dutchman. LEIPZIG BATTLE BACK TO WIN 2-1 OVER PSG

RB Leipzig fought back to beat

Gayle's heartwarming message for Kohli

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

Bangalore captain Kohli

on Thursday celebrated

his 32nd birthday with

his teammates and wife

Anushka Sharma on a

private yacht in Abu Dhabi.

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-

A day after his birthday,

Challengers

2020 campaign.

Royal

Agencies

## **'IT'S A VERY SPECIAL NUMBER**<sup>4</sup>

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

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 Opta statistics. BT Sport.

Wednesday's result ended STEGEN, BARCA'S REAL HERO Manchester United's longest away Barcelona earned a far from winning run in all competitions convincing 2-1 win at home in their history (10 straight wins) to a depleted Dynamo Kyiv on and was their first away defeat in Wednesday. The victory however 19 matches since losing in January put Barca on the verge of a place

at Liverpool in the Premier League. Rashford Marcus 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.

extended their Chelsea unbeaten run in all competitions to seven games and it was Chelsea's fifth straight clean sheet, and had some clear chances but the first time they have managed after that we lost control and they the feat since 2010, according to created a lot of danger. Thanks to

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 Ferencearos as they bounced back from last week's defeat by Barcelona.

was decisive with five high-level captain Giorgio Chiellini. Barca coach Ronald Koeman

> 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.



if you play well," said Juventus HAALAND TOO HOT FOR

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

long title drought.

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.

## Australia confirms cross-country BBL

**R**EUTERS, 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.

[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



# DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2020, KARTIK 21, 1427 BS

SHAH

CEMEN.



# **Rising from** the ashes

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

#### KONGKON KARMAKER and MOSTAFA SHABUJ

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





City

**GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS** RECOGNIZES World's Largest VRM



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 SHABUJ

## 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 Bangladeshi 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, labouı 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 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-oldgirl 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

## '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 militarybacked 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

to be sorry for. SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

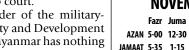


#### PRAYER TIMING **NOVEMBER 6** Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esh AZAN 5-00 12-30 3-45 5-25

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Marks Full Cream 28. Nivea Body M **Express Hydr** 

charges at the UN's top court. But Than Htay, leader of the militaryaligned Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), insists Myanmar has nothing



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 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



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.



## LALMONIRHAT LYNCHING Police yet to track down key suspect

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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

## SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19 **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 otterlike mammals.

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



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