



NOT FOR THE COMMUNITY
Why community centres of Dhaka city corporations are of little use for residents?
SEE PAGE 3

THE DAILY

SECOND EDITION
Star

ON FRIDAY

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

RABIUL AWAL 26, 1442 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE PRICE : Tk12.00



Educational institutions to stay closed till Dec 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has extended the closure of all educational institutions till December 19 due to the Covid pandemic.

The education ministry and the primary and mass education ministry issued two separate statements to that effect yesterday.

All primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities will remain shut till December 19, according to the statements.

The education ministry directed all schools and colleges to carry on online classes as per its previous instructions. It also said the educational programmes on Sangsad TV will continue as usual.

On March 17, the government closed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ABRAR RAHAT'S DEATH Court frames charges against Prothom Alo editor, 8 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against the Prothom Alo's Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman and eight others in a case filed over the death of Dhaka Residential Model College student Naimul Abrar Rahat.

The court, however, discharged Prothom Alo's Deputy Editor Anisul Hoque as it found no grounds to frame charges against him.

The other accused are Kabir Bakul, head of events and activation of Kishor Alo; Mahitul Alam Pavel, senior assistant editor of Kishor Alo; and stage decorators Jasim Uddin Topu, Mosharruf Hossain, Md Sujun and Kamrul Hawlader.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A bus is burning near Bangladesh Secretariat. Nine such buses were set ablaze at different parts of the city within a span of few hours yesterday. Police say the torching was part of a plan to destabilise law and order.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

9 buses torched in sudden attacks

Cops claim some attackers identified; 10 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least nine buses were torched in different parts of the capital within the span of a few hours yesterday which police suspect was part of a plot to carry out subversive activities.

No casualty was reported.

Law enforcers arrested a suspect with a crude bomb around noon from the capital's Uttara where by-election to Dhaka-18 constituency was being held. Nine more people were picked up from Nayapaltan area.

"Torching of the buses was part of a plot to destabilise law and order through subversive activities," Md Walid Hossain, deputy commissioner of the Media and Public Relations Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

Nine buses were set on fire at different places, he mentioned.

The vehicles were torched between 12:30pm and 4:30pm, according to the Fire Service and Civil Defence and witnesses.

Following the arson incidents, police cordoned off the BNP central office at Nayapaltan in the evening.

BNP spokesperson Imran Saleh Prince

said law enforcers picked up seven BNP leaders and activists while the party men were trying to enter the office.

DMP Deputy Commissioner Walid said police arrested a man named Sohail with a crude bomb from Uttara around noon while he was trying to carry out "subversive activities".

The arrestee, who lives in Tongi College Road area, was a hired hand, he added.

Scrutinising CCTV footages and talking to witnesses, police identified several attackers, said the official.

While the buses were set on fire, polling was going on in Dhaka-18 constituency where BNP candidate SM Jahangir Hossain claimed his agents were forced out of several centres by ruling party men and law enforcers.

The arson incidents took place outside the polling areas. The first one happened in front of Modhumita Cinema at Motijheel at about 12:30pm, followed by torching of a bus on Bangabandhu Avenue and another in front of Aziz Super Market at Shahbagh around 1:30pm; one at Shahjahanpur and one near the northern gate of the secretariat around 2:00pm; one in Bongshal area at about

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

AL candidates win by-polls in Sirajganj, Dhaka

CEC says US can learn things from Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League nominees secured their places in both Dhaka-18 and Sirajganj-1 constituencies in the by-polls amid noticeably low voter turnout.

According to unofficial results, Md Habib Hasan got the most votes in Dhaka-18 and Tanvir Shakil Joy was elected in Sirajganj-1, defeating their rivals with a considerable lead.

Hasan got 75,820 votes while BNP nominee SM Jahangir bagged 5,369. Voter turnout was only 14.18 percent.

There are 5,77,773 voters under 215 polling stations in Dhaka-18, comprising 14 wards and the airport area under Dhaka North City Corporation.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

WASTE TO ELECTRICITY China to build power plant for DNCC area

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and HELEMUL ALAM

A Chinese company will set up the country's first large-scale waste-to-energy plant for Dhaka North City Corporation areas.

The Cabinet Committee on Purchase, headed by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, in a meeting yesterday approved the 25-year deal with China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), which will implement the project.

The project will be set up at the Amin Bazar landfill, belonging to DNCC, said Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, additional secretary to the cabinet division, at a press briefing after the meeting.

He said this is the first waste-to-energy plant project in the country and power will be sold to the government at Tk 18.295 per kilowatt.

During the 25 years, the government will pay some Tk 15,325.43 crore to CMEC.

Some 42.5 megawatts will be generated every day using around 3,000 tonnes of waste collected from the DNCC areas.

DNCC is providing land for the project, CMEC is the investor while the ministry will purchase the electricity, State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid told the Daily Star in August this year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

NEW STORE OPEN AT

HOUSE NO. 49, BLOCK NO. H, RD NO. 11, BANANI, DHAKA

PH :- +880 1777 765 080

THE TEAM THAT MATTERS

U.S. POLO ASSN.

SINCE 1890

Retailer: K Mart

*T&C apply.

OBITUARY

Mr. M. Azizul Huq, Chairman of Bank Asia Shariah Supervisory Committee breathed his last on November 12, 2020 at CMH at the age of 85 years.

M. Azizul Huq
(1935-2020)

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiun
"Surely we belong to Allah, and to Him shall we return"

Mr. M. Azizul Huq was the founder consultant of Bank Asia Islamic Banking. Our unique Income Sharing Ratio (ISR) based profit distribution module is the brainchild of Mr. Huq, which is another milestone in Islamic Banking of Bangladesh.

Eminent banker Mr. M. Azizul Huq started his banking career in 1958 as a Probationary Officer with Habib Bank Ltd., Pakistan. He was the chief architect to establish Islamic Banking in the country. He had the rare opportunity of working successively as Founder CEO of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd., Social Investment Bank Ltd. and Islamic Finance and Investment Ltd. He acted as the Chairman of Pubali Bank Ltd. and Independent Director & Vice-Chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. Besides, he was the Chairman and Member of the Shariah Council of different banks.

We, Bank Asia family, deeply mourn his sad demise. All are requested to pray for peace and salvation of his departed soul. May Allah, the Almighty, grant him Jannah.

TRAGEDY IN MEDITERRANEAN

74 dead as boat sinks near Libya

AFP, Tripoli

At least 74 migrants died in a "devastating" shipwreck yesterday off the Libyan coast, the United Nations said, the latest in a spate of migrant vessel sinkings in the central Mediterranean.

This year has seen a resurgence of boats in the central Mediterranean, a well-trodden but often deadly route for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Worst day this month

1,845 test positive for Covid-19, 13 more die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen people were reported dead from Covid-19 in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths rose to 6,140, while the death rate stood at 1.44 percent.

Another 1,845 cases were recorded in the same 24 hours taking the total number of cases to 4,27,198, added the release. This was the highest number of cases recorded in a single day in November.

Against a number of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

বিশিষ্ট ব্যাংকার, বাংলাদেশে ইসলামি ব্যাংকিং প্রবর্তনের অন্যতম পথিকৃৎ, পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড পরিচালনা পর্ষদের প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান, বর্তমান স্বতন্ত্র পরিচালক ও অডিট কমিটির চেয়ারম্যান

মুঃ তায়ীয়ুল হক

১২ নভেম্বর ২০২০ বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ৮.০০ ঘটিকায় সম্মিলিত সামরিক হাসপাতাল (সিএমএইচ), ঢাকায় চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। তাঁর মৃত্যুতে পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং সকল স্তরের নির্বাহী, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ গভীরভাবে মর্মান্বিত ও শোকাহত।

আমরা মহান আল্লাহ রাব্বুল আলামীনের কাছে মরহুমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং মরহুমের শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবার পরিজনদের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

মহান আল্লাহ রাব্বুল আলামীন যেন তাঁর পরিবার পরিজনকে এই অপরূপীয় ক্ষতি সহ্য করার ক্ষমতা দান করেন।

পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

What is it good for?

Most community centres of two Dhaka city corporations not usable by public

MATHEWS CHIRAN

Community centres are supposed to be a place where people of a neighbourhood gather, socialise and hold cultural and social events.

However, 52 such centres in 129 wards of the two Dhaka city corporations are not only failing to serve their purposes, but also not being maintained properly or rented out to other organisations, denying people the opportunity to avail the services.

The two city corporations are custodians of the centres, which locals can rent for arranging programmes. These are also supposed to be multi-purpose, such as fitness centres, library, digital centre or a councillor's office.

In a way, these centres are the hub of city corporations for providing services to people at ward level. But the situation is quite the opposite.

Some of the centres are leased out to law enforcement agencies while others do not have facilities to function properly, as they are considered risky or abandoned.

According to records obtained from the city corporations, eight out of 14 centres in Dhaka North City Corporation's (DNCC) 54 wards and 19 out of 38 in Dhaka South City Corporation's (DSCC) 75 wards are in usable condition and accessible to the public.

DNCC has leased out three community centres to Rapid Action Battalion while DSCC leased out seven to Rab and police, said officials.

"We don't have any open space where social events could take place. Hence, a community centre could play a big role in this regard. Lower-middle income or middle-income people can book a centre at only Tk 6,000 as opposed to private-run ones that charge Tk 40,000 to Tk 1 lakh," said DNCC ward-35 Councillor Moktar Sardar.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Clockwise from top, Fazlul Karim community centre in Bangshal is being used by Dhaka Metropolitan Police; Shaheed Nagar Community Centre in Lalbagh is also being used by the same agency; Muktijoddha Murad community centre in Tikatuli is leased out to Rab; Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal complex in Modhubag and Rayer Bazar community centre, while not occupied, are also not open for events.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



CWASA MD'S GRAFT HC asks ACC what steps were taken

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know what step has been taken against Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) Managing Director (MD) AKM Fazlullah for his alleged corruption, irregularities and nepotism at his office.

The court asked Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit a report regarding this issue in a month, describing the steps taken.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the order while hearing a writ petition, which sought directives on ACC to take appropriate actions against the MD.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Keep your mask on

Two youth orgs launch nationwide awareness campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JAAGO Foundation and Volunteer for Bangladesh yesterday launched a campaign titled "Apar mask kothay?" (Where is your mask?). Supported by Beximco Pharmaceuticals, the campaign aims to encourage people to wear masks and raise awareness on the importance of wearing masks during the pandemic.

Around 6,000 volunteers participated from eight divisions - Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Mymensingh. The volunteers discussed the ongoing coronavirus situation and made people aware of the importance of using masks to limit the virus' spread.

The young, energetic volunteers made some handmade posters and placards containing slogans and awareness messages.

National team cricketer Taskin Ahmed inaugurated this campaign at Gulshan-2. He then visited some of the campaign areas and motivated volunteers to keep up the important work.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

End violence, lynching in the name of religion

Says Human Rights Forum Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a virtual press conference yesterday called for ending violence in the name of religion, mob lynching, attacks on religious minorities' home and the growing incidents of violence against women and girls. They urged to ensure rule of law, human rights, accountability and justice.

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) organised the conference and presented a 17-point demand, including ensuring proper trial and punishment for the perpetrators of the brutal incident in Patgram through an impartial investigation, necessary treatment for the injured and security for both families, providing necessary training and guidance to public representatives and religious leaders to prevent the violent behaviour of agitated people.

They also demanded that proper steps be taken against religious leaders who spread hatred through various provocative propaganda, and a fair and impartial investigation should be conducted into the incident of attack on a Hindu household in Cumilla.

Expressing grave concern over the Cumilla incident, Nijera Kori coordinator Khushi Kabir said Bangladesh is a culturally diverse country,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Man gets life term for raping 4-yr-old

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for raping a four-year-old girl in Dhaka's Nawabganj in 2018.

Judge Tabassum Islam of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-4 of Dhaka handed down the verdict in presence of the lone accused Sunil Bairagi.

The tribunal also fined him Tk 50,000, in default of which, he will suffer six more months in jail, according to the judgement.

Earlier, the prosecution and defence completed their arguments and the tribunal recorded statements of 10 prosecution witnesses, including the case's complainant.

In her judgment, the judge said the prosecution was able to prove the charges of raping the victim undoubtedly. So the accused deserved the highest punishment for his involvement with committing such offence, the judge added.

'TIB report partial, politically motivated'

Says Quader about study on good governance in tackling Covid-19

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday described the study report of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on good governance in facing coronavirus as partial and politically motivated.

"TIB's study is partial and it is more political than research-oriented," Quader, also general secretary of Awami League, told a press briefing at his official residence on parliament premises.

Mentioning that the study was carried out in a negative perspective, the minister said it stated about Digital Security Act and withdrawal of all cases filed for harassment while giving recommendations on what to do to tackle Covid-19.

Quader said the researchers dubbed the TIB report as a political report instead of calling it a study.

About irregularities in health sector mentioned in the TIB report, the minister said, "The government has taken

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Dist admin to look after Khuki on PM's behalf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi district administration yesterday began looking after Dil Afroze Khuki, who has been a newspaper hawker in the northern city for 30 years.

In her 60s now, she regularly gives away her hard-earned income to the destitute, choosing a life of constant battles.

The administration took her responsibilities on behalf of the prime minister, said Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdul Jalil.

"I visited her and directed officials concerned for necessary action," he said. "She doesn't require money, what she needs is care, love of family members and respect."

He said the administration has employed workers to clean and paint her house.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam also sent gift items for her, including new clothes.

Visiting her yesterday, this correspondent saw workers cleaning the house and setting up water connection.

People and organisations visited her with gifts as well. Khuki's neighbour, Nahid Akter Tania, has also decided to stand by her.

Nahid and her son live in a rented house next to Khuki's, since her husband left her. She has been looking after Khuki for several years. An art teacher, Tania also must struggle



to make ends meet.

"We think Tania is the right person to look after Khuki, as her own relatives are not helpful," the DC said.

While talking to this correspondent, Tania said she has no parents and she treats Khuki as family.

Tania also mentioned of alleged intimidation by Khuki's family members.

She said one of Khuki's sisters asked Tania's landlord to drive her out for speaking about Khuki's woes to media.

A local goon apparently threatened Khuki for "talking against her family," she added.

The DC said, they asked neighbours to report any kind of threat made to Khuki.

About people thronging her house with gifts, Khuki said it feels great seeing people coming to meet her with gifts and cleaning her house, but she does not need all these.

Some organisations offered her assistance and asked her to promise them that she would not work as a hawker anymore.

"Why? Is there anything wrong with being a hawker? Why do they hate this work?" Khuki wondered.

She said she was more concerned about her property. "What will happen to my property when I die? I want to donate my property to the brilliant students of two schools in Kushtia," Khuki said.

HUMAYUN SAHIYA PUROSHKAR

Hasnat Abdul Hai, Nahida Nahid named winners

CITY DESK

Commemorating popular author Humayun Ahmed, the Exim Bank - Anyadin Humayun Ahmed Sahitya Puroshkar 2020 was held at the ASKB Auditorium of Bangla Academy yesterday.

This year, veteran writer and critic Hasnat Abdul Hai was awarded the prize for his contribution to Bangladeshi literature, while young Nahida Nahid received the award in the up and coming writer (under-40) category.

Nahida Nahid won the award for her book "Purushpath". The programme is held every year on November 12 - the day before Humayun's birthday. This was the sixth iteration of the award programme.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs AKM Khalid served as the chief guest at the ceremony, while Asaduzzaman Noor MP presided over it.

The programme began with a one-minute silence to honour the memory of late Prof Anisuzzaman, who served as the chief panelist for the awards for the last five years. A documentary made to commemorate his life was shown afterwards.

Among others, Anyadin editor Mazharul Islam, Exim Bank managing director Dr Mohammed Haider Ali Mia, and popular actress, producer, and singer Meher Afroz Shaon also spoke at the event.

As part of the programme, Hasnat Abdul Hai is set to receive Tk 5 lakh, while Nahida Nahid will receive Tk 1 lakh.

MINI BYTES



New legislation underway for DATAPRIVACY, LOCALISATION

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

The government is planning to introduce a new legislation to ensure privacy and data localisation for locally produced data.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palaksaid draft of the new law is already underway, speaking at a webinar hosted by Internet Governance Forum on October 6.

Palak informed that data being national asset needs to be properly categorised to ensure security and privacy during interoperability, due to personal and institutional needs. He also reiterated the importance of a proper legal guideline to govern access and exchange of data.

According to industry experts, cross-border data flow can be of three categories. The first is data residency, where an organisation specifies in which location their data is stored. This is done due to policy, tax or regulatory reasons. The second is data sovereignty, where the stored data will also be subject to law of the land it is stored in. And last is data localisation, which means any data collected, created, or processed inside a country needs to be stored within the country as well. Out of the three, from a regulatory standpoint, data localisation is deemed to be stringent in nature. Right now, Bangladesh does not have any specific regulations governing these flows of data.

Currently, the data privacy domain is governed by the Data Privacy and Security Rule, 2019. Although there is no central law dictating data localisation, there are several industry-

specific requirements that require storing of data locally such as for telecom, finance, ridesharing, medical etc.

Md Tarique M Barkatullah, the Director of Data Center operations, has been involved with the upcoming legislation since its inception.

According to him, this new legislation is being formulated by a group of experts in coherence with the existing law and by studying existing legislations of other countries.

"Policymakers consider now to be the high time to address the issue regarding privacy and security of our national digital asset. This new legislation will cover the shortcomings that we have seen in other countries and we will make it available public to further the discussion soon." He, however refused to divulge specifics until they are approved, as it might impact foreign investment in the country.

An official within the ministry, requesting anonymity, confirmed that the first draft is almost ready, which will be sent to the highest echelon of the government for review. He also stated that the new legislation will cover not just privacy and localisation of personal data, but also institutional data.

Former BASIS President and CEO of Bdfjobs, AKM Fahim Mashroor welcomed this move. He said, "Our data is our national asset. We are seeing these data being commercially used by many tech giants and sometimes it can create a monopolistic environment in the market. Many other countries have taken similar move. It's time we did too."



Samajtantrik Chhatra Front staged a protest against the grabbing of land that has traditionally been occupied by indigenous Mro community in Chattogram Hill Tracts. The photo was taken yesterday in front of Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: STAR

Verdict in DU student rape case Nov 19

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday fixed November 19 for delivery of the judgment in the case filed over the rape of a Dhaka University student in the capital's Kurmitola this year.

Judge Quamrunnahar of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka set the date after conclusion of arguments.

Prosecution told the tribunal they were able to prove charges brought against the lone accused Majnu and sought exemplary punishment.

However, defence told the tribunal there were no eyewitnesses in the case and appealed to acquit him.

Earlier, the tribunal recorded statements of 20 out of 24 witnesses, including the victim and complainant of the case.

Majnu was produced before the tribunal before hearing.

Stop encroachment of Talma river within 72hrs: HC to govt

Asks Panchagarh DC to prepare list of grabbers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned of the government to take necessary steps to stop in 72 hours the encroachment on the Talma River in Panchagarh and the construction of structures in it.

The court asked the upazila nirbahi officer of Panchagarh Sadar and officer-in-charge of its police station to take the steps and to submit separate reports in two weeks to it after complying with the directive.

In response to a writ petition, the HC directed the deputy commissioner of Panchagarh to prepare a list of the grabbers of Talma River in line with the CS and RS records and to submit the list to this court.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why their inaction to protect the river should not be declared illegal and why they should not be ordered to take necessary steps to protect the river.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

The HRPB submitted the petition as a public interest litigation on November 10 to the HC following a report published on a Bangla daily on November 3 on the encroachment of Talma and construction of structures in it.

Petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the HC that encroachment of river and construction of structures in it is illegal and a violation of the waterbodies and environment protection laws.

He prayed to the HC to pass necessary directives to stop encroachment of the river.



Four people, including two children, were seen commuting on a single motorbike at the capital's Banglamotor yesterday. Although the younger child's head is covered to protect it from the cold as winter is around the corner, the adults, both wearing helmets themselves, didn't protect the little ones from the immediate danger of an accident. At least 1,026 people were killed in 1,011 motorcycle accidents in the country in the last 10 months, according to Road Safety Foundation.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TIB report

FROM PAGE 3

actions against all sorts of irregularities and misdeeds and is bringing all offenders to justice in a self-motivated way not on recommendation or demand of any agency, organisation or party."

Mentioning the government's stance against corruption, he said if TIB gives a list by specifying where irregularities and corruption are taking place, the government would take actions.

Quader said the rising questions in

people's mind about the purpose of conducting the study is quite natural. "People think the research was not conducted under specific structure of social science, rather it was conducted on politically-motivated or other purposes," he said.

Pointing to BNP, he said the party did not do anything for distressed people during the pandemic. As AL leaders and workers stayed beside people, they were infected more by the deadly virus and many have died, he added.

DOPE TEST OF TRANSPORT WORKERS BRTA forms committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) yesterday formed a committee to implement Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive to bring public transport workers under a dope testing system.

The nine-member committee, led by BRTA's director (administration), was asked to submit a report within seven working days, BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder told The Daily Star last night.

The committee would have representatives from Police Headquarters, Highway Police, transport owners, workers, health and narcotics departments, he said.

The decision came at a meeting called yesterday at BRTA head office, with leaders of transport owners and workers, along with police officials.

The committee would determine the methodology to conduct dope tests, places, and relevant issues and next course of action would be set following their report, the BRTA chairman said.

Meanwhile, transport leaders demanded that the authorities conduct the test on transport workers free of cost.

Speaking on October 22 at an event marking National Road Safety Day, PM Hasina directed authorities to bring drivers under dope testing system.

"We need to know whether those who are driving [vehicles] use drugs. They need to undergo dope testing. This test is absolutely essential for each driver. You must do it," she said.

The premier gave several other directives on the occasion. On October 27, the Road Transport and Highway Division held a meeting with chiefs of agencies concerned to discuss how to implement the directives, and BRTA was asked to call a meeting over this issue, sources said.

Experts and transport leaders consider drug addiction one of the major reasons behind road accidents. They say in order to ensure road safety, dope testing is important so no one under influence of narcotics or alcohol can be behind the steering wheel.

Transport leaders Khondaker Enayet Ullah, Osman Ali, Mahbubur Rahman, among others were present at the meeting.

AHNA Chy passes away

CITY DESK



AHNA Chowdhury, an engineer, urban planner and former senior government official, died on November 11 at his Dhaka residence. He was 85, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, a son and daughter-in-law, a grandson and granddaughter, and a host of relatives and admirers.

Special prayers will be offered today after Maghrib prayers at his residence.

He was a founding member and past president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners.

Azizul Haq no more

CITY DESK



M Azizul Haq, former chairman of the Board of Directors at Pubali Bank and incumbent independent director and chairman of the audit committee, died at CMH in Dhaka yesterday.

The bank's board of directors, executives, officers and employees expressed deep shock at the death.

End violence

FROM PAGE 3

and ensuring the rights of every citizen is the responsibilities of the state and the government. "Why will they think of themselves as second-class citizens?" she asked.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of Associations of Land Reform and Development said time has come to move in an integrated way, as the state, government, civil society organisations and political parties should come forward to put an end to such violence.

Mainstream political parties should also be engaged through discussion and they should promise to stop such issues and their promise must be reflected in their work, he said.

Ain O Salish Kendra's senior deputy director Nina Goswami expressed concern about the silence of responsible authorities, as they did not assure that necessary actions will be taken about the mob lynching incident.

"In a society, where 31 people are killed in mob beating, how can we talk about human rights there?" she asked, demanding a human rights-friendly state.

HRFB steering committee member Ranjan Karmaker, also the executive director of Steps towards Development, expressed grave concern over the increasing incident of violence against women and urged the government to ensure awareness and justice for rape, and criminalise marital rape by reforming the law.

Sanjeeb Drong, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said law enforcement agencies should initiate action against the rape of indigenous women and land grabbing of indigenous minorities.

Transparency International of Bangladesh (TIB) executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman, a member of HRFB highlighted that judiciary institutions should remain free from political biases. He also spoke on the importance of ensuring skill development opportunities and appropriate budget allocation for these organisations.

The press conference was moderated by Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), who is also a member of the steering committee of HRFB.

What is it

FROM PAGE 3

"As our Moghbazar community centre has been leased out to Rab for years, people cannot avail its facilities," he added.

Currently, DNCC's Khilgaon, Moghbazar and Mohammadpur centres are leased out to Rab.

In DNCC, Mukti Joddha Murad community centre in Tikatoli, Dholpur training centre and Shaheed Nagar Matrisadan are leased out to Rab; Mugdapara Afir Uddin Sarkar community centre in Mugda to Mugda Police Station; Haji Abdur Rahim community centre in Wari to Wari Police Station; Fazlur Karim community centre to Bangshal Police Station and Shaheed Nagar community centre to Lalbagh Police Station.

Meanwhile, those "accessible to people" are not in a pristine condition either, as they lack facilities or are not being maintained properly. Most are being used only for holding social events, said a DNCC official, seeking anonymity.

Besides, three community centres are being used as DNCC zonal offices: Haji Gani Sarder community centre, Azimpur mini community centre and Tilpapa community centre in Khilgaon.

As per officials, DNCC's Rayerbazar and Modhubag community centres are yet to be operational, and the one in Banani is being renovated.

Meanwhile in DNCC, nine community centres are marked as either under construction, abandoned, risky or unused.

"For eight years, Mugdapara Afir Uddin Sarkar community centre is being used as a police station," said councillor Sirajul Islam Bhatti of DNCC ward-6.

"As they had a space crisis, we at first welcomed them to use the four-storied centre," he said.

"But gradually, they occupied most floors... My office is now on the top floor. As they keep their materials on the pathway to my office, people face trouble

while coming to seek services," the councillor said.

Besides, due to the space crisis and risky condition of the building, no social event takes place here," he said.

He said they thought that the police station would shift soon but that did not happen.

Regarding the matter, Lt Col Ashique Billah, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said due to space constraint in the capital, they have been using different community centres, paying a rent fixed by the Public Works Department.

"Based on legal approval from authorities, we took those on rent and still have the authorisation to use those," he said, adding "The situation is different outside the capital as there is no space crisis there. Our battalions have their own arrangements there for running their activities," he said.

Regarding usage of the centres by locals, he said, "Rab

also wants to move from those establishments. We have contacted the city corporations already... if space can be arranged, we will be able to shift there."

Meanwhile, the handful of community centres that are being used by people are closed due to the pandemic situation, said city corporation officials.

About the services and facilities at the community centres, a DNCC official, wishing anonymity, said, "The one at Segun Bagicha is lying unused since the beginning as it doesn't have any lift facility or gas connection."

WHY DO WE NEED COMMUNITY CENTRES?

Talking about the importance of community centres, Bangladesh Institute of Planners President Akter Mahmud said, "These were supposed to be places for gatherings, which help build social cohesion among people. Every ward should have such facilities."

"But the reality is quite different.

We have such few centres and many are not even usable. If those are rented to other organisations, and if buildings are risky, then people will lose interest in using them," he added.

Therefore, these establishments should be maintained properly and made more people-friendly, the BIP president stressed.

WHAT CITY AUTHORITIES SAY? Contacted, DNCC Public Relations Officer Abu Naser said they have already sent a notice to law enforcement agencies to vacate the centres. "We plan to construct modern community centres after a feasibility study," he said.

DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam said, "Because of the coronavirus situation, we have decided to extend Rab's lease for a year."

"However, we will talk to the director general of Rab soon so that they can gradually shift their offices somewhere else. We have also asked them to come up with a plan in this regard."

Auction Notice
Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) invites sealed quotations from interested parties/individuals who want to purchase old furniture, office equipment, communication equipment, computer etc. Interested bidders are requested to visit IWM website <www.iwmbd.org> for details.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement

Closing date: 20 November 2020

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified national candidates to the following vacant positions under FAO Bangladesh Programme to be filled as soon as possible:

• **Position: Horticulture and Agro-Business Specialist (2002574)**
Interested and qualified candidates will find the post descriptions from our website <http://www.fao.org/employment/recruitment-access/en/> then click access, this gets you to Jobs at FAO. Ensure your profile has all the details as outlined in TALEO profile steps.

No hand delivered applications will be accepted, the Vacancy closes on 20 November 2020.

All recruitment to FAO posts are made on a competitive and transparent basis. Candidates are encouraged to apply directly to FAO and follow the instructions on the above-mentioned website. Please note that no intermediary is allowed to expedite or facilitate such process. All those who represent themselves as such are fraudulent and should be reported to FAO immediately.

Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

ToR for Consultant/Firm to Conduct FGDs
The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will recruit/engage a short term consultant/firm to conduct focus group discussions (FGDs).
For details, please visit: www.cpd.org.bd
Application closing date: 10 December 2020.

গাড়ি ভাড়ার জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান
ট্রান্সপারেন্সি ইকোরন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ (টিজিআইবি) এর পরিবহন পুল পরিচালনার জন্য ০৭টি গাড়ি (০৫ সিটের ০৩টি সেজান কার, ১২ সিটের ০১টি এবং ০৮ সিটের ০৩টি মাইক্রোবাস) মাসিক ভিত্তিতে এবং ০৮ সিটের ০২ টি মাইক্রোবাস দৈনিক ভিত্তিতে ভাড়া করা হবে। এ লক্ষ্যে ঢাকা শহরের স্বনামধন্য রেন্ট-এ-কার কোম্পানিগুলোর কাছ থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় বিবরণ টিজিআইবি জফিস থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে অথবা টিজিআইবি'র ওয়েবসাইট www.ti-bangladesh.org থেকে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।
দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ দিন: ২৯ নভেম্বর ২০২০;
সময়: দুপুর ০৯:০০ টা; স্থান: টিজিআইবি জফিস (মাইডাস সেন্টার, ৫ম তলা, বাড়ি-০৫, রোড-২৭ পুরাতন, ১৬ নতুন, শানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৯)

Zoynul Abedin dies of Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zoynul Abedin, proprietor of Hanif Paribahan, died of Covid-19 on Wednesday night at the age of 87.

He breathed his last at Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in the capital, Mosharraf Hossain, general manager of Hanif Paribahan, said yesterday.

He was buried at his village home in Hija of Amin Bazar yesterday.

Zoynul started Hanif Paribahan in 1984. It is now one of the largest bus services in the country.

HC asks

FROM PAGE 3

The bench also adjourned hearing on the petition for a month, petitioner's lawyer Md Ekram Uddin Khan Chowdhury said.

Earlier in the day, ACC's lawyer Nawsher Ali Mollah told the bench that ACC has taken allegations against Fazlullah seriously and initiated an inquiry.

Md Hasan Ali, a port city resident, filed the petition on September 20,

PLOT FOR SALE
A south-facing 5,00 katha plot at Sector-04, Uttara. Near Park, Airport, Railway Station, Rab Battalion, School, Collage, Mosque, is ready for sale.
01712-619908
01998-085637

RETIRED ARMED FORCES OFFICERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION (RAOWA)
Notice Inviting Expression Of Interest (Eoi) For Enlisting Catering Service Provider For Raowa Convention Halls
Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA), VIP Road, Mohakhali, is going to enlist 04 (four) new catering service providers for its 3 Convention Halls (Helmet, Eagle & Anchor with capacity of 1000, 500 & 250 respectively) for a term of 3 years, extendable by another term on mutual agreement with refundable security deposit of Tk. 1,25,00,000.00 (One crore twenty five lac). EOI on official pad are invited from all interested reputed catering service providers.
Schedule will be available at the front desk of RAOWA from 09:00 am to 05:00 pm from 14 to 17 Nov 2020, on cash payment of Tk 5,000.00 (Five Thousand) only which is non-refundable.
EOI along with all supporting documents, in sealed envelope is to be dropped at RAOWA front desk latest by 02:00 pm on 26 Nov 2020. The EOI will be opened by the committee at 03:00 pm on the same date (26 Nov 2020) in presence of the representatives (if present) of the vendors.
A pre-bid meeting will be held on 20 Nov 2020 at RAOWA Secretariat at 03:00 pm. RAOWA reserves the right to cancel any EOI without assigning any reason.
For details please contact GM (FM), RAOWA.
Mob no-01711-289944 or Email: raowa.office@gmail.com

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE
Noakhali Division, Noakhali

Memo No. 46.03.7500.061.19.01-20/2363 Date: 12/11/2020

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

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Closing date & time
1	513297	Construction of 4000 Nos. House Connection Different dia in Noakhali Pourashava under Expansion and Development of Water Supply and Sanitation in Noakhali Pourashava.	06-Dec-2020 14:15

This is online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information & guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Palash Chandra Das
Executive Engineer, DPHE
Noakhali Division, Noakhali
ee.noakhali@dphe.gov.bd

GD-1813

VACANCY NOTICE

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a post of **Economist (ICS-11 equivalent to NO-D)** for UNDP Country 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=33690>

Applications should be received no later than **Thursday, 26 November 2020**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Female and people living with disabilities are highly encouraged to apply.

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 12
country into "Golden Bengal" as he was assassinated on August 15, 1975, his dream is being fulfilled now as his daughter is alive.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal MP Hasanul Haq Inu said Bangabandhu is a flag, a country, a movement, a revolution, a history, a poet of politics, and a great hero of history.

"Bangabandhu is the world's sharpest politician and a strategist. He turned every Bangalee into a Mujib," added Inu, also the president of JSD.

Harunur Rashid of BNP from Chapainawabganj-3 said Bangabandhu did not disrespect and ridicule any opposition leader.

"I have no hesitation in saying that we must show respect and dignity for our national leaders. It is quite natural that there will be many errors in one's life. It is also natural that there will be mistakes in running the country."

The legislator said no one denies the long 20-year struggle of Bangabandhu. "There is no way to deny it."

Harun said Bangabandhu did the right thing on March 25, 1971. "If Bangabandhu had fled and taken refuge in India, the international community would have called him a separatist leader. Bangabandhu understood it."

He also said, "We should have taken an initiative to repair the state in Mujib Borsho. Today, corruption has become institutionalised across the country and rape has taken a terrible turn. There is a great lack of good governance."

Opposition Chief Whip Moshir Rahman Ranga said the then chiefs of the Rakkhi Bahini, army, and law enforcement agencies should be held accountable for the killing of Bangabandhu.

"The killing of Bangabandhu was a terrible incident in history. The whole nation was orphaned through this killing. Although the killers were tried, the conspirators behind the killing were not brought to justice."

Ranga said there would be no space for Razakars, members of the anti-Bangladesh paramilitary force organised by the Pakistan occupation army in East Pakistan in 1971, in parliament and elsewhere in the country.

AL lawmakers Zahid Maleque, Nasrul Hamid, Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, AFM Ruhul Haque, AKM Bahauddin, Iqbalur Rahim and Suborna Mustafa and Jatiya Party's Shamim Haider Patwari and Pir Fazlur Rahman, among others, also took part in the discussion.

Remains

FROM PAGE 12
The University of Portsmouth student said while the pieces did resemble shark spines, there were key differences that allowed them to be distinguished.

"One such feature are tiny little holes where nerves come to the surface and are used for sensitive feeding by the pterosaurs," Smith said.

"Shark fin spines do not have these, but the early palaeontologists clearly missed these features."

"Two of the specimens discovered can be identified as a pterosaur called Ornithostoma, but one additional specimen is clearly distinct and represents a new species. It is a palaeontological mystery."



Resident kisses a relative through a plastic sheet installed in a special 'hug room' organised to keep both parties safe from novel coronavirus infection, at a care home in Castelfranco Veneto, Italy. Photo was taken on Wednesday.

PM to lay foundation stone on Nov 29

FROM PAGE 12
cost of Tk 9,734 crore and the project was scheduled to be completed within December 2023.

The project's cost has gone up to Tk 16,781 crore from Tk 9,734 crore and the current deadline is December 2025.

Costs of two main work packages saw a huge rise after the detailed design was made in September 2018. Besides, costs of land acquisition, land lease and building a museum were also included in the project, causing a jump in the total cost.

Increased VAT and customs duties were also responsible for the cost escalation, documents obtained by The Daily Star show.

A joint venture of Obayashi Corporation, TOA Corporation and JFE would construct the eastern part of the bridge while another joint venture of the IHI and SMCC will work on the western part, officials said.

All are Japanese companies. The project has signed deals with the contractors on April 5 and they have formally commenced work on August 10, they said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was supposed to lay the foundation stone of the project in March but it deferred due to Covid-19 pandemic, they added.

RAIL PANI IS DRINKABLE
Bangladesh Railway (BR) will resume selling its bottled water brand "Rail Pani" from November 15 after three tests found it to be drinkable.

Nurul Islam Sujon made the announcement at the press conference.

The railway authorities last month decided to suspend selling of the product as media was critical about the quality of the product.

Sujon said following media reports about the quality of the water, they sent its samples to Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI), Buet and icddr, b for tests. As per their reports, the water is drinkable.

On August 13, BR and Shyamoli Food and Beverage signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

Meanwhile, the minister said BR will resume food service in trains from November 15 after more than seven months.

BR suspended food service in late March when the halted operation of passenger's trains to contain spread of Covid-19 pandemic. Although, the authority started resumption of passenger's train service from June but food service remained suspended.

Asked about Prime Minister Office (PMO) directives to cut cost of two China-funded railways projects, Sujon said they would drop some additional structures from the projects. He hoped the changes would not make major delay in project implementation.

As per the PMO's directive, railways have to reduce Tk 3,354.31 crore cost from the project for converting metre-gauge rail line to dual-gauge line between Akhaura and Sylhet, which is 20.8 percent of the total project cost.

For upgrading the Joydebpur-Ishwardi dual-gauge line to dual-gauge double line, Tk 1,495.52 crore cost has to be slashed. The amount is 12.91 percent of the total project cost.

Railways Ministry's Secretary Salim Reza, BR's Director General Md Shamsuzzaman and Bangabandhu Rail Bridge Project Director Md Quamrul Ahsan, also spoke the press conference.

Vaccine drive gathers steam

FROM PAGE 12
The AstraZeneca vaccine, co-developed by Oxford University, is the most advanced in human testing in India, Serum said, adding that the company and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will pursue "early availability" of the shot in India.

Meanwhile, the European Union expressed hope that it could start vaccinating people against the novel coronavirus within months, as Italy recorded more than one million cases and Britain said its death toll has surpassed the 50,000 mark.

The head of the European Centre

for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Andrea Ammon, told AFP that a vaccination programme could be kicked off "optimistically (in the) first quarter next year, but I can't be more precise," as trials in both the US and Russia suggested that vaccines currently in the final stages of testing were so far proving very effective.

A vaccine is seen as the best chance to break the cycle of deadly virus surges and severe restrictions across much of the world since Covid-19 first emerged in China late last year and ballooned into a pandemic.

So the announcement by US pharma giant Pfizer on Monday that a vaccine it is developing with Germany's BioNTech is 90 percent effective has sparked a wave of optimism across the globe that the pandemic might soon be brought under control.

And the news Wednesday that Russia's own Sputnik V vaccine was 92 percent effective fuelled another rally on the world's stock markets.

Nevertheless, the small glimmer of hope is not yet enough to eclipse the grim statistics still being recorded all across the globe.

Missing JnU student faked

FROM PAGE 12
Officials learnt that she went into hiding after they, on November 2, arrested Niranjan Baral, 50, a leader of the World Hindu Struggle Committee, Jamil said.

Niranjan Baral was arrested on charges of falsely claiming on Facebook that missing JnU student Tithy was "rescued from the third floor of the CID office in Malibagh with her hands and legs tied".

Officers gave reporters a screenshot of Niranjan's post.

"Niranjan Baral's false and misleading Facebook status and Tithy's going into hiding are pre-planned and connected incidents... These were done to create anarchy in the country," Jamil said.

Tithy was placed on a one-day remand yesterday in a case filed under the Digital Security Act on November 2 with Paltan Police Station over making "derogatory" comments about religion on Facebook.

Another case is being filed against Tithy and Shiplu, the official informed.

The DIG said investigators will also look into whether any other party or people are involved in the matter.

Tithy's family members told journalists earlier that she went missing on the morning of October 25 after leaving her Pallabi home for the local police station. Her elder sister Srity Rani Sarker filed a missing person's report with Pallabi Police Station on October 27.

Tithy was suspended from the university on October 26 as well as from her post as the office secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad's JnU unit on October 23.

Some screenshots of Tithy Sarker's Facebook posts and comments that allegedly hurt religious sentiments went viral on social media that day.

On the same day, Tithy filed a general diary with Pallabi Police Station, stating that her Facebook account had been hacked.

Libyans to debate powers of transitional government

AFP, Tunis

Libyans at UN-led talks were to discuss the powers of a proposed transitional government yesterday, the UN said, as it steps up efforts to end years of conflict in the country.

The meetings in neighbouring Tunisia have produced a preliminary roadmap for "organising free, fair, inclusive and credible presidential and parliamentary elections," interim UN envoy Stephanie Williams told journalists on Wednesday evening.

The talks, between 75 delegates selected by the UN to represent existing institutions and the diversity of Libyan society, take place in parallel with talks between former rival military delegations inside the country to fill in the details of a key October ceasefire deal.

Oil-rich Libya has been gripped by chaos since the 2011 ouster and killing of longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi, with rival administrations in the east and west vying for power.

Another Mind Aid director

FROM PAGE 12

Hospital, where he was undergoing treatment for paralysis.

The 10 arrested staffers of the hospital are each on a seven-day remand.

Police said the hospital was being run without clearance and licence from related government departments. The facility was closed by police on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, expressing grave concern over the death of the senior ASP following the assault by hospital employees, Jahangirnagar University BCS Officers' Forum (JUBOF) yesterday demanded proper legal action against those responsible.

"Brutality in the name of medical treatment by Mind Aid Hospital authorities is not acceptable at all... The country lost a meritorious officer," read the statement signed by JUBOF President Monowar Ahmed, secretary of Economic Relations Division at Ministry of Finance and the organisation's General Secretary Md Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner (DB) of DMP.

Anisul's father Faijuddin Ahmed filed the case with Adabor Police Station on Tuesday, accusing 15 people, including the five directors of the hospital, over murdering his

35-year-old son.

According to family members, Anisul had been suffering from mental stress. He kept quiet for three to four days before being admitted to the hospital in the capital's Adabor area on Monday.

Analysing the CCTV footage of the hospital, it was seen that Anisul was dragged into a soundproof room by several staffers and thrown to the ground by six employees.

Two more employees dressed in blue grabbed his leg and two others hit him with their elbow. Hospital staffer Arif was present all the while. Anisul's hands were tied behind his back with a piece of blue cloth.

There were no doctors at the soundproof room, police said.

The Tejaon DC termed the incident an 'obvious murder'.

Anisul, appointed as a police officer in the 31st special BCS, was working for Barishal Metropolitan Police (traffic). Earlier, he had served the DMP, Rapid Action Battalion, and the Police Headquarters.

He was the father of a four-year-old child.

Anisul was a 33rd-batch student of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Jahangirnagar University.

Zila Parishad, Manikganj

www.zpmanikganj.org.bd



Memo No. ZPManik/e Tender/02/2020/806

Date: 11/11/2020

e-Tender Notice No. 03/2020-2021 (LTM)

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

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of Scheme
513269	e-GP/ZPM/2020-21/03/REV/W-01	Improvement of road from Akter Chairman House to Hutu Fokir Graveyard (Ch 00-119m) by HBB on Daulatpur Bus Stand to Cholkmirpur R&H Road under Daulatpur Upazila, Dist. Manikganj.
513292	e-GP/ZPM/2020-21/03/REV/W-02	Improvement of road from Ghior Kiron Shop to Lal Mia Shop (Ch. 00-146m) by R.C.C & Construction of 10m Drain with road near Arun Saha by R.C.C at Ghior Bazar under Ghior Upazila, Dist. Manikganj.
513311	e-GP/ZPM/2020-21/03/REV/W-03	Improvement of road from Jhitka Mukul Chairman Shop to Anwar Shop by R.C.C under Harirampur Upazila, Dist. Manikganj.
513614	e-GP/ZPM/2020-21/03/OWN/G-01	Supplying of Sewing Machine Distribution among the poor women at 7 (seven) Upazila, Manikganj to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary (Mujib year) of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

This is online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through online from any registered banks branches up to 16.00pm on 01-12-2020. Publication date & time 12:00am on 16-11-2020. Last date and time for tender security submission 12.00am on 02-12-2020. Tender closing date & time 13.00pm on 02-12-2020. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Mozammel Haque
Assistant Engineer
Zila Parishad, Manikganj
Tel No. 02-7711005

GD-1816

He did not demean

FROM PAGE 12

administration, handed its report to Deputy Commissioner Md Abu Jafor yesterday morning. The report was prepared after the committee sat seven times and took oral and written statements from about 50 people in Burimari area.

The committee, headed by Additional District Magistrate TMA Momin, was formed a day after a mob murdered Jewel over demeaning the Holy Quran inside a mosque in Burimari. The other two members are Additional Superintendent of Police Rabiul Islam and Deputy Director of Fire Service Saidul Islam.

Talking to reporters after submitting the report, Momin said, "We have not found any evidence that the Holy Quran was desecrated in the Burimari incident. It was just a rumour. The rumour spread and as a result, the mob killed Jewel."

"Our investigation has revealed in-depth information on the incident. We've mentioned everything in the report, but can't disclose much here."

The DC told reporters that he received the report, which would be sent to the ministries concerned for necessary action against the perpetrators.

Jewel was a former librarian of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College and a former student of Dhaka University. At least 31 people have so far been arrested over the incident.

Govt to build

FROM PAGE 12

meetings are unscheduled.
BIG PURCHASE OF JUTE BY INDIA
India will purchase huge quantities of raw jute from Bangladesh within July 1973. An agreement for the purchase of raw jute from Bangladesh is likely to be signed tomorrow. According to an informed source, India will initially purchase two lakh bales of raw jute from Bangladesh. The Indo-Bangladesh trade accord provides for the export of seven lakh bales of raw jute from Bangladesh on barter trade against imports from India. In India there are about 61 jute mills which are currently facing a shortage in the supply of raw jute.

RECOGNITION BY NICARAGUA
The Government of Nicaragua today accords formal recognition to Bangladesh as a sovereign and independent state. This brings the number of countries that have accorded recognition to Bangladesh to 94.

SOURCES: November 14, 1972 issues of *Bangladesh Observer*, *Dainik Bangla* and *Dainik Ittefaq*.

State Dept blocking world

FROM PAGE 12

victory, saying that "there will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration," igniting a furor and roiling diplomats.

Biden is also being blocked from getting the same intelligence briefings as the president, known as the President's Daily Brief, and should the Trump administration continue to block a typical transition close to Inauguration Day on January 20, there are concerns Biden's administration will be playing catch-up the day he takes office.



Bangladesh Bank

Sustainable Finance Department

Head Office

Dhaka

Website: www.bb.org.bd

Re-Tender: Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Hiring Consulting Firm (National)

- Name of procuring entity : GCF RPSP Project Implementation Unit, Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) : Selection of Consulting Firm.
- EOI Ref. No. & Date : SFD/GBMS/1003/6/2/2020-1975 Date: 11/11/2020
- Procurement sub-method : Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
- Budget and source of funds : Foreign Grant.
- Project title : Up scaling regulatory landscape of Green Banking for Shariah Based Banks and Financial Institutions in Bangladesh.
- Assignment title : Hiring Consulting Firm (National) for Preparation and Commission of the Policy Guidelines for Sustainable Finance for Shariah Based Banks and Financial Institutions.
- EOI closing date and time : 01/12/2020 at 3.00pm.
- Brief description of the assignment : Bangladesh Bank (BB) has received financing from Green Climate Fund (GCF) to implement a policy framework or a white paper on Shariah based green financing. To carry out the project successfully, consultancy service is needed to prepare green banking and green financing guidelines for Shariah based banks and financial institutions.
- Qualifications and experience : The firm should have at least five (05) years experience in the relevant type of services mentioned above. Firm will engage financial sector specialists and climate finance specialists to perform the said services.
- Other details : Expected term of the assignment is twenty (20) months. The prospective consulting firm shall submit all supporting documents in BB website (<https://etender.bb.org.bd>) or through e-mail stated below. Interested candidates may obtain "Terms of Reference (ToR)" from the website of Bangladesh Bank (<https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php>). Application/proposal will not be accepted after EOI closing time.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

- Name of the official inviting EOI : Khondkar Morshed Millat.
- Designation of the official inviting EOI : General Manager (Project Director).
- Address of the official inviting EOI : GCF RPSP Project Implementation Unit, Sustainable Finance Department, 19th Floor, 2nd Annex Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka-1000.
- Contact details of the official inviting EOI : Phone: 9530320, Fax: 9530327.

This Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) is in compliance with relevant government rules and regulations e.g. Public Procurement Rules 2008. By responding to this EOI, consultant firms are conforming to those rules and regulations. The procuring entity reserves all right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

The details EOI and ToR are available at BB website (<https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php>).

DCP: 48/2020-3253
Date: 12-11-2020

Khondkar Morshed Millat
General Manager (Project Director)
Phone: 9530320
E-mail: gm.sfd@bb.org.bd

ব্যাবহিক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হযরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিজ্ঞতা থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1817

TYPHOON VAMCO

Worst floods in yrs kill seven in Manila

REUTERS, Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday ordered government agencies to hasten relief efforts after a powerful typhoon killed at least seven people and unleashed some of the worst flooding in years in the capital Manila.

Duterte cut short his attendance of a virtual meeting of Southeast Asian leaders to inspect the damage from Typhoon Vamco, moments after a speech during which he urged his counterparts to urgently combat the effects of climate change.

The typhoon, the eighth to hit the Philippines in the past two months and 21st of the year, forced residents to scramble onto rooftops to await rescue after tens of thousands of homes were submerged.

Those killed across the main island of Luzon, home to half of the country's 108 million population, included people who drowned, an elderly man hit by a tree and three workers crushed when a warehouse collapsed.

It struck areas still reeling from Goni, the most powerful typhoon in the world this year, which killed 25 people and destroyed thousands of homes earlier this month.

Nearly 200,000 people were evacuated before Vamco arrived late on Wednesday packing winds of 155 kilometres per hour and gusts of up to 255 kph. It has since weakened and exited the mainland.

Nearly three million households in and around Manila were without power as people waded through waist-high floods, carrying valuables and pets.

Coastguard swam through brown floodwater as high as electricity poles in some areas, while rescue workers used rubber boats and makeshift floats to move children and the elderly to safety.



Rescuers pull a rubber boat carrying residents through a flooded street after Typhoon Vamco hit in Marikina City, suburban Manila, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

GOP adds another senate seat with Alaska win

President Donald Trump's Republican Party won another seat in the US Senate Wednesday, with a victory in Alaska that puts it one vote away from a majority in the upper house of Congress.

Afghan journo for US-funded radio killed in car blast

An Afghan journalist working for a US-funded radio network was killed in a blast in southern Afghanistan yesterday, officials said, just days after a former television presenter was murdered in Kabul.

Israel uncovers King David-era fortress in occupied Golan



Archaeologists on Wednesday unveiled a fortified structure from the time of the King David on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights that sheds light on the borders of a Biblical Israel ally.

Donors to pledge \$500m for vaccine at Paris forum

An international conference in Paris aims to raise more than \$500 million towards ensuring fair access to coronavirus tests, treatment and vaccines for all, including poor countries, the organisers said yesterday.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

Biden reassures Asian allies

AFP, Sydney

US President-elect Joe Biden rang round allies in Seoul, Sydney and Tokyo yesterday, vowing to repair frayed partnerships and reaffirming mutual-defence pacts thrown in doubt by the current White House.

A day after Biden's series of "America is back" calls with European leaders, the former vice president spoke to Australia's Scott Morrison, South Korea's Moon Jae-in and the recently installed Japanese leader Yoshihide Suga.

All three men had already congratulated Biden on his recent election victory over Donald Trump, despite the incumbent's refusal to concede.

Biden's call with Suga included a stark warning from the Japanese prime minister that the "security situation is increasingly severe" around the region, according to an account of the call from Japanese officials.

Suga's unusually frank analysis was met with Biden expressing his "deep commitment to the defence of Japan" and to decades-old treaty obligations, according to his transition team.

During the four-year Trump administration, America's regional allies often questioned whether the mercurial president would uphold

long-standing promises to defend them in the event of a military conflagration.

In a move likely to cause protest in Beijing, Biden reportedly confirmed this defence commitment extended to the Senkakus, an uninhabited island chain claimed by both Japan and China which has been a potential flashpoint for decades.



In a separate 14-minute call with Moon, Biden was said to have described the US-South Korea alliance as "the linchpin of security and prosperity" in the region, and vowed to work together on "shared challenges" such as North Korea and climate change.

Trump had publicly mulled withdrawing troops from Japan and South Korea, where more than 20,000 US military personnel are currently stationed to deter any North Korean

military action. South Korea's presidential Blue House said Moon and Biden had agreed to meet "as soon as possible" after the American's inauguration.

In his call with Australia's leader, Biden received an invitation to visit next year for the 70th anniversary of a security treaty between the two countries.

Biden also reportedly noted the importance of "confronting climate change", which Australia's conservative government has been notably slow to tackle, despite being party to the Paris climate accord.

Morrison described the call as "very warm" and said Biden did not raise the issue of net-zero carbon targets, focusing instead on "emissions reduction technologies".

Biden served for decades on the US Senate foreign relations committee -- which saw him travel around the world meeting foreign leaders.

He also served as vice president to Barack Obama, who spent much of his presidency promoting America as a "Pacific power". Obama's much vaunted "Pivot to Asia" and painstaking alliance-building at regional Asean, APEC and East Asian summits was replaced by Trump's more transactional approach.

BREACHING HONG KONG TREATY

UK considering China sanctions

REUTERS, London

Britain yesterday said China had broken its main bilateral treaty on Hong Kong by imposing new rules to disqualify elected legislators in the former British colony, cautioning that it would consider sanctions as part of its response.

The British flag was lowered over Hong Kong when the colony was handed back to China in 1997 after more than 150 years of British rule - imposed after Britain defeated China in the First Opium War.

Hong Kong's autonomy was guaranteed under the "one country, two systems" agreement enshrined in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration signed by then Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"Beijing's imposition of new rules to disqualify elected legislators in Hong Kong constitutes a clear breach of the legally binding Sino-British Joint Declaration," Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said.

Britain summoned China's ambassador, Liu Xiaoming, to express its deep concerns and Raab's deputy, Nigel Adams, told parliament that it was considering possible sanctions on individuals over China's actions.

"We will continue to consider designations under our Magnitsky-style sanctions regime," said Adams, Britain's minister for Asia. He was asked by lawmakers if Britain would sanction Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

The European Union called on Beijing to immediately reverse the new rules which it said undermined Hong Kong's autonomy.

Hong Kong's pro-democracy opposition lawmakers said on Wednesday they would resign in protest against the dismissal of four of their colleagues from the city assembly after Beijing gave local authorities new powers to further curb dissent. The Chinese parliament earlier adopted a resolution allowing the city's executive to expel lawmakers deemed to be advocating Hong Kong independence, colluding with foreign forces or threatening national security, without having to go through the courts.



A man pushes a boat in the polluted Yamuna river covered with foam in New Delhi, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ethiopia PM claims victory in west Tigray

REUTERS, Addis Ababa

Ethiopia's military has defeated local forces in the west of Tigray state, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said yesterday, accusing his foes of atrocities during a week of fighting that threatens to destabilise the Horn of Africa.

Air strikes and ground combat have killed hundreds, sent refugees flooding into Sudan, stirred Ethiopia's ethnic divisions and raised questions over the credentials of Abiy, Africa's youngest leader who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2019.

"The western region of Tigray has been liberated," tweeted Abiy, 44, who comes from the largest ethnic group the Oromo and once fought with the Tigrayans against neighbouring Eritrea.

"The army is now providing humanitarian assistance and services. It is also feeding the people," he added.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which rules the mountainous northern state of more than 5 million people, announced a local state of emergency against what it termed an "invasion by outsiders".

Abiy accuses the TPLF of starting the conflict by attacking a federal military base and defying his authority, while the Tigrayans say his two-year rule has persecuted them. More than 10,000 Ethiopian refugees have crossed into Sudan since fighting started and aid agencies say the situation in Tigray is becoming dire. Even before the conflict, 600,000 people there were reliant on food aid.

Saudi king urges world to take 'firm stance' against Iran

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's King Salman yesterday urged world powers to take a "firm stance" against its arch-rival Iran, as expectations mount that US President-elect Joe Biden will seek to revive a 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran.

Riyadh appears wary of Biden's pledge to revisit the nuclear pact between major powers and Iran, a landmark deal that was negotiated when he served as vice president under Barack Obama.

The king's remarks come a day after the UN nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, warned that Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium has risen to more than 12 times the limit permitted under the 2015 deal since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from it.

"The kingdom calls on the international community to take a firm stance towards the Iranian regime," the king said in his annual address to the Shura Council, the top government advisory body.

"This firm stance must guarantee that the Iranian regime is prevented from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, the development of its ballistic missile programme and threatening peace and security," he added in a speech delivered in the early hours.

The king did not directly address Biden in his speech.

Trump quit the deal in 2018, launching a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran -- including crippling unilateral sanctions -- that was welcomed by the kingdom.

Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia and Shia Iran are locked in a decades-old tussle for supremacy in the Middle East, and are on opposing sides in regional conflicts from Syria to Yemen.

The International Atomic Energy Agency warned on Wednesday that Iran's explanations over the presence of nuclear material at an undeclared site in the country were "not credible".

Observers warn that Iran's actions could trigger a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

The kingdom's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, declared in 2018 that if Iran develops a nuclear bomb, "we would follow suit as soon as possible".

US intelligence agencies are examining efforts by Saudi Arabia, which has vast uranium ore reserves, to build up its capacity to produce nuclear fuel that could help the kingdom develop a bomb, the New York Times reported in August.

Table with columns for project name, location, start date, and other details. Includes a table for 'দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২০-২০২১' and a table for 'ক্রমিক প্যাকেজ নং'.

CAMPUS CLUB SUMMIT 2020

Encouraging students to participate in co-curricular activities



www.youthop.com

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Opportunities Campus Ambassador Program 2021

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

DEADLINE: November 20, 2020 | Volunteer Service



Online Internship: ASEAN Foundation Communication Internship 2020

To support all of ASEAN Foundation initiatives, innovative and passionate communication interns are needed. As young people in ASEAN are one of the main target audiences of the ASEAN Foundation, we will need a communication intern who understands the young generation's insights and speaks their language. The well-executed communications strategy of the ASEAN Foundation is essential to ensure high visibility of the initiatives as well as to convey its success stories better to various stakeholders and broader audiences.

DEADLINE: Throughout 2020 | Internships

Call for Artists: Contemporary Talents Competition 2020

Francois Schneider Foundation is arranging "Contemporary Talents" competition aiming to support creative artists by acquiring their works and showcasing them at the foundation's Art Centre, which is entirely dedicated to the intersection between art and water. The motto of the competition is to encourage artists to engage with the theme of water, an essential element of our lives, and reflect upon, observe, analyze, criticize and make use of water in their creative work, exploring its properties, its symbols, its tools and its issues. It will offer the artists a platform to reach all sections of the public and encourage dialogue and networking with the cultural community.

DEADLINE: November 20, 2020 | Competitions

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE AND SADIA TAHSIN

Universities from all across the country are now focusing on extracurricular activities alongside academics, and clubs have been arranging various programmes to enhance the skill sets of students. Midas Financing Limited Presents Campus Club Summit 2020, a joint initiative of Midas Financing Limited, The Daily Star and Excellence Bangladesh, was conducted on November 6 and 7. The summit featured fruitful discussions and recognised top student clubs across Bangladesh for their work. Star Youth, The Daily Star, was the youth engagement partner of the programme.

The panel discussion, 'Leadership: Nurturing the change within organisations', was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, National Consultant of the United Nations in Bangladesh. It shed light on the role of extracurricular activities in boosting essential skills. The panelists were Elita Karim, Editor Arts & Entertainment and Star Youth, The Daily Star, Sheikh Shabbab Ahmed, Head of External Affairs, BAT Bangladesh, Shuvashish Roy, Digital Marketing Manager, The Daily Star and Ayman Sadiq, Founder and CEO, 10 Minute School.

Elita Karim termed extracurricular activities as the lifeline of university life and urged young students to enjoy the moments and participate in diverse events. Sheikh Shabbab Ahmed appreciated the role of club activities in promoting networking skills and instilling leadership qualities among students.

Ayman Sadiq, an enthusiastic participant of business, ideation and entrepreneurship competitions, said that such contests are crucial for overcoming stage fear and providing exposure. On the other hand, Shuvashish Roy asserted that club activities helped him greatly in his professional life and played a major role in getting him the Chevening Scholarship. Extracurricular activities furthermore taught him to think out of the box and developed his innovative skills.

Moderated by Rafeed Elahi Chowdhury, Co-Founder of Torun Digital, 'The effectiveness of clubbing beside academics', was an engaging panel discussion with Md Rashedur Rahman, Executive Director- Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship, ICE Center at University of Dhaka, Arif Zaman, Dean, School of Business at Canadian University of Bangladesh and Shibli Shahriar, Qualified and Certified Mentor, Faculty of Business and Entrepreneurship at Daffodil International University.

Md Rashedur Rahman asserted that



youths are truly motivated to play a role in the development of co-curricular clubs. Shibli Shahriar added that classroom theories are just one of the fourteen abilities important for employability, and that leadership, negotiation, collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking are essential skills that clubs help develop. Arif Zaman explained the significance of co-curricular activities in testing students' knowledge and skills.

Md Tajdin Hassan, Head of Marketing at The Daily Star, Javed Sultan Pias, Head of Digital Business at Prothom Alo, and Imran Kadir, Founder of Mission Save Bangladesh, made up the panel for the discussion, 'Branding extracurricular activities in the media', with Benjir Abrar, Founder & CEO of Excellence Bangladesh as the moderator. "The competitiveness in the club culture is at its peak right now and it depends on the

institutions as to how they can transform the interest for extracurricular activities among the students," expressed Tajdin Hassan.

Meanwhile, Benjir Abrar asserted that for the past few decades, the media has been inspiring the youth and their extracurricular activities and showing support for their work rigorously.

Imran Kadir focused on how the pandemic has affected the conventional extracurricular activities of the youth, but on a positive note, he added that online summits, seminars and activities hosted during these times will stay on the internet, offering a great opportunity for students to look back and keep learning.

The panel discussion, 'Debating: What's in it for students', was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous. It featured Zunaed Rabbani, CEO, The Right Kind and AIRN, Nobonita

Chowdhury, Director, Gender, Justice and Diversity, BRAC and Sakib Bin Rashid, Curriculum and Material Development Specialist, BRAC Youth Platform.

Zunaed Rabbani focused on the need to diversify club interests. He said that debating generates a sense of competitive spirit and teamwork, while also boosting interaction skills. While discussing the pros and cons of debating, Nobonita Chowdhury emphasised on the importance of quality content and research. She also spoke on how female students across the country are restricted from participating in these activities, due to safety reasons.

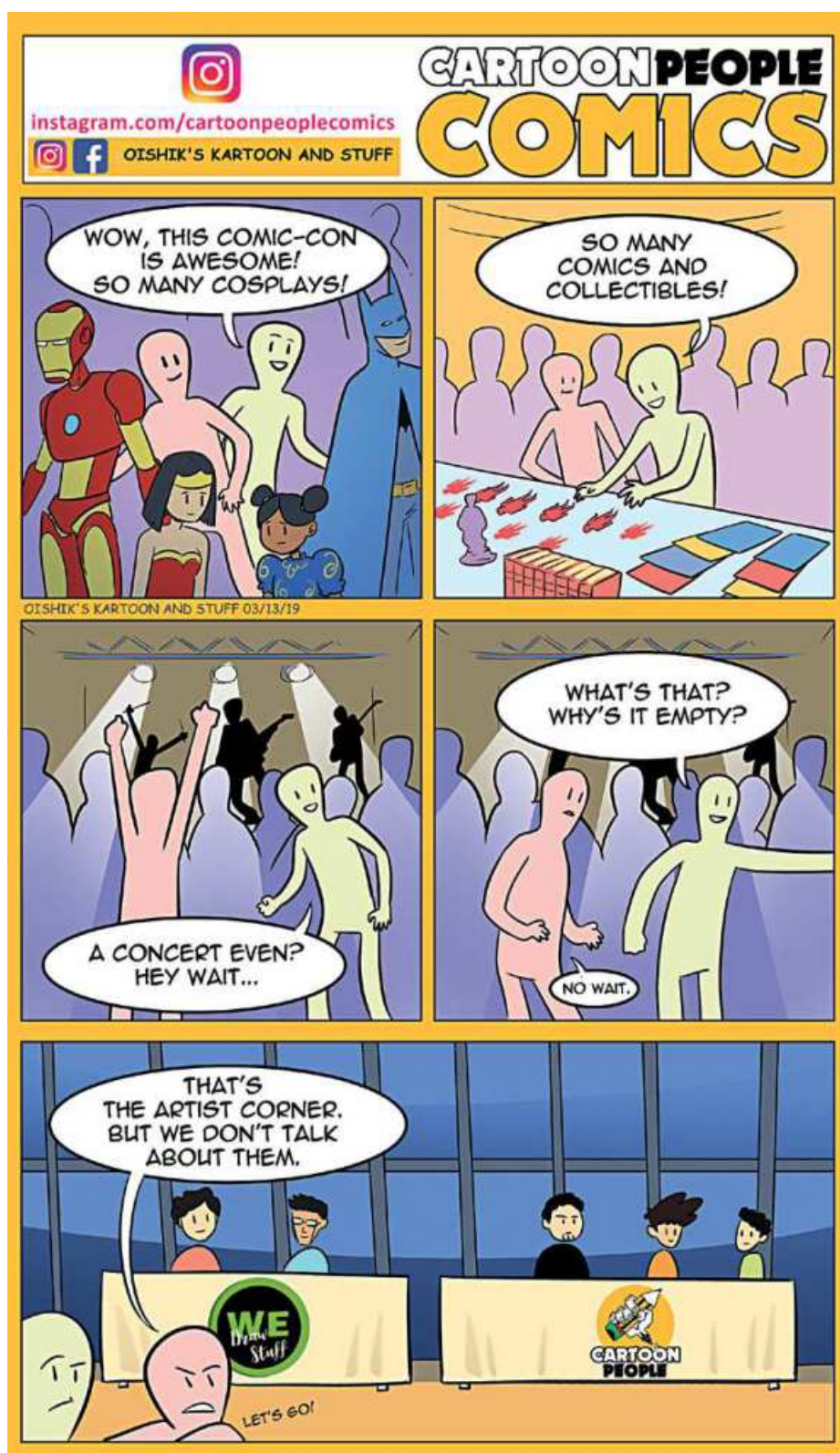
Debate circuits have been successful in creating more spaces for talks, and promoting inclusivity and acceptance, noted the panelists. Among several other traits, debaters also learn conflict-management. Sakib Bin Rashid said that confidence and encouragement paved his journey and that debating made him rational and empathetic.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, was actively involved in extracurricular activities, particularly debating, during his youth. He spoke about the many characteristics of extracurricular activities and shared his experiences from Notre Dame College, Dhaka University, and the Liberation War of Bangladesh, at a keynote session, before the closing ceremony.

After receiving nominations, an independent jury panel selected five clubs for the 'Best Clubs Awards'. The winners were NSU YES! Club, Jahangirnagar University Debate Organization, BUET Career Club, Dhaka University Career Club, and Chittagong University Debate Society. Also, BUP Business and Communications Club, Jagannath University Rover Scout Group, Gono Bishwavidyalaya Debating Society, JKNU Skill Development Club and ULAB Digital Marketing Club were awarded for their social activities during the pandemic. Overall, the summit aimed to encourage students to participate in different club activities, and take their talents to greater heights.

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.

Sadia Tahsin is a final year marketing major at North South University. She believes someday she will become a marketing mastermind, be able to read human minds and reveal all their secrets to the aliens. To know her secret plan, email her at iloverachelgreenclub@gmail.com.



Reaching out to people in need through earnest efforts

ZAREEN NAWAR

The charitable non-profit organisation, Blessing for Human Foundation, began their journey last year with the intention of helping underprivileged communities. The organisation was formed when a father and a son, along with their close family and friends, decided to band together to raise enough funds to help those in need, during the winter months. They intend to implement real change in real time.

The pandemic and the subsequent months of isolation encouraged the organisation to support working-class individuals. They provided food supplies to around 350 families prior to Ramadan. During Ramadan this year, Blessing for Human Foundation was able to provide around 300 iftar packages to families in need. For Eid-ul-Adha, they distributed meat among those in need.

During the period of hardships due to cyclone Amphan, they collaborated with another NGO, Hridhhi, to start their Amphan relief distribution around different areas of Satkhira. Their projects 'Covid-19 Relief Distribution' and 'Coast to Coast' enabled them to distribute 1,500 packages of groceries throughout different districts of Bangladesh like Dinajpur, Nilphamari,



Blessing for Human Foundation distributed 1,500 packages of groceries throughout different districts of Bangladesh.

Satkhira, Noakhali, Kishoreganj, Koyra, Keraniganj and Dharmrai.



While distributing packages of groceries, volunteers of Blessing for Human Foundation wear PPE suits.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BLESSING FOR HUMAN FOUNDATION

"Keeping the pandemic in mind, only our main volunteers took it upon themselves to organise the items of distribution accordingly in a designated place," said Sirajul Islam Azad, Founder, Blessing for Human Foundation. "The volunteers wear PPE suits when they need to distribute around open spaces that are likely to attract crowds." They strictly monitor a line, maintaining social distancing guidelines.

They provided door to door distribution of food to slums, where they hoped to evade gatherings. So far, they have had nearly 180 active volunteers. "We hope to work with more ardent and eager young volunteers in the coming years," said Naimul Fayek, Co-Founder, Blessing for Human Foundation.

In the future, Blessing for Human Foundation hopes to provide necessary equipment to patients of the coronavirus, who are severely in need of assistance. They also want to continue helping the working class with food distributions. They are in talks to provide food to orphanages and old age homes as well. The young volunteers hope to spend time at these places, and interact with the people. Their Facebook page is usually updated based on all their activities and they can easily be reached on the site.

Zareen Nawar works on establishing the nuances of reality whilst having a mind fixated entirely on the possibilities of fiction. You may reach out to her at nawarzareen@gmail.com.

Doesn't the health ministry have a complete list of hospitals?

Why is there such apathy when human lives are at stake?

ACCORDING to a report published by this newspaper, the health directorate has asked civil surgeons to ensure that all unauthorised private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres in the country are shut down as soon as possible. After a meeting with the owners of private hospitals on August 9, the authorities had decided that all private medical colleges, hospitals and clinics must apply for licences—either to renew them or get new ones—by August 23. After that, the authorities said, 13,000 such organisations applied online for licences within the deadline and nearly 2,800 others did not—and that there are “probably” some other establishments which they will have to look into. What we understand from this is that the health ministry does not have a total list of how many hospitals and clinics there are in the country—how many authorised and how many unauthorised. And that is truly shocking.

For any product, there are always stringent controls, including quality controls. Then how can we be in a situation where we now have to list how many hospitals and clinics there are and also verify them? The product we are talking about here is healthcare, and what is at stake is human lives. Why, then, haven't the authorities taken this seriously? Isn't there a standard procedure on how to set up a clinic? Don't hospitals need to get licences or other necessary documentation to set up?

If we take just one case, that of a police officer with mental health issues who went to Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital, we see the true state of this sector. ASP Anisul Karim was apparently beaten to death by staffers of the hospital, which had no DGHS authorisation except for a “license” from the Department of Narcotics Control allegedly. Why will a hospital have registration with the Department of Narcotics Control? What is clear from this is that this sector is in complete chaos.

The fact that the authorities have failed so miserably to properly monitor and ensure quality control in a sector that literally deals with human lives and is supposed to be the difference between life and death is shameful. Someone needs to be held accountable for this. Consequently, all efforts should be made to register each and every private clinic and hospital and then monitor their quality.

An elderly woman hawker living independently, helping others in need

She deserves society's respect and care

A story published in this daily yesterday of a 60-year-old woman, who has been living on her own and earning her living by selling newspapers for the last 30 years in Rajshahi city, has touched our hearts. Born into a well-off family, Dil Afroze Khuki was married off at a very early age, but then her husband died and she became a very young widow. She started working as a newspaper hawker by selling the now-defunct Rajshahi-based weekly Duniya in 1991, and has been working as a newspaper hawker ever since. She lives in the house she inherited, without anyone to take care of her but herself.

This courageous woman is not only living independently with her progressive views about the world but also helping others in need. She chose a life of constant battles by giving away her hard-earned income to the people in need. She bought sewing machines and bicycles for several young women and their husbands and helped a number of families become self-reliant by buying them cattle. Besides, she regularly donates to orphanages, mosques and temples.

She sells over 300 copies of newspapers every day, which is an amazing performance for a woman of her age and frail health. Unfortunately, Khuki's pursuit of a self-reliant, dignified life has not always received the appreciation she deserves. According to locals, she had to endure repeated harassment and assaults for living the life she has chosen to live. People often call her “crazy” and mistreat her. But this spirited woman does not care what people say to her, and carries on walking for miles on end selling newspapers. To her, earning an honest livelihood is more important than aspiring for wealth or climbing up the social ladder.

Dil Afroze Khuki's pursuit of a dignified life should be respected by all. She has set an example of selflessness and compassion for which she deserves our appreciation.

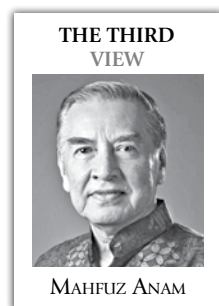
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Oxford Dictionary redefines 'woman'

Oxford University Press has changed the definition of “woman” in the Oxford Dictionary after an online petition launched by a woman in 2019, objecting to its definition of the word. The previous definition contained terms which were quite offensive. Prior to the modification, the dictionary explained “woman” as a person's wife, girlfriend or lover, indicating that women do not have any individual identity. The listed synonyms also projected a negative image of females in the societies. But it's good to know that Oxford University Press has taken this matter into consideration and modified the definition. It should have been done much earlier, but I am glad they finally did it.

Nazia Amin, Dhaka



THE THIRD VIEW

MAHFUZ ANAM

STEALING is bad, but stealing from the poor is perhaps one of the most depraved acts one can think of. But not so for those handling the government's pandemic-related urgent cash assistance

programme for the poor. For them, handling the government's dole for those hardest hit by the economic fallout of the pandemic has been the best thing that could have ever happened to them. It is the latest money-making scheme. The government pours in taxpayers' money from one end and the handlers syphon off a large portion from the other and then give out the rest, but mainly to those giving them a cut. This was revealed by the latest Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) study released on November 10.

The government had allocated a total of Tk 111,141 crore for 20 stimulus packages to assist people and absorb the economic shock of the pandemic. Of this grand total, only 26 percent has so far been disbursed. Predictably, the part meant for large and export-oriented industries has been disbursed at an average rate of 73-100 percent, meaning the rich and the powerful got their money right on time, and in most cases, in full. Inflated figures of loss are ruled out as the assessment mechanism was either weak or non-existent. But as we come down lower in the power echelon—the low-income farmers, small traders, small and medium enterprises—the disbursement is between 21 and 42 percent.

The absurdity of the situation, however, is laid bare when we focus on those brought down to the bottom of the economic pyramid by the pandemic. The government had set aside Tk 1,250 crore to give Tk 2,500 each to 50 lakh hardest-hit victims. According to TIB's latest survey report, 69 percent of the surveyed listed poor are yet to receive a single taka even after six months had elapsed. For those who received money, 56 percent were victims of irregularities and corruption. On an average, Tk 220 had to be paid as bribe to get into the list and get their Tk 2,500, from which amount the agent bankers extracted their commission. According to related reports, there were 3,000 government employees incorrectly included in this list, as were 7,000 pensioners. There were 3,00,000 cases of double entry, meaning people who were paid more than once. So widespread were the irregularities that the government stopped this payment scheme after servicing 35 lakh people out of a total of 50 lakh, leaving the remaining 15 lakh with nothing.

So far, 108 local government representatives have been temporarily suspended for corruption—of them, at least 30 have returned to their posts through writ petitions. No other actions have been taken against them.

This, then, is the picture of how the poor have been served in this crisis. Since the pandemic broke out in Bangladesh in March, the government set up a total of 43 committees to tackle the crisis. Most of them did not function, and some did not even meet, with members

crossing committees and named either without consent or never being informed that they were made members in the first place. The only committee that functioned was the Technical Advisory Committee, but its advice was seldom taken or it was not consulted before taking any policy decision or launching any specific action. The committees were a farce, and so were many of the government's actions like providing PPEs or quality masks to the frontline health workers.

An important discriminatory aspect of the pandemic response action plan of the government is the differences in capacities for handling the situation that exist between cities and rural areas. The capital, unsurprisingly, is best-equipped with other bigger cities being somewhat served. At present, 35 districts, out of 64, have no laboratory facilities for Covid-19

be locked down, government offices had to be closed, schools had to be shut for months risking the loss of a whole academic year, factories had to be shuttered, the economy faced a severe jolt—and yet, our parliament did not feel the need to devote even a single session or even a sitting on it. Stranger still is the fact that, according to the website of the parliament, the standing committee on the health ministry—whose job it is to oversee the functioning of the whole health sector—did not think it fit to meet even once in the last seven months even though more than a hundred doctors and nurses have died while serving the infected. The single fact that the government allocated a special fund of Tk 529 crore in the last fiscal year and an additional Tk 9,736 crore in the present one should have prompted this parliamentary watchdog body to see how

to think that there is no complete list of all the hospitals and clinics operating in the country and as such there is no idea of how many are licensed and how many are not—not to mention, how many really heal their patients and how many are there only to fleece them. We are also unaware what are the different categories of hospitals and clinics that are there. For example, how many are of a general nature, how many specialised for specific conditions, such as for mental health, liver disease, etc.

If not in the area of press and opposition politics, complete freedom appears to exist in Bangladesh to set up clinics or hospitals without any prior permission from anybody. If regulations exist, then how can there be so many unauthorised medical facilities wreaking havoc on our lives? Of the 13,000 that have applied online, we don't know how



Where has all the cash for the poor gone?

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

testing. So, with what preparation are we readying ourselves to face the second wave of the virus that is expected to hit us during the winter? We can already gauge the severity of the situation by what's happening in Europe.

Perhaps it is a sign of the wind of “free discussion” that now blows in Bangladesh; so far there has not been any in-depth discussion at any official level about the pandemic. Some brave doctors, specialists and former WHO experts and a section of the media have carried on a valiant—but mostly ignored—struggle to generate some analysis and understanding of what is going on and how we can tackle the situation better. From the side of the authorities, except for occasional press statements and less frequent press briefings, there is very little official initiative to share facts and findings to allow us to better understand the situation and thereby plan our future strategy.

What is incomprehensible is the role of the elected representatives, especially of the parliamentary standing committee on the health ministry. More than 6,000 citizens have died, over four lakh were infected, the country had to

this huge amount of taxpayers' money has been or is being spent.

Take yesterday's press report on the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) instructing civil surgeons to shut all hospitals, medical colleges and clinics that do not have license. Prompted by the killing of Anisul Karim, a senior assistant superintendent of police, at an unauthorised mental clinic called “Mind and Hospital” (they claim to have a permission from the Narcotics Department which is in no way authorised to issue any license), the DGHS has gone into the present action of closure.

Earlier, DGHS had announced that by August 23, all hospitals, medical colleges and clinics would have to apply for licenses or renew them if they already have one. Thirteen thousand applied online and 2,800 missed the deadline, meaning they did not even bother to apply. Farid Hossain Miah, director of the hospital and clinic unit at DGHS, has given us the comforting news that “there are probably other establishments which are not on this list. We will have to work on this”—for which he wanted “some time”, as his office lacked requisite human resources. It boggles our mind

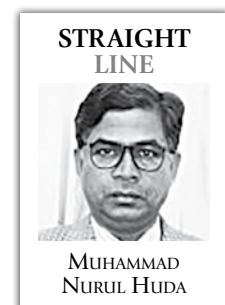
many are for renewal and how many for new licenses. It is obvious from the government notification that many clinics and hospitals are seeking licenses after they have gone into operation. How can that be? How can we allow hospitals and clinics that have not received permission to treat patients in the first place? If these people have done so illegally, in spite of a plethora of laws, then why have we not taken legal steps to stop them and put the violators behind bars?

Nobody can market any product without a BSTI certificate. The control is more stringent for health and food products. But it seems we can open hospitals and clinics—on whose professionalism and quality service our lives depend—and start their operation without any control.

Both the distribution of government financial assistance for the hardest-hit pandemic victims and the handling of the healthcare facilities in general amply reveal the tremendous challenges that lie ahead. Will we take a break from our self-congratulatory rhetoric and undertake some reality checks and act with responsibility?

Mahfuz Anam is Editor and Publisher, The Daily Star.

Bigotry has no place in a civilised society



MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA

IN an article published on April 4, 2015, I wrote that “Attacks on Hindus and their property have demonstrated the immensely sad but blunt reality that even after 42 years of democratic pluralistic

existence, the religious minority of Bangladesh have not been able to save themselves” (*The Daily Star*). The threat to the minority group and their properties, unfortunately, continues to this day, as evidenced by a recent attack on the Hindu population and their properties in Muradnagar of Cumilla district, or the harassment and detention of a Hindu girl in Parbatipur over alleged comments made in response to a Facebook post, or the threat to a Hindu teacher of Chittagong University. Another recent example of religious intolerance was seen in Patgram, where a man was burnt alive by an angry mob on unsubstantiated suspicion of desecration of the holy Quran. This time, the victim was a Muslim.

While prompt administrative actions have been taken by the authorities following the incidents, it has been a painful experience to witness such savagery by a section of the people. In fact, the tolerance threshold of some people has sunken so low that it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure peaceful coexistence of people of different faiths and belief systems. We have to admit that in some areas at least, it was zealotry at its worst.

The overtly communal and extremist contour of the incidents cited above indicates that the ethos of a democratic society based on dignity and equal rights—the very hallmarks of the pluralistic society espoused by our founding fathers—have

not taken firm root yet. This is sad, to say the least. Inflaming communal passions to harass and marginalise religious minorities is clearly antithetical to the spirits of both our Constitution and the Liberation War.

Historically speaking, we have a responsibility to firmly establish our democratic and secular credentials because the Pakistani rulers, who we fought and defeated in the 1971 war, used to think of Bengali Muslims as lesser Muslims because of our Bengali identity. The

incidents should make us think whether politicisation of a religious identity and the mobilisation of people behind such causes carries the danger of communal violence. We also need to find out whether such incidents have something to do with power and resources. Is creation of hatred a ploy to grab minority properties? An attack on minorities is most often caused by the victims' weakness and the perpetrators' alleged immunity from the process of law.



Activists of Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad demonstrate in front of the National Museum in Dhaka protesting against the attacks on religious and ethnic minorities, on November 7, 2020.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

establishment policy was to harp on the “Islam in danger” bogey to maintain so-called national solidarity and project the religious minority as a threat to national security. Events of 1971 quite clearly proved that the self-righteous co-religionists were the worst tormentors. We Bengalis solemnly resolved that we would not muddle our democratic progression by hanging on to the communally driven partition baggage. Recent communally charged

One fears that the liberal front faces an uphill task in recapturing the political and psychological ground lost to the forces trying to spark off communal tensions. If the current trend holds, there is apprehension that by taking advantage of the inaction and ambivalence of the liberals, these dogmatic forces will try to set off another round of aggressive social mobilisation with a view to inflaming passions. Unfortunately, events in the

neighbourhood regions may be used to foment passions. The Rohingya tragedy is a case in point. The manifest ethnic cleansing in Myanmar resulting in unspeakable miseries of a hapless minority, quite clearly, sends a message that if you do not belong to the dominant religious faith, if you speak a different dialect or look racially different, you are fair game. The sufferings of more than a million of Rohingya Muslims on our shores do make an impact. However, to Bangladesh's credit, the plight of Rohingyas has not inflamed communal passions yet.

In our circumstances, the imperative is to effectively deactivate the elements that are on the watch to grab lands and properties of worried Hindus. Combatting this will require strong political will and stern administrative measures to ensure complete security and dignified existence of the Hindu community—and all other minorities in the country. Surely, the politicians have to be careful so that they do not become part of a process to realign state and cultural power in the interest of the majority, because that will render minorities, explicitly and implicitly, second-class citizens.

The continued marginalisation of minorities worldwide, including the subcontinent, has been a sad spectacle, however. In Bangladesh, we need to respond to the “greater story” of humanity provided by the peaceful religious traditions and also address the moral failings of the liberal-democratic dispensation. We must strive to develop respect for religious difference, and promote sexual, racial and ethnic equality as well as freedom and liberty for all faiths and beliefs alike. Muslims also should remember that the concept of Ummah as espoused in the historic Medina Charter included all faiths.

Muhammad Nurul Huda is a former IGP of Bangladesh.

The bloody view from the resort in the hills

Tourism in the CHT is obliterating the lives and livelihoods of the Jumma people

THE SOUND & THE FURY



SUSHMITA S. PREETHA

THE announcement that a five-star "Marriott Hotel and Amusement Park" is being built in Bandarban no doubt comes as welcome news to Bengali elites and the *nouveau riche* looking for novel and Instagrammable ways of spending their weekends and

disposable incomes in the luscious hills of the CHT. When completed, the project promises to be "one of the best tourist spots in the country" with a main hotel building, 12 separate villas, cable cars to transport tourists from one hill to another, amusement rides, and swimming pools. Surrounded by picturesque green hills and check posts at every corner, the Bengali traveller can be transported to heaven on earth, without so much as the inconvenience of interacting with the locals—unless, of course, it is to revel in their colourful costumes, exotic food and primitive ways of life under the ever-watchful eyes of security forces—or confronting the bloody history of the region.

To the Mro community living on these hills for generations, however, the project, like so many other tourism ventures in the area, means displacement, dispossession, and loss of livelihoods. It signals intimidation, threats, harassment—and worse—should they make too much noise against it. Defying the fear of retaliation, however, members of the Mro community organised a "cultural showdown" this week to urge the authorities to stop the construction of the hotel. They said that 1,000 acres of *jhum* land were being grabbed for the project and that, if implemented, it would displace six villages of the Mro community, indirectly affect another 70 to 116 villages and leave around 10,000 *jhum* cultivators landless and without a livelihood. Earlier, the Mro villagers residing in Kaprupara, Dolapara, Erapara and Chimbuk Pahar sent a petition to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calling for a halt to this construction.

In 2019, *The Daily Star* reported that 170 families from three villages of Bandarban Sadar Upazila were facing eviction to make way for a five-star hotel. According to the village chiefs, the owner, Jashim Uddin (Montu), chairman of Sylvan Wye Resort and Spa Ltd. and younger brother of Awami League lawmaker Nazrul Islam Chowdhury

of Chattogram-14 (Chandanaish and parts of Satkania upazila), started the land grabbing process two-and-a-half years ago. Initially, he lent money to distressed families and when they failed to pay back their loans, he evicted them from their land. Those who resisted were threatened; the owner's goons allegedly set fire to a rubber garden and filed false cases against locals to intimidate them. Jashim claimed that he had bought all of the land himself, even though as a non-permanent resident of the CHT, he was simply not eligible to buy land, as per a 1989 gazette notification. He even received clearance from the Hill District Council and DC's office, allegedly in exchange for bribes. Meanwhile, he donated a little less than an acre of the grabbed land for a two-storey police camp and, in his own words, "donated Tk 26 lakh to build the camp" after "discussing the matter with top police officers and local leaders."

Such tourism projects—both public and private ventures—are now commonplace all over the CHT. An overwhelming majority of them are undertaken without the consent of the local communities and/or in violation of the procedures laid down by the CHT Peace Accord. According to research published in 2015, at least 1,700 acres of land had been allocated to build tourist resorts, resulting in the eviction of more than 700 Jumma families from 26 villages. These numbers have increased exponentially over the last five years, particularly in Bandarban, with very little recourse available to local communities to contest or resist the land grabbing by powerful actors, as the latter often have direct or indirect blessings of the local administration and/or security forces.

All tourism and development activities in the CHT are supposed to take place with the informed consent of the community through the concerned village *karbaris* and *mauza* headmen, and approval from the Hill District Council (HDC) and CHT Regional Council, as per the CHT Accord. It seems fruitless and almost formulaic at this point to have to remind the government that 23 years on, many important clauses of the Accord, particularly those concerning land disputes and land rights of the Jumma communities, have not been yet implemented, including recognition and recording of the land rights of the indigenous people, cancellation of illegal leases and settlements given to non-residents of the CHT, and the setting up of a Land Commission to resolve all disputes pertaining to illegally grabbed lands. The Land Commission was formed in 1999, but

so far it has not finalised its rules of business, recruited manpower or set up offices in the three districts. At least 22,090 complaints are pending with the commission, with no guarantee when, if ever, these disputes will be resolved.

In most cases, the Jummas do not have formal titles to the land, as traditionally *jhum* cultivation was carried out collectively. Over the last two decades, the Land Commission has made no headway at all in codifying, translating or operationalising the customary land laws and practices of the indigenous communities. Without any progress on this

fulfilment of the promises made in the Accord. The HDCs are supposed to represent the interests of the indigenous people, but the last time an election was held was in 1989, which means that for over two decades, the councils have been run by those chosen by the ruling parties. Despite repeated appeals by indigenous groups and civil society to make the councils functional to resolve the long-standing conflict in the region, successive governments have refused to take constructive steps to hold elections, systematically denying the Jumma people of their political rights.

According to news reports, the proposed

consent as the Council does not have the legal title to the concerned land in the first case, and can provide consent only if there is a valid title in the first case."

Over the decades, tourism initiatives, alongside numerous other development projects, have been promoted—rather, imposed—by successive governments without any consideration of what the Jumma people want and often at great cost to their lives and livelihoods. The indiscriminate destruction of hills, forests and cultivable lands in the CHT has been undertaken without any environmental or social impact assessments. Many communities are left without cultivable lands and are suffering from extreme food insecurity, not least in the scenic venue of Sajek. There are not enough schools, hospitals or other essential services, especially for the Mro community, which remains the most marginalised among all indigenous groups in the CHT.

The government's defence that all these tourism and development initiatives will lead to progress and betterment of the locals rings as hollow as the Brits' justification of colonialism by citing the construction of the railways. It is evident that the resources of the CHT are up for grabs by anyone—multinationals, forest department, security forces, ministry of tourism, Bengali settlers—except those who have real claims over them. The rampant land grabbing is made possible by the increasing militarisation of the region, continued impotency of the civil administration, and double standard of the government about its commitment to upholding the promises made in the Peace Accord.

It is also made possible by the complicity of Bengalis like us who remain in blissful ignorance of the fact that the picturesque Kaptai Lake was the byproduct of the Kamaphuli hydro-electricity project, which submerged at least 54,000 acres of land and displaced over one third of the population, or that the scenic Nilgiri resort was built on the occupied homes of 200 Mro and Marma families. We ask no questions as to why we must pass through so many check-posts in a non-conflict, non-occupied zone, or why there should be a directive barring Bengalis and foreigners from outside the Hills from speaking to Jummas without the presence of government officials. We see only what we want to see—hills devoid of history, there for our pleasure, consumption and control.

Sushmita S Preetha is a journalist and researcher.



Members of the Mro community organised a "cultural showdown" urging the authorities to stop the construction of a hotel by Sikder Group, on November 8, 2020. PHOTO: COLLECTED

front, it becomes all the easier for developers to target and grab land of economically, socially and culturally marginalised Jummas. Moreover, as Shapan Adnan and Ranajit Dastidar documented, in their book "Alienation of the Lands of Indigenous Peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh" published in 2011, in many cases, the DC office classifies common lands of the communities as *khas* land or state property when leasing them out to private parties. They conclude that "[s]tate acquisition of the traditional lands of the IP [indigenous people] for tourism facilities has become a massive threat in the Bandarban district, particularly from projects being floated by the security forces."

In 2014, the power to make decisions regarding tourism in the CHT was formally handed over to the Hill District Council in

Marriott hotel is being built under a 35-year lease and profit-sharing agreement between Army Welfare Trust and R&R Holdings Limited, a concern of Sikder Group. When contacted by *The Daily Star*, the chief coordinator of Sikder Group denied allegations of land grabbing in the hill, arguing that they had leased the land from the Bandarban Zila Parishad (District Council) in return for an eight-percent share. On the other hand, Mong Shwicking Chak, a member of the Bandarban Zila Parishad, denied having entered into such an agreement. Which version of the story are we expected to believe? Can the HDC even lease out the land if the people to whom the land belongs are against it? A statement put forth by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission argues that there is, in fact, "no legal basis [for the HDC] to provide

THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE PROJECT

How relevant are academic programmes in universities?

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

FAHMUN NABI AND SYED SAAD ANDALEEB

THE unemployment rate among university graduates in Bangladesh has risen sharply. A study conducted by the Centre for Policy Dialogue indicated that about 46 percent of the total unemployed youth are university graduates. While arguments suggest that judging universities by the kind of jobs the graduates land might lead to an instrumentalist and degraded form of education (Ansell, 2016), one cannot ignore the fact that most students expect their education to prepare them for the workplace.

Responding to a survey on their academic experience with higher education, one student commented, "We [come to] study as we need a certificate to live in society. In Bangladesh, there are very few job sectors which are related to the subjects we study. As a result, for jobs, we need to prepare ourselves separately."

Another student emphatically wrote: "I think academic study alone is not enough for a job; there is a need to [go beyond] what academia teaches."

It is essential for our universities to understand the changing needs of the modern world and adapt to it to ensure that education is not far removed from reality and relevance; its ties to employability are also imperative.

When asked about employability, unsurprisingly, a large majority of the students

felt that their institutions "did not" make them competitive for the job market. While several factors accounted for their dissatisfaction, we report the findings concerning one factor—relevance—which refers to the extent to which learning outcomes in higher educational institutions are fit for the current times. The concept of "relevance" is reflected by 1) whether course contents are up-to-date, 2) whether faculty members are up-to-date, 3) whether students are learning things that build their careers, and 4) whether the academic programme is broad in its focus.

Relevance as a concept was found to have a moderately strong and significant association with student satisfaction, suggesting that it is highly valued by them in a competitive job market.

How are the universities in Bangladesh rated on the relevance factor?

On a 7-point scale, the overall average score was 3.28. It is clearly an area of dissatisfaction for a majority of the students. In fact, 71 percent of the students gave "relevance of their programme" a rating of 4 or less (where 4 is considered to be a neutral point). The sheer lack of contemporary education and learning opportunities in our universities, as perceived by the students, is astonishing and raises the question of how students will fare as job holders in the modern world. Bangladesh

aspires to become an upper-middle-income country. How is that possible when our academic institutions are not producing human assets armed with relevant knowledge?

On the individual features characterising relevance, substantial deficiencies are noteworthy: breadth of the educational programmes earned a mere score of 2.98; up-to-date course contents earned a score of 3.16; career-conducive learning was rated 3.23, and teachers being up-to-date scored 3.76.

Some important comparisons

Private universities scored 3.70 on relevance while public universities scored 3.19. Both public and private university students assert that they are "not okay" with the lack of contemporary education they are receiving. Interestingly, the difference between the mean scores was statistically significant, suggesting that public university students are much more dissatisfied with relevance than private university students.

Another comparison was between undergraduate and postgraduate students: postgrads rated relevance of their education 3.64 points; for undergrad students, the score was 3.14, a significantly lower score than postgrad-level students' scores.

The mean ratings on relevance for business students and science/engineering students are 3.15 and 3.41; this difference was not

statistically significant. Nevertheless, it goes to show that students from both of these areas feel their institutions "do not" provide a contemporary learning experience. A low score of 3.15 for business-related programmes is also alarming as business subjects are usually perceived to be up-to-date and focused on career-oriented learning. This finding is worrying as business students will be at a disadvantage with their global contemporaries in a fast-changing business environment.

The data reveal that students in Bangladesh's higher educational institutions may be seriously deficient in terms of understanding the demands of the modern world. Corroboration of this finding is offered by business entities who have gone out of the country to recruit, at significantly higher costs, because they found the locals seriously underprepared.

Fatema Tasmia, an educator at BUET, opined: "Higher education needs to have that blend of theory and practice. While pursuing employability prospects and preparing students for their professional life, it is important not to forget that universities are also about cultivating minds. We need to strike that balance."

There has been constant criticism regarding the quality of education our universities provide. A corroborating example is a recent

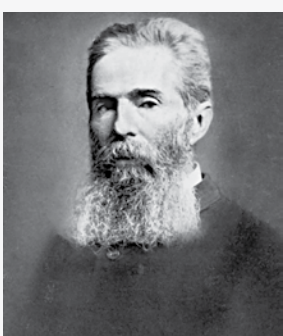
article that bemoans in its title "Dhaka University: Growing in size, shrinking in standard."

Bangladesh is spawning universities, but are they making a mark? Students complain that many programmes in higher education thrive on the same outdated curriculum of yesteryears and add no major value. It is of utmost importance—now that universities in Bangladesh are re-designing their courses under the influence of Covid-19—to broaden their focus and include up-to-date course content to ensure that the programmes are aligned with the changing needs of the modern world.

Our graduates have already fallen behind not only in the global market place for employment but also in Bangladesh where corporate bodies are employing staff from other countries, especially at decision-making levels. It is time to focus on the contemporary world and design academia's programmes accordingly to enable and empower the next generation.

Fahmun Nabi is working on his MBA degree at IBA, Dhaka University. Syed Saad Andaleeb is Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Pennsylvania State University, and former Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. The article is a result of his collaboration with IBA students to turn the spotlight on higher education in Bangladesh. For more information on The Academic Experience Project, contact Dr Andaleeb at bdrresearch22@gmail.com.

QUOTABLE Quote



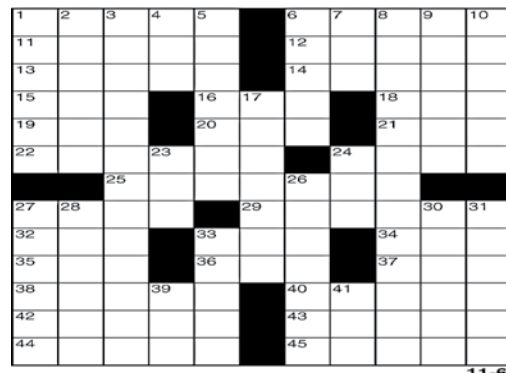
HERMAN MELVILLE (1819-1891) American author.

It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chops into cubes
 - 6 Cabbies
 - 11 Counting everything
 - 12 Cockamamie
 - 13 More than sufficient
 - 14 Keyed in
 - 15 Contrived
 - 16 Angsty rock
 - 18 Pot fill
 - 19 H lookalike
 - 20 Scathing review
 - 21 PC key
 - 22 Control
 - 24 Increase
 - 25 Nine-sided figure
 - 27 Openings
 - 29 Saw red
- DOWN**
- 1 Nursery item
 - 2 Con
 - 3 Enterprise leader
 - 4 Building wing
 - 5 Ignore the alarm
 - 6 Think up
 - 7 Some amount of
 - 8 Carol Danvers's alter ego
 - 9 Prepares to propose
 - 10 Sober
 - 17 Oversees
 - 23 Simple denials
 - 24 Nonsense
 - 26 Fades
 - 27 It's removed for a fill-up
 - 28 Reformer Bloomer
 - 30 Sprinkle with oil
 - 31 Seeks water, in a way
 - 33 Like birds' eyes
 - 39 Cardinal
 - 41 Live and breathe

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



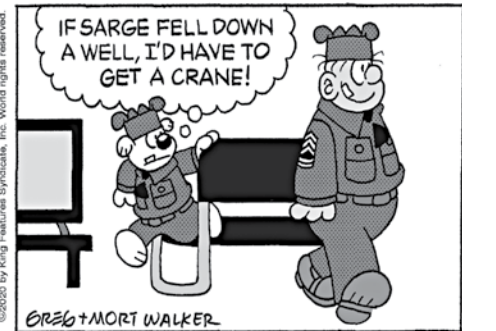
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

S T E W S V O C A L
 A E S O P A M U S E
 M E T R O L A T H E
 I N K I E R
 R A M A N T A I R
 E L A I N E C U R E
 L I T T E R M A T E S
 A C E S R A M O N E
 Y E S J O T M E T
 S A L A D S E T U P
 A M A Z E S E E T O
 T Y P E D E D S E L

BEETLE BAILEY



BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES



BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



Sajal's success in biofloc fish farming

SHYKH SERAJ

Needless to say that the young entrepreneurs, engaged in fish farming, are quite vocal and active nowadays. It's not just that they are interested enough in using the modern technology, they are also more determined in using the technologies. Today, I would like to share with you the success of another young man in technology-based fish farming.

At the end of October this year, I went to the northern region of the country. It was the pre-winter season and the vehicle was heading towards Panchagarh's Atwari upazila. Green paddies on the vast fields, as far as your eyes can travel. Finally, I reached my destination. I went there to meet a young biofloc fish farming entrepreneur, Shahrar Kabir Sajal. He had a dream of getting involved in productive activities after completing his studies. Back in 2015, he became very interested in fish farming by watching a Hridoye Mati O Manush (Soil & People) episode on aquaponics fish farming. Afterwards, researching different spheres, Sajal started fish farming using aquaponics method.

Primarily, he did not succeed in the journey, but his relentless efforts to bring success continued. The question is how to use the tanks used in aquaponics. It was during this time that he discovered biofloc farming. He came back from Kerala, India with training on biofloc and geared up his fish farming. The news of Sajal's biofloc project came to me a couple of years back.

subject which is intertwined strictly with science and needs special knowledge and skills before entering the sector, aiming to be commercially successful. Sajal claims he has researched various technologies of fish farming. A biofloc fish farming project has been set up at his backyard. The aforesaid technology has been applied in various tanks and ponds. In all, he is cultivating fish in 25 lakh litres of water.

Most of the young entrepreneurs are experimenting with biofloc. Zahirul from Narayanganj, Romel from Comilla and Ashraf from Mymensingh are all trying their very best to make the best use of the biofloc technology to bring the ultimate commercial success. In the meantime, I am getting news of many initiatives of this technology all over the country. Entrepreneur Sajal is not only farming fish, he is also conducting various experiments to make the biofloc method sustainable. Especially in this method, what kind of fish, in what way or in what season can be farmed, is his predominant focus. What is the right way to use probiotics? He also has detailed research on these. The biggest thing is that he does not want to count losses in fish production. All his efforts are to ensure production and reduce production costs. Not only this, with the help of biofloc technology in the pond, he has achieved remarkable accomplishment. Sajal also claims the application of biofloc technology in the pond was first initiated by him in Bangladesh.

It is a small pond under a shade called 'Pond Culture'. Tilapia is being



Sajal with his Vietnamese koi, produced through biofloc method, at his fish farm in Panchagarh's Atwari upazila.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

gave an information that if it is farmed in biofloc method, the fish is auto-graded. Due to the high density of fish, some fish cannot grow in the same size at the same period. That is why there are three sizes of fishes at Sajal's biofloc project.

Three large cement tanks were spotted at Sajal's biofloc farm. His first aquaponics venture started with these three cement tanks. Now it is being used in biofloc project. One tank is farming Vietnamese koi. Three and a half months back, Sajal released the fish fries in his tanks. Now, the weight of three koi fishes is around one kg. I also saw a greenhouse. Sajal said it was an aquaponics method of fish farming in the greenhouse, which has now been changed into biofloc. Tilapia is being cultivated on one side and Rupchanda on the other. Sajal says, if success is found in Rupchanda, a new success will be added to the biofloc method.

Vietnamese koi is being cultivated in two ponds, nearby the tanks. He is netting fish for the third time. Koi fishes

worth Tk 6 lakh (USD 7081.57) has already been sold from the ponds. Sajal spent around Tk 2 lakh (USD 2360.52). I looked at the diffusers at the bottom of the pond. How these controls oxygen in the water, I had a chat about it with Sajal. The mind becomes enchanted, seeing the sizes of fresh fishes. Feels like all the fish here came from freshwater. These fishes are sold quickly for their colour and taste.

Sajal's success is probably right here. He has been able to ensure quality production and sales. The fish produced by him is very much acceptable to the buyers and consumers. In the last four years, with his persistent work, intelligence and dedication, he has invested little by little and made a profit of millions of dollars. Sajal also had to face many obstacles while growing up in the far north of the country. But his mother Shamsunnahar provided the highest inspiration to his son that he would certainly be able to survive with fish farming. With such encouragement from his mother and following the

inspirational agricultural videos of Hridoye Mati O Manush, Sajal looks even far to take biofloc technology to another level for the development of fish farming in Bangladesh.

Success requires promise, sincerity and devotion and we find these attributes in every entrepreneur behind the agricultural success of the country. In this regard, Sajal is also an extraordinary entrepreneur. Bangladeshi youths are very interested in biofloc technology. The positive vibe of biofloc is flowing across Bangladesh. Government's fisheries research institutes should look at how scientific the biofloc is, and how profitable this method is in fish farming in real terms; what are the odds and how a farmer can overcome it to move onward. I believe those who have been involved in technology-based farming activities in different parts of the nation with true loyalty, are certainly playing a pivotal role, not only in bringing their financial success, but also in the development of the country's comprehensive economy.

Two boys drown in Kaptai Lake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two teenage boys drowned in Kaptai Lake near Kerani Pahar area of Rangamati town on Wednesday.

The deceased are Mohammad Adnan Ankon, 15, son of Mohammad Subedar Islam, chief conservator of forest department (Rangamati Circle), and his friend Mostahid Ahmed, 15.

Local said the duo went to take bath in the Kaptai Lake around 12:00pm when they suddenly slipped into the water of the lake due to strong current and went missing.

Seeing this, people nearby informed the matter to local fire station.

Being informed, a team of firefighters from Rangamati Fire Station rushed to the spot, rescued the boys after an hour of frantic search and took them to Rangamati General Hospital, where the doctors declared them dead. Assistant Director of the fire station Ratan Kumar Nath said.

Man held over attempted rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested a man for allegedly attempting to rape a housewife in Phulbari upazila of the district on Wednesday.

The arrestee, Mostafizur Rahman, 39, son of Azhar Ali, is a resident of Madhyapara village in the upazila.

Quoting locals, police said, Mostafizur entered the house of the victim, who runs a small grocery shop at the village, on Tuesday night and tried to rape her forcibly.

Hearing screams, villagers caught the culprit red-handed and gave him a good bearing before handing him over to the police.

IN FOCUS

Floods in the north and ESDO response

Start Fund Bangladesh responded to flood situation in the north with a series of funds to member organisations that targeted below-the-radar areas and affected communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Floods hit the low-lying areas of northern region in Bangladesh as the Padma, Jamuna and Brahmaputra rivers and their tributaries swelled above danger marks since June 27, 2020. The flood levels increased gradually and this rise, coupled with more rains, lead to the floods going into a second wave.

Riverbank erosion and broken embankments made things worse and together with the pandemic, the overall situation was a dire one, calling for immediate humanitarian assistance to the affected people of the northern region, where it was estimated that around 30,000 households in 13 districts were affected by the floods.

Start Fund Bangladesh, a project funded by Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (formerly UKAID), used data from Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS), indicating areas at risk of facing severe flooding, reaching a peak around July 18, 2020.

The challenge was to reach these far flung communities as they fell under some of the most underprivileged districts, with more than 90 percent of their population involved in formal forms of labour. This meant they needed far more support to avoid negative coping mechanisms which include selling assets or migrations.

Sirajganj, one of the highest cattle producing areas of the country, was part of the flooded region and people were selling their livestock at staggeringly low rates. The Covid-19 crises made it harder to not only provide relief but for these people to find work to sustain themselves. Despite the available data and adequate media attention, the aid being provided by the government would not suffice and extra support was required.

Start Fund Bangladesh (SFB) responds to below-the-radar crises, with a 47-member strong base of local and international NGOs, providing the opportunity to profile the disaster and creating the scope for other funds to flow through.

SFB relies on the strength of its members and their efforts for an on-ground needs assessment of each situation, with a "Leave No One Behind" strategy. This often leads to inclusion of areas or communities that have not been included in high risk zones outlined by government or other agencies.

SFB's mechanism ensures fund allocations within 72 hours. This 72-hour rapid response period starts from the time an alert is raised, to receiving proposal submissions by



organisations; shortlisting them by the Project Selection Committee (an autonomous body of representatives from member organisations) till disbursement of funds to the chosen organisations.

SFB allocated funds of Tk 9.3 for alert B032, to Islamic Relief, World Vision, Eco Social Development Organisation (ESDO), Manab Mukti Sangstha (MMS) and SKS Foundation, for providing some relief to the people of the north amidst the pandemic and floods.

With a presence in 49 districts of the country, ESDO had been collecting information on the flood affected areas of Bangladesh for more than 40 days. They further consulted with the Indian organisation IQVIA, getting data to better understand the situation of floods from the upstream areas.

It was deduced that the Indian floods were a major contributor to this slow onset flooding situation and ESDO decided to go for an early action which would also cover some ground when the second wave of flooding was expected in late July or August.

ESDO responded to the alert number B032, with a project supporting the Flood Survivors for Reducing the Misery (SFRM). Through this initiative, it distributed Tk 3,000 to each of the 2,218 flood-affected families in 12 unions of five

upazilas of Kurigram district. It also provided a hygiene kit with a dignity kit package (includes a bathing soap, detergent, bucket with a lid and tap, a bowl, disposable surgical masks, non-disposable sanitary cloth for menstrual hygiene and an awareness raising pictorial leaflet on COVID 19, flood and snake bite).

Mosheur Rahman, disaster focal point of ESDO, explained that, 6,000 to 7,000 people died annually from snake bites. There was not only a lack of awareness regarding treatment using anti venom but there was also an inadequate supply of it, which led to such a loss of lives.

This part of Bangladesh often suffers from a period of food insecurity so the locals have adapted by collaborating and forming a reserve system where they save rice grains to be used during periods of stress.

ESDO took a cue from this system and set up a Food Bank, where Tk 300,000 was provided as an initial boost. Three women were assigned to work in the Food Bank and a total of 75 women are working there on a voluntary basis, equipped with emergency response materials including life jackets, hand mikes, bleaching powder, spray machine, and temporary shelter materials. These 75 women are also the first contributors to the food



bank as this community-based initiative rely on the collective efforts of the locals to adapt with their situation. People can buy dry food during monsoon for immediate relief and the Food Bank acts as a first responder to any crises situation, as an all-time reserve.

One of the major issues that came up during response to alert B032 was a duplication of ID cards.

"The lists of affected people to receive relief sometimes become an issue as IDs are duplicated so member organisations take pains to ensure the lists are authentic," Mr Rahman explained. "We personally verify the households etc. But there are still loopholes and this leads to an accountability issue, as the relief provided could end up with people who might not require it."

Each organisation prepares a Situation Report or Sitrep, with the objectives of understanding the crises better through a shared overview of districts. SFB and its members are trying to establish the concept of a One District One Sitrep and One List approach, which will also reduce the duplication of information sharing and could complement a collaborative, whole of society approach in district level crises/disaster management. It is being viewed as a collaboration between government and non-

government bodies to present a singular list of affected persons and disaster hit areas.

There is a discrepancy in reaching communities as news channels often report that many places have no relief but these areas need to come under the radar through a One District One Situation Report/List which provides humanitarian agencies a clear snapshot of number & location of affected communities. This will also help capture the coverage, needs, prioritisation and challenges of the ongoing arrangement of Covid preparedness and response. Being a disaster-prone country, Bangladesh can start preparing ahead for disasters so an anticipatory approach to preparing lists can lower the risk of leaving communities out of these lists.

Start Fund Bangladesh is a £10 million rapid emergency response fund created by the Start Network in 2017 with support from (FCDO), modelled on the successful Start Fund that activates funding within 72 hours of a crisis alert. The Fund, during the last six months, has awarded around Tk 32 crore to its member agencies to reach communities affected by COVID-19 and other crisis like measles, dengue, cyclone Amphan, nor'wester, riverbank erosion, ongoing flooding in the North and the current waterlogging in the southwest regions.

Suman looking to strike on debut

SPORTS REPORTER

Suman Reza is likely to debut and pair with Nabib Newaj Jibon up front in the first of two FIFA international friendlies against Nepal at Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

British coach Jamie Day yesterday announced the final 23-member squad, which also saw recalls for fit-again striker Jibon and holding midfielder Atiqur Rahman Fahad, who had been out of the squad after picking up an injury during Asian Games in Indonesia 2018.

Day had included four new faces -- Finland-born Tariq Raihan Kazi, Nazmul Islam Rasel, MS Bablu and Suman Reza -- in a preliminary 36-member squad, with Bablu and Suman making the final cut.

The significant exclusions were goalkeeper Ashraf Islam Rana and Raihan Hasan, who had both been part of Day's starting eleven in the past few international matches.

The 41-year-old is thinking of playing a 4-4-2 or 4-3-3 against Nepal in order to get his players ready for their tough assignment against Qatar in December.

It was also learned that he may make three to four changes to the eleven that started against Burundi in January during the Bangabandhu Gold Cup, with Suman, Manik Molla and Bishwanath set for starts while Anisur Rahman Zico and Shahidul Alam Sohel are competing for a place between the posts.

"The main target was to regain fitness during the camp. If I can start in the eleven, then my dream will come true and I want to make my debut memorable by scoring goals," Suman told The Daily Star.

Explaining Rana's exclusion, Day said: "I know what Rana can do, so I want to see how someone else does in a national team situation. That's the point of friendlies."



Head coach Jamie Day got in on the act to get his charges pepped up yesterday, the eve of the first FIFA friendly between Bangladesh and Nepal.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Focus on performance, not result

SPORTS REPORTER



While Bangladesh and visiting Nepal are eagerly anticipating their first taste of the new normal through the first of two FIFA-sanctioned friendlies today, both sides are also nurturing hopes of a triumphant return to action.

The match will get underway at 5:00pm BST with state-owned Bangladesh Television and private channel T-Sports telecasting the match from the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The coronavirus pandemic had halted sporting activities all over the world, but European nations have already come out of their Covid-19-induced slumber and are holding domestic and international matches.

Asian nations have also stepped up and adapted to the new normal, with Bangladesh and Nepal availing the opportunity afforded by FIFA's November friendly window to renew their rivalry as well as get back into competitive action after a break of almost eight months.

Bangladesh and Nepal had



The most important thing about playing the Nepal friendly is to get match-fit because we did not play in last eight months. I want to contribute maximum in the match. Revenge has been in my mind because we lost to them in last three matches and I want to win the match.

JAMAL BHUIYAN, BANGLADESH CAPTAIN



We are really excited to play the friendlies against Bangladesh as there was no football for a long time. The match is obviously going to be very exciting and competitive though we got short time to get prepared. We are excited and ready to fight together.

KIRAN CHEMJONG, NEPAL CAPTAIN

little time to prepare for the match and, given the circumstances, are focused on their performance rather than thinking about the outcome. "We are looking forward to getting football back in Bangladesh. I think providing the players with match time is the first thing and it is obviously going to be a tough game because we lost to them in an U-23 game and in

the SAFF championship. The boys worked as hard as they could. It is their first game in eight months so they may make mistakes, but we have to ensure they are prepared and injury-free," head coach Jamie Day told a crowded press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

Despite Bangladesh having more time to prepare than

Nepal, whose preparations were hampered by eight of their players testing positive for Covid-19, Day was not interested in

"This time I'm not worried about favourites. I'm not worried about winning the match. I want to get the team ready and give players game time before the Qatar match. If you ask about a win, I want to win every match for Bangladesh. If you see the whole picture of Nepal, they are around 170 in the FIFA rankings and they beat us twice previously. We had three weeks of training and will assess the performance of the players through tomorrow's match. I don't think the match is about who is stronger, who is sharper or who had more training."

On the other hand, captain Jamal Bhuiyan was hungry to avenge the two losses against Nepal.

Nepal coach Bal Gopal Maharjan echoed Day's sentiments, saying: "I am not looking for a win. I want to measure the team and individuals' improvement as we lacked preparation and lost almost four players of the starting eleven due to Covid-19. So it is going to be a problem, but I believe in my boys."

Shakib boost for Khulna

SPORTS REPORTER



A lot of curiosity was generated among cricketers as the players' draft of the Bangabandhu T20 Cup, which will mark the return of competitive cricket in the country following a lengthy break due to the Covid-19 pandemic, took place at a city

hotel yesterday.

The draft took place behind closed doors and many cricketers remained in constant touch with the journalists keeping a close eye on proceedings.

Through a lottery, the five teams got opportunities to pick players, who were divided into four grades - A, B, C and D. Beximco Dhaka got the first call and picked wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim from Grade A.

Dhaka also roped in experienced pacer Rubel Hossain, and balanced that by picking up and comers like young left-handed opener Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Under-19 World Cup-winning skipper Akbar Ali.

Gemcon Khulna was the second team to call and they wasted no time in drafting in Shakib Al Hasan, who will be making his return to cricket in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup after completing a one-year ban. Khulna also picked another experienced cricketer in Mahmudullah Riyad, also from Grade A, but he is currently in self-isolation after testing positive for coronavirus and is expected to join the squad after he tests negative. It will however be interesting to see who will lead Khulna as two experienced campaigners Shakib and Mahmudullah - both having led Bangladesh in the shortest format - are in the team.

Fortune Barishal picked Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal and has already announced that the left-hander will captain the side this season. They also boast bright performers from last month's BCB President's Cup like Taskin Ahmed, Afif Hossain, Irfan Shukkur, Sumon Khan and Towhid Hridoy.

Gazi Group Chattogram picked Mustafizur Rahman from Grade A and generally banked on experience when forming their squad. Tigers' Test skipper Mominul Haque, Liton Das, Mohammad Mithun, Soumya Sarkar, Mosaddek Hossain and Taijul Islam will add loads of experience as they are all international players. Chattogram also have a few youngsters like pacer Shoriful Islam and Mahmudul Hasan Joy, both of whom have impressed in recent times.

Minister Group Rajshahi picked all-rounder Saifuddin from Grade B as their first call and they also have roped in former Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraf, who was in Grade D. Each team can have a maximum of 16 players in the squad and in terms of expenditure, Khulna topped the list as they spent Tk 1.14 crore in the players' draft.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to announce the schedule of the tournament, it was learned that the competition is set to begin from the third week of November. All the matches of the tournament are expected to take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.



Pucovski, Green rewarded

AFP, Sydney

Highly-rated young prospects Will Pucovski and Cameron Green were Thursday included in an expanded 17-man Test squad to face India as Australia looks to the future.

Opener Pucovski, 22, and all-rounder Green, 21, have been hammering on the door this season, impressing in the domestic Sheffield Shield with a host of former Australian greats urging their inclusion.

The selectors -- coach Justin Langer, Trevor Hohns and George Bailey -- heeded the calls, but not at the expense of the out-of-form Joe Burns, who retains his spot alongside regular opener David Warner. Rookie spinner Mitchell Swepson and seamer Sean Abbott, along with fast bowler Michael Neser, who has long been on the fringes, also made the grade and are in line for debuts.

"It is such a positive sign for Australian cricket to have so many good young players stepping into contention," said Hohns. "Two of those many standout players were of course Cameron Green and Will Pucovski."

"Their undeniable form demanded selection and we are very pleased to have these young men in the squad for what will be a tremendous Test series against an extremely formidable opponent." World number one Australia play four Tests against Virat Kohli's second-ranked India starting with a day-night fixture in Adelaide on December 17.

They then move to the traditional Boxing Day Test in Melbourne before heading to Sydney and Brisbane, with Kohli set to miss the final three games to return home for the birth of his first child.

Ramos equals record, Ronaldo gets closer

AGENCIES



Finland spoiled Marcus Thuram's party on Wednesday after beating France 2-0 on the day the Borussia Moenchengladbach attacker emulated his father Lilian Thuram by making his debut for Les Bleus.

Thuram was picked by Didier Deschamps for the friendly at the Stade de France over 22 years after his dad won the World Cup at the same ground, but despite a strong performance on the left wing could not stop the Finns from coming out on top.

Marcus Forss stunned the hosts when he collected the ball after a Moussa Sissoko mistake and rammed home at Steve Mandanda's near post.

France barely had any time to react before Onni Valakari doubled the away side's lead with a stunning effort after being left to stroll towards goal. Ronaldo continues goal quest Cristiano Ronaldo continued his quest to snatch the all-time record

for most international goals when he struck his 102nd Portugal goal in their in a 7-0 win over Andorra.

Former Iran striker Ali Daei holds the record on 109 goals.

France's opponents on Saturday in what could be a Nations League A, Group 3 decider strolled past

Riccardo Orsolini added a fourth also from the spot four minutes from the end to complete the rout.

Meanwhile, Frank de Boer's wait for a first win as Netherlands coach goes on after his team drew 1-1 with Spain in a friendly in Amsterdam on Wednesday.

confirmed in a statement.

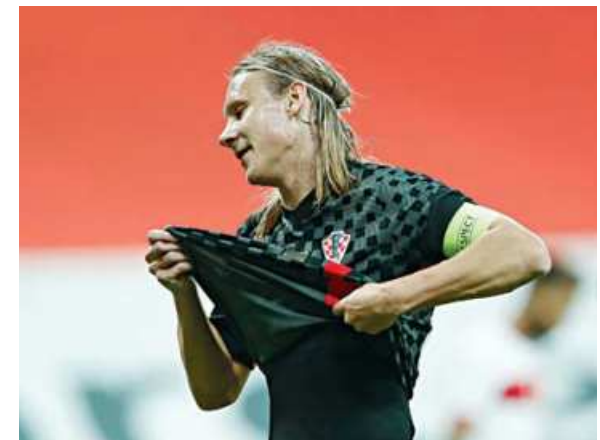
All Croatia players, including Besiktas centre-back Vida, had returned negative tests on Monday and underwent another routine test on Wednesday morning ahead of the Turkey game.

The experienced Vida started



Cristiano Ronaldo got his 102nd goal for his country as Portugal thrashed Andorra 7-0 while Croatia captain Domagoj Vida was taken off at half-time against Turkey as a number of friendly matches took place across Europe on Wednesday night. Meanwhile, (bottom) Sergio Ramos made a cameo appearance, equalling Gianluigi Buffon's record of 176 international caps for an European player, during Spain's 1-1 draw against the Netherlands.

PHOTO: TWITTER/REUTERS



their weak opponents in Lisbon despite not starting a single player from the team that beat Sweden 3-0 last month.

Italy extend unbeaten run, Ramos equals record

Italy extended their unbeaten streak to 20 games after a second-string line-up comfortably beat Estonia 4-0.

Vincenzo Grifo scored his first senior international goal and Federico Bernardeschi put the hosts two goals ahead 13 minutes later.

Grifo stepped up and scored his second from the penalty spot when Roberto Gagliardini was tripped with 15 minutes remaining and

De Boer has now gone four matches without a victory since being appointed in September to succeed Ronald Koeman, who left to take over at Barcelona.

Sergio Ramos came on in the second half to earn his 176th cap, equalling Gianluigi Buffon's record for international appearances by a European player.

VIDA PLAYS WITH COVID-19 Croatia defender Domagoj Vida played the opening half of their 3-3 draw with Turkey on Wednesday before the team received the information that he had tested positive for COVID-19, the country's football association

the game as Croatia's captain, giving away a penalty in a combative first half.

Turkey's team management were initially informed of a potentially positive result shortly before the second half of the clash, by which time manager Zlatko Dalic had already brought on Filip Uremovic in place of Vida.

Vida, 31, was immediately isolated from the squad before a retest confirmed his positive result. Croatia said he will spend the next few days in self-isolation in Istanbul, home of his club Besiktas, while the team travel to Stockholm.

New cases raise concern

SPORTS REPORTER

Although the players' draft for the upcoming five-team Bangabandhu T20 Cup took place yesterday, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to announce the schedule of the tournament.

It will be a significant challenge for the BCB to ensure safety this time around despite successfully managing to complete the three-team BCB President's Cup last month by creating a bio-secure bubble.

Players have been unexpectedly testing positive for coronavirus and Bangladesh's T20 captain Mahmudullah Riyad and Test captain Mominul Haque in self-isolation after returning positive tests.

Selector and former national captain Habibul Bashar also tested positive on Wednesday, laying bare the reality of how hard it will be for the BCB to tackle the second wave of the coronavirus in winter.

However, the board is prepared to take all preventative measures, including keeping all teams at the same hotel in a bio-secure bubble.

The BCB is reportedly planning to conduct testing for all the players just before they check into the hotel, one day before the tournament begins. Yet, the question remains: if a player tests positive at the last moment, what will be the next step from the BCB?

Introducing

The Steel Revolution Continues

....

Introducing

BSRM Xtreme

B500 DWR

the tough steel

HIGHEST SELLING

15

CEMENT for more than **years**

SHAH CEMENT

Vaccine drive gathers steam

Serum Institute of India says it made 40m doses of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine; global cases show no signs of slowing

AGENCIES

Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine producer, yesterday said it has made 40 million doses of AstraZeneca's potential Covid-19 vaccine, and would soon begin making Novavax's rival shot, as a drive for vaccine around the globe gathered steam raising hope amid a raging pandemic.

While there are no Covid-19 vaccines approved yet and trials are still under way to prove they are safe and effective, leading drugmakers have been funded to begin production early to expedite deliveries.

The virus has claimed at least 1,285,160 lives worldwide since it first emerged in China late last year, according to an AFP tally yesterday at 1100 GMT based on official sources. More than 52,151,589 cases have been registered across the globe.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 241,808 deaths, followed by Brazil with 163,373, India with 128,121, Mexico with 96,430 and the United Kingdom with 50,365 deaths.

AstraZeneca said last week that it was holding back deliveries of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate while it awaits the data from late-stage clinical trials, which got delayed due to a summer dip in UK coronavirus infections.

Serum declined to comment on whether the 40 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine were meant for global supply or only for India.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Two election officials watch as a voter casts his vote in the designated area of a polling booth in Baunia Abdul Jalil High School centre in the capital yesterday. The man, wearing a cap, inside the designated area is the so-called helper who makes sure that votes are cast for the ruling party candidate. Electoral rules say no body but the voter is allowed in that private space.

PHOTO: MAHBUB KHAN

Missing JnU student 'faked' her abduction

CID claims, arrests Tithy Sarker, husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University student Tithy Sarker faked her own abduction to divert attention from the allegations that she had hurt religious sentiment, Criminal Investigation Department officials said yesterday.

"After leaving her Pallabi home on October 25, Tithy contacted her boyfriend Shiplu Mallik and went to Bagerhat where they got married. They came back to Dhaka on November 9. Tithy later went to an in-law's house in Narsingdi," Deputy Inspector General Jamil Ahmed told a press conference at the CID office in the capital's Malibagh.

On Wednesday, CID officials arrested Tithy in Madhabdi area of Narsingdi around 3:45pm and Shiplu in Kaptan Bazar area in the capital around 11:45am, he said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Bangabandhu was one of few outstanding statesmen

Lawmakers say in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers yesterday told parliament that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was one of the few statesmen in the world who made the supreme sacrifice for the people of his country.

Highlighting various initiatives taken by Bangabandhu before and after the country's independence, the MPs said he couldn't turn Bangladesh into "Golden Bengal" as per his dream, but he built the structure to make it "Sonar Bangla".

The lawmakers were addressing the House on a resolution tabled by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday.

The PM placed the resolution before the Jatiya Sangsad under section-147 of the Rules of Procedure to pay tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through holding a special discussion on his colourful political life, activities, and philosophy.

Participating in the discussion, senior Awami League lawmaker Amir Hossain Amu yesterday said although Bangabandhu couldn't turn the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Govt to build memorial honouring martyred intellectuals

November 13, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MEMORIAL TO BE ERECTED

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today asks Works Minister Matiur Rahman to visit Katabari in Rayerbazar area to select a site for a memorial plaque bearing the names of the intellectuals who had been brutally murdered there by the Pakistan Army and their collaborators Al Badr on the eve of the surrender by the enemy in December, 1971.

Bodies of some of the intellectuals were recovered from Katabari area, which the murderers had used as their slaughter ground. As the murderers had inflicted inhuman torture before killing their innocent victims the bodies were mostly mutilated beyond recognition.

Earlier, a delegation of the Bangla Department of Dhaka University called on the prime minister and suggested that the slaughter ground at Katabari be preserved as a historical site and a memorial plaque be erected there as a reminder to the nation of the great sacrifices that led to the independence of Bangladesh.

INDIAN, GDR ENVOYS CALL ON BANGABANDHU
Indian High Commissioner Subimal Dutta and German Democratic Republic (GDR) Ambassador to Bangladesh Winzel separately call on Bangabandhu at the Gono Bhaban today. Both

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



KILLING OF ASP Another Mind Aid director arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested another director of Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-addiction Hospital in connection with a case filed over senior ASP Anisul Karim's death on Monday.

Fatema Khatun Moyna, 41, was arrested at her home in Dhanmondi around 12:00pm, DMP Deputy Commissioner (Tejgaon) Harun-Ur-Rashid told The Daily Star.

She is the second director to be arrested, bringing the total number of arrests in the case to 12.

The other directors -- Abdullah Al Mamun, Sakhawat Hossain, and Sazzad Amin -- are still on the run.

Dr Md Niaz Morshed, was arrested on Tuesday night from the capital's National Institute of Neurosciences and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Remains of flying lizard found in museum drawer



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A fossil belonging to a new species of flying lizard has been discovered among a century-old collection at a museum in Brighton.

PhD student Roy Smith found the mystery species of pterosaur among fossil collections housed in the Sedgwick Museum of Cambridge and the Booth Museum at Brighton.

He realised that what were believed to be the fossils of spark spines were actually fragments of jaws belonging to the toothless pterosaurs.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

JEWEL'S MURDER

He did not demean the Holy Quran

Finds another probe body
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The Holy Quran was not demeaned before Shahidunnabi Jewel was beaten and burnt to death in Burimari of Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila on October 29, an investigation by the district administration has found.

It was just a rumour about desecrating the Holy Quran that led to the brutal killing of 50-year-old Jewel, according to the probe.

A three-member investigation committee, formed by the district

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 13

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

RAIL BRIDGE OVER JAMUNA

PM to lay foundation stone on Nov 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would lay the foundation stone of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge over the Jamuna on November 29.

"All necessary procedures, including the tendering processes, were completed. The prime minister would lay the foundation stone on November 29. With this, works of the bridge would start formally," Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said.

He was speaking at a press conference at Rail Bhaban in the capital to discriminate information about the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge Project.

He said trains would be able to use the new bridge from August 2024 and it would bring a major change in railway services between Dhaka and western region.

The 4.8km-long bridge will be built some 300 metres upstream of the Bangabandhu Bridge which has a single rail line.

Once built, the dual-gauge double-track bridge would be the largest dedicated rail bridge in the country.

In December 2016, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council passed the bridge project at a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



The Sand Martin is a migratory bird of the swallow family known for its quick jerky flight. They prefer to visit the region during cooler weather. The photo was taken in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



TRUMP'S TRANSITION DISRUPTION State Dept blocking world leaders' from reaching Biden

President-elect names longtime adviser as chief of staff

AGENCIES

US President-elect Joe Biden was pressing ahead with building his governing team yesterday, ignoring President Donald Trump's refusal to accept defeat and the present administration's efforts to block a smooth power transmission.

On Wednesday, Biden, who has shrugged off Trump's challenge to his victory, named long-time adviser Ron Klain as his White House chief of staff, his first major appointment.

The appointment came as CNN reported that the State Department, in an unprecedented move, was preventing Biden from accessing a stack of messages from foreign leaders.

Traditionally, the State Department supports all communications for the president-elect, which is why many countries began sending messages to State over the weekend. But with Biden prohibited from accessing State Department resources by the Trump administration, because President Donald Trump refuses to accept Biden's victory, dozens of incoming messages have not been received.

Biden's team is in touch with foreign governments without State Department involvement, and he has held numerous calls with leaders, including Germany's Angela Merkel and Canada's Justin Trudeau. But they are operating without the logistical and translation support that the State Department operations center provides.

Not only is Biden being blocked by the State Department from receiving messages and assistance facilitating and from preparing for calls, on Tuesday Secretary of State Mike Pompeo refused to acknowledge Biden's

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3