DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2020







"Honored to serve. We did it right. Defend Today, Secure Tomorrow.' CHRIS KREBS AFTER TRUMP FIRES HIM FROM US GOVERNMENT'S TOP ELECTION SECURITY OFFICIAL'S POST

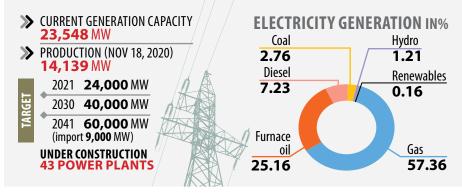


'The G20 now needs to scale up ambition and deliver bolder measures to ... prevent the global recession (caused by Covid-19 pandemic) from becoming a global depression. SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES

"You have to change something. The German national team can't play like that... There are certain values, which I didn't see on the pitch." FORMER GERMAN PLAYER BASTIAN SCHWEINSTEIGER AFTER THE COUNTRY'S 6-0 LOSS TO SPAIN

Future not coal power

Govt plans to strike off $\overline{13}$ coal-based power projects, looking for cleaner alternatives; Rampal still on



PINAKI ROY

Coal-fired power projects are on the chopping block as the government finally plans to give up its obsession for the dirty energy over rising coal import costs and environmental concerns

The power, energy and mineral resources ministry has already finalised the plan and will soon send it to the Prime Minister's Office, with a proposal for shifting to liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petroleum for electricity generation.

If the plan gets the final go-ahead from the highest office, all but five projects will

be scrapped, confirmed sources at the ministry

The government has approved 18 coalbased power plants since 2008 as part of its aggressive plan for generating 40,000MW power -- 35 percent of it from coal -- by 2030.

funds after getting the approval. So, we are considering it [shutting them down] as they are taking too much time to start





The authorities have ordered social distancing and other restrictions ahead of winter to avert a possible second wave of the coronavirus outbreak. But the rules remain on paper while people buy goods from vendors on this footbridge near New Market in the capital. Thankfully though, most of them have some kind of face coverings.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Over 2K Covid cases for 3rd straight day

2,111 infected, 21 die in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities reported over 2,000 new Covid-19 cases for the third straight day yesterday, raising concerns over the possible second wave of the Covid-19

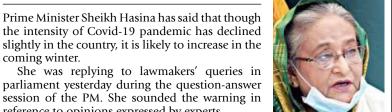
Years went by, but 13 of the projects could not make any progress or ensure funds to construct the proposed plants. Some companies could not secure the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

PROTHOM ALO EDITOR Noted citizens concerned over charge framing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen eminent citizens vesterday expressed concern that a court framed charges against five people, including Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, in a case filed over the tragic death of college student Naimul Abrar. Following is the full text of the statement given by the noted citizens: Recently, Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against five persons including its [Prothom Alo] Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman in a case filed over the tragic death of Dhaka Residential Model School and College student Naimul Abrar. Framing of charges in the SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



No charges except for tuition fees amid Covid

Govt asks all pvt secondary schools STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has asked all non-government secondary schools not to collect re-admission,

CASES OVER BUS TORCHING He was in hospital, still made accused

Claims Jubo Dal leader; a heart surgery patient among accused

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and SHARIFUL ISLAM

When buses were being torched in Dhaka on November 12 afternoon, Zakir Hossain Siddiqui, a vice-president of lubo Dal, was undergoing treatment for a blood disease at LabAid Hospital The 50-year-old was in cabin-430 between November 10 and November 15, and had paid Tk 88,163 in medical care charges

outbreak in the winter. The number of daily reported cases

remained around the 1,500-mark for the previous two months. In 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, 2,111 people tested positive for the virus, said a

press release of the Directorate General of Health Services.

With this, the number of confirmed cases in the country rose to 4,38,795.

Against a total of 16,469 tests in 115 labs in the same 24 hours, the positivity rate was 12.82 percent, which is lower than the previous day's 13.83 percent.

According to experts, the daily positivity rate is one of the important parameters to measure the transmission level of the virus.

If the positivity rate remains below SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

reference to opinions expressed by experts. Her scripted answers were tabled in the House,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

coming winter.

with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

PM again warns

of second wave

Replying to a query from ruling Awami League MP Didarul Alam, Hasina said the global epidemic has been successfully tackled in Bangladesh so far with the government's visionary leadership, timely decisions and efficient management.

"Although the intensity of the Covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh has decreased slightly at this moment, experts have opined that it may increase again in the coming winter. A second wave of the pandemic has already started in Europe and America," the premier said.

Noting that extensive preparations have been taken to deal with a possible second wave of the virus in the country, the PM said the government has instructed the authorities concerned to implement "no mask, no service" policy to contain the spread of novel coronavirus in the coming winter.

"Screening continues at the points of entry to the country. Staying in quarantine for 14 days has been made mandatory for the returnees from abroad. Activities are being carried out according to the action plan adopted for preventing and checking Covid-19."

development, assignment, tiffin, laboratory, library,

and magazine fees from students during Covid-19 pandemic.

In a circular, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education

(DSHE), yesterday also said school authorities should adjust the amounts with monthly tuition fees if they

had taken it already. If the Covid-19 situation

does not improve by the beginning of 2021, schools will not be allowed to collect the fees from students, the circular read. SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

The Daily Star obtained documents in support of this claim.

However, according to a case filed by Paltan police, Zakir torched a bus on November 12 and he is accused No-3 in the case.

Zakir yesterday appeared before a High Court bench along with 119 other BNP leaders and activists, including Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, to seek anticipatory bail in cases filed over the arson attacks on buses.

The court granted them bail until January 5.

While talking to The Daily Star, Zakir alleged that four fingers of his right hand were broken after police attacked him and other BNP and pro-BNP activists during a BNP workers' conference in Nabinagar of Brahmanbaria on October 23. SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

PVT PRACTICE IN OFFICE HRS Govt doctors to face action

Decides health ministry's taskforce; govt to fix fees for pvt healthcare services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government doctors providing private services during work hours will face action, the health ministry said yesterday.

The decision came at a meeting of the ministry's taskforce committee on Tuesday, said a press release.

"The taskforce requests [people] to inform its members if any government doctors are found providing private service during office hours. We will take action," Dr Shibbir Ahmmed Osmani, member secretary of the committee, told The Daily Star.

The public will be informed later about the process in which they can officially report such anomalies, he added.

On February 9, the High Court issued a rule asking the government officials concerned to explain why the section of the law that allows state-appointed doctors to conduct private medical practice beyond their office hours should not be declared unconstitutional.

The law being referred to is the Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Women labourers wait for work with their shovels at Savar City Centre. Begum, right, says she finds work only about 10-15 days a month and attributes her reduced income to the economic slump caused by the coronavirus restrictions. The photo was taken on Tuesday,

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Outrage over MP's rape comments

Rights activists deeply concerned that his words went without protest at JS

NILIMA JAHAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

Human rights activists and feminists expressed grave concern over the words of independent MP of Bogura-7 Md Rezaul Karim Bablu, who said in parliament on Tuesday that feminists are to blame for the rape incidents across the country.

Bablu even resorted to comparing women to tamarinds in line with the late Amir of Hefajat-e-Islam Allama Shafi's words in 2013.

While passing the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 2020 -- which added the provision of death penalty for rapists -- several MPs proposed circulating the bill to elicit public opinion and sending it to a select committee.

MP Bablu said, "In the name of women's liberation, feminists are continuing to expose women. This has increased the acceptability of rape so much among rapists that they are encouraged to commit the act," he said.

Referring to Shafi's words in 2013, comparing women to tamarinds, Bablu also said, "If the tamarind theory of Allama Shafi could have been applied, the rapists would be discouraged from rape... and SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BANGLADESH UPDATE 2,111 New cases in 24hrs A,38,795 Total cases Deaths Deaths

3,54,788 Recoveries

GLOBAL

1,347,477 Deaths **56,158,656** Total cases

Delay in Rohingya Return

Myanmar's lack of sincerity key reason

Says foreign minister

UNB, Dhaka

2 | The Daily Star

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said Myanmar's lack of sincerity was the key reason for the delay in Rohingya repatriation.

"Myanmar says they will take back Rohingyas, but they didn't take back anybody despite giving two dates for their repatriation," he told reporters at an interaction session with Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU).

The minister said Myanmar does not feel any pressure and they do not respond to Bangladesh on the Rohingya repatriation issue.

He said Bangladesh was fully ready to send the Rohingyas back when Myanmar gave Bangladesh dates twice to do so. "They made a commitment to take back Rohingyas after verification, but didn't live up to it."

Momen said Russia and China have encouraged all to solve the Rohingya issue bilaterally. "We remain engaged on all fronts -- bilateral, trilateral and multilateral -- to find a solution."

China willingly came forward to help Bangladesh, but it does not mean that Myanmar will listen to China always, he added.

The minister said the international community is putting much focus on the improvement of Rohingyas' living conditions while Bangladesh's aim is to send them back as soon as possible. "So, there is a gap."

Momen said the government would relocate 100,000 Rohingyas to Bhasan Char, but no date was fixed yet. "We will relocate them in

small groups without making any big

announcement." He said international agencies and NGOs were creating barriers to Rohingya relocation to Bhasan Char from Cox's Bazar camps. TEESTA DEAL

Talking about the Teesta water sharing deal with India, the foreign minister said Bangladesh remains hopeful of signing the agreement.

However, Bangladesh expects "no magic" on that front during the PMlevel virtual meeting between India and Bangladesh in the third week of next month, he added.

Responding to a question, Momen said four MoUs would be signed during the virtual meeting and some projects would be inaugurated.

DRU President Rafiqul Islam Azad and General Secretary Reaz Chowdhury also spoke at the "Meet the Reporters" programme.

On Tuesday, the foreign minister said Bangladesh would approach for resuming Rohingya repatriation talks after the formation of a full new government in Myanmar.

The repatriation talks remain halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic and elections in Myanmar.

The Myanmar side made commitments over repatriation of Rohingyas, but not a single Rohingya returned to Rakhine over the last three years.

There is a trust deficit among Rohingyas that needs to be addressed by the Myanmar side, Bangladesh said.



A grocer cutting off sprouts of onions. Small retailers buy these onions from importers for cheap, about Tk 40 a kg, and sell them for nearly Tk 60 after they have cut off the sprouts and have dried them. The photo was taken in CRB area of Chattogram yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Future not coal power

FROM PAGE 1

the construction work even after getting approval from the government," State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul

Hamid recently told The Daily Star. Five projects that have made certain level of progress in physical construction work and generated funds are Payra (1,320MW Bangladesh-China joint venture in Patuakhali), Rampal (1,320MW Bangladesh-India Maitri thermal project in Bagerhat), S Alam (1224MW, at Banshkhali in Chattogram), Barisal Electric Power Company Ltd (307MW, in Barguna), and Matarbari (1200MW Bangladesh-Japan joint venture in Cox's Bazar).

Of those, one unit of the Payra power plant has already gone into production. "It has been providing 600MW electricity to the national grid for the last few months," said the state minister,

adding that they will now start to construct the second and third units. Before Payra, the 525MW capacity

plant at Barapukuria in Dinajpur was the country's lone electricity source from coal. The Matarbari plant is all set to start electricity generation in 2023. RAMPAL PROJECT ON

Among all other coal-based power projects, the Rampal plant touched off an unprecedented uproar among green campaigners at home and abroad, as it is being constructed close to the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world.

The state minister, however, insisted that there is no chance of Rampal power plant being cancelled.

"The Rampal power plant has already completed 40 percent progress in construction work. So, there is no chance it will be cancelled," he said. "None of these power plants will cause any harm to the environment as ultra super

critical technology is being implemented while constructing these plants. Environmentalists, on the other hand, could not disagree more with the

government standpoint. Apart from black smog generated from coal power plants, the fleet of ships carrying coal for the power plants will cause air and water pollution -- which will be harmful for the fragile ecosystem of the Sundarbans, they argued.

ALTERNATIVES TO COAL

Environmentalists say such a move against dirty energy will not hamper electricity supply in the near future.

"We do not need coal-based power plants anymore as the production capacity of the country's power plants is much higher than the existing requirement," said Badrul Imam, a leading energy conservationist and a professor of geology at the University of Dhaka

For instance, the country's electricity demand is now a maximum of 12,000-13,000MW against a production solar power in agriculture. A capacity of 20,383MW, Bangladesh nearly six million home sol Power Development Board data of the largest in the world."

showed.

The country is generating this from gas, oil, hydropower, solar power, and coalfired power plants. Also, the country's lone nuclear power plant Rooppur is likely to generate power by 2024.

About the government's policy for power generation, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, adviser to the prime minister on power, energy and mineral resources, told The Daily Star that the government is looking for alternatives, as power generation with imported coal is going to be costly, aside from the pollution factor.

"Yet we need to increase power generation thinking about future demand. So, the government will go for a mixed approach of power generation using LNG, oil, coal and solar so that the country is not too dependent on a single source," Tawfiq-e-Elahi said.

When asked about clean energy like solar power, he said the main problems of solar power are that a lot of space is required and there are no cheaper options of storing the power for nighttime use.

It would require 10 square km of land to produce only 1,000MW of electricity by solar power, he said.

"Unless new technology is developed that will help to store power, solar power is not viable for us. But we are still using solar power in agriculture. And we have nearly six million home solar users, one

US approves first rapid home Covid-19 test

AFP, Washington

The US issued an emergency use authorization for the first selfadministered rapid coronavirus test Tuesday, as more parts of the country increase restrictions in an attempt to halt a Covid-19 surge.

The Food and Drug Administration approved a testing kit for people age 14 and older whom a doctor suspects to have Covid-19. The test, which is by prescription only, delivers results in 30 minutes.

"We continue to demonstrate unprecedented speed in response to #COVID19," tweeted FDA commissioner Stephen Hahn.

"FDA authorized the first #COVID19 test that's fully self-administered & provides results at home. It's an important advancement, underscoring our commitment to expanding test access.

Over 2K

five percent and does not increase, it means the transmission is under control, according to epidemiologists.

Throughout the last two months till last week, the positivity rate was almost every day below 12 percent, which started increasing during last week.

Since last month, countries across Europe and America are seeing a resurgence in Covid-19 cases with the advent of winter after successfully slowing outbreaks earlier in the year.

Observing a rising trend in Covid-19 nfections and deaths, experts in Bangladesh stressed the need for immediate acceleration of scientific virus curb measures to stop the transmission.

"Without scientific measures, random dministrative orders will not work ... We have to assign volunteers across the country to increase awareness, Dr Mushtaq Hussain, consultant of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

Meanwhile in those 24 hours, 21 people died from Covid-19, taking the number of deaths to 6,275, said the DGHS press release.

The death rate now stands at 1.43 percent, and the overall positivity rate is now 16.97 percent.

In the same period, 1,893 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illness.

The total number of recoveries rose to 3,54,788, which was 80.86 percent of all confirmed cases.

Of the 21 deceased, 14 were males and seven females.

One was aged under 10, one between 31 and 40, six were aged between 51 and 60, and 13 were above 60 years, added the release

Noted citizens DOM DACE 1

PM again warns of second wave

She

FROM PAGE 1

Hasina also said a tripartite agreement was signed between the Bangladesh government, Serum Institute of India and Beximco Pharmaceuticals to import three crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

Replying to a question from AL MP AKM Rahmatullah, the premier informed the House that round the clock through mutual the government was able to arrange emergency financing from the

said the Asian also Infrastructure Investment Bank has approved a loan of \$100 million for

Bangladesh. Responding to a question from Jatiya Party's Fakhrul Imam, the leader of the House said all law enforcement and intelligence agencies, including the police, have been working coordination between themselves to bring all those involved in sabotage development partners during the and violent activities to book and

Outrage over MP's rape comments FROM PAGE 1

within them."

FROM PAGE 1 responsible speeches in parliament. change of mindset is most important It would be appreciated if he [Bablu] here," she added. could gather the information on rape,

Tamanna Hoq Riti, coordinator,

Jovid-19 period on an emergency basis.

She said Bangladesh was receiving a financial assistance of Tk 2,720 crore as emergency assistance from Japan to fight the novel coronavirus.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing \$600 million to prevent Covid-19 and another \$30 million to procure novel coronavirus vaccines and medical equipment, the PM added.

Hasina said World Bank has provided \$105 crore for employment generation in Bangladesh during the pandemic period.

"Again, we have received €110 million from the European Union for the garment sector. Germany and the European Union have pledged to provide €113 million for the garment and leather industries."

take appropriate legal actions against them

Replying to a query from another lawmaker, Hasina said the trend of increasing crop production has continued in the country by adopting the policy of bringing every inch of land under cultivation despite the affects of climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The PM said Bangladesh has now moved up to the third place from fourth in the world in terms of rice production. "As a result, food security in the country has been strengthened. Besides, Bangladesh is a role model

in agricultural development in the world today as the country remains in the third place in terms of vegetable production, 7th in mango production, 8th in potato and guava production, she added.

REACTIONS OF WOMEN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

Coming down heavily on the independent MP, Shireen Haq, founding member of Naripokkho, said he is an uncivilised person who has spoken like a "Neanderthal".

"It appears that the light of education or knowledge has not touched him at all. There is a term --Neanderthal -- to describe a man like him," she also said.

She said this parliament is not working for women. Not a single MP or the state minister for women or Speaker, or even the prime minister said anything against the MP protested his remarks, she added.

Calling the statement "cheap" Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) Executive Director Shaheen Anam said rights activists have been fighting to change the mindset of common men so they can respect women, which would help bring equality between women and men.

"But if the mindset of lawmakers is like this, I don't know what to say in this regard. I just want to ask him, why do the children or the madrasa girls or the women wearing Burqa get raped? Statements like this just instigate and encourage the rapists," she added.

She also expressed concern over the silence of female lawmakers after his statement.

Women's rights activist Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, said "We expect the lawmakers, who are present in parliament as a representative of the public, to deliver research-oriented, facts-based and gang-rape, and sexual violence and analysed the background and clothing of women.

She said since they are elected by the people and receive their tax money, they must not talk in such an irresponsible manner and make baseless comments in parliament.

"The government is inspiring women to be independent, yearning to reach the SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] to ensure equality for women; we have a policy for women development, a ministry to ensure women's empowerment. The government is creating many opportunities for women to achieve top positions in both government and non-government sectors, and they are becoming the role model for many," she said.

"As a lawmaker, he [Bablu] must know these," added Khushi.

Mentioning the patriarchal mindset of the Bogra-7 lawmaker, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) President Advocate Salma Ali said, "I think the time has come to rethink about who are representing the common people, and how they are being elected.

"Those who talk about the tamarind theory, consider women as objects, or talk like the burga and headcover can stop rape, I just want to tell them that I had attended many meetings with more than 450 women wearing burqa, and when they were asked whether they faced sexual harassment, every one of them put their hands up," she said.

"Women's clothing or freedom has no connection with rape; instead, the

Human Rights Forum of Bangladesh in her Facebook post said, "These days, l wonder from where we should start reforms. We have all gotten rotten. Is it possible to bring any reforms here?" WILL THE AMENDED BILL

SOLVE TH PROBLEM?

While women rights activists have long been demanding comprehensive reform in the definition of rape, criminalising marital rape and the inclusion of special provisions for the rape of a male child, the government on October 13 published a gazette declaring death penalty for the rapists.

After the gazette was published, experts said the amendment did nothing to address the actual reforms being demanded. A month later, the statistics support the assertion.

According to statistics from leading human rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), in September this year, 86 women and children were raped and 16 women were gang-raped, while two were murdered after rape.

However, after the gazette was published in October, a total of 374 women and children were raped, 69 women were gang-raped, and three were murdered after rape.

Human rights activist Nur Khan said, "I fear incidents of killing after rape may increase in order to destroy evidence, as perpetrators will not want to keep the victim alive to avoid capital punishment."

Shireen Haq also believed that it is an established truth that the severity of punishment will not solve the problem, and said justice must be ensured and there should not be a culture of impunity.

case, especially against the editor of

Prothom Alo, has surprised and made us worried for various reasons.

Naimul Abrar was electrocuted during the anniversary programme of Kishor Alo at Dhaka Residential Model School and College sports ground on November 1 last year. It was an unexpected and tragic incident. However, it was not Prothom Alo's programme but the anniversary programme of its magazine Kishor Alo. The Prothom Alo editor was not even present at the programme. After the incident, Naimul Abrar's father Mojibur Rahman filed an unnatural death case with a police station. Later, he filed a complaint case registered separately with the court.

We think there is no scope to see the case separately from the ones filed in the past against the country's reputed and freethinking editors, including Matiur Rahman, to harass them. Neither can it be seen as a separate incident from the repeated attacks on media freedom in the country. We demand that path be kept open of the right to legal remedy for all the accused in the case including the Prothom Alo editor.

Our concern is that such cases would be misused to shrink the freedom of the editors and newspapers. We call upon everyone to desist from such attempts.

The signatories to the statement are: Ahmad Rafique, researcher and language movement veteran; Serajul Islam Choudhury, emeritus professor, Dhaka University; Hasan Azizul Huq, litterateur; M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government; Perween Hasan, vice-chancellor, Central Women's University; Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq, retired professor, Department of Bangla, Dhaka University; Ali Imam Majumder, former cabinet secretary; Sultana Kamal, human rights activist; Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain, former election commissioner; Mamunur Rashid, actor, playwright and director; Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker government; Syed Manzoorul author and educationist; Islam, Moinul Islam, economist and former professor of Department of Economics, Chattogram University; Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary, Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik; Tofail Ahmed, former professor of Department of Public Administration, Chattogram University; Iftekharuzzaman, executive director, Transparency International Bangladesh Shahdeen Malik, advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court; and Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

attended the meeting.

Govt doctors to face action

However, convener of the taskforce Mostafa Kamal, additional secretary (public health-1), said their latest move is not related to the High Court ruling.

FROM PAGE 1

This move is only to create awareness, not to hurt anybody, Dr Shibbir said

"Private practice during office hours is illegal for any government physicians. In fact, our aim is to make sure everyone maintains the service rules.'

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by five Supreme Court lawyers, seeking directives to stop private practice by government-appointed doctors.

Tuesday's In meeting, the committee also decided that all private hospitals, diagnostic centers, laboratories and clinics have to mention its license number clearly in its signboard and other places.

The committee members will visit and conduct drives against illegal private healthcare organisations, and applications for licence submitted after November 16 will not be accepted.

Director of hospitals and clinics at the health directorate Dr Farid Hossain Mian, and joint secretaries Salma Tanzia and Shaila Farzana

Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), told The Daily Star: "No government physician

should conduct private practice during office hours. GOVT TO SET FEES FOR PRIVATE

HEALTHCARE SERVICES The government will set the fees for private healthcare services, including treatment and pathology costs, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

The fees will be set based on the categories of the hospitals and the ministry will form a "high-power committee" soon, the minister told a review meeting on the status of private healthcare services at the ministry.

In the meeting, MA Mubin Khan, president of Bangladesh Private Medical College Association proposed a "centralised medical waste management system" for all private healthcare organisations.

The minister agreed with him. He also urged for help from the private healthcare organisations to tackle the "second wave" of the Covid-19.

Prof ABM Khurshid Alam, director general of the DGHS; Prof Khan Abul Kalam Azad, principal of Dhaka Medical College; and representatives healthcare from different organisations attended the meeting.

FROM PAGE 1 DSHE Director Belal Hossain told The Daily Star, "This will reduce some financial burden on guardians. We have issued the circular keeping many things in mind.

"Most of these fees are collected from students while they enroll at the beginning of academic years. That is why we asked them [school authorities] to adjust with monthly tuition fees [if they had taken it already]."

In person classes have been closed since March 17 and the shutdown was extended till December 19 in different phases.

The DSHE circular also read that

there was difference of opinions crisis," it added. among guardians and school authorities regarding the collection of tuition fees.

No charges except for tuition fees amid Covid

Many guardians argued that the tuition fees should not be collected as they faced financial losses due to Covid-19 and no class was held, but school authorities demanded tuition fees to ensure teachers' and other staffers' salary as they were trying their best to continue education through distant learning programmes.

"We should be careful. If the schools are permanently closed or become ineffective, life of teachers and others staffers may fall in serious

According to the circular, the school authorities should also take it into special consideration if a guardian

face serious financial crisis. There are 19,985 non-government schools with 9,712,639 students in the country.

After the schools were closed due to Covid-19 pandemic, the government launched educational programmes on Sangsad TV for secondary students on March 29, to help them make up for the losses due to the closure of educational institutions.

It later urged all schools to hold online classes. Many of city schools started online classes ever since.

EXPATRIATE WORKERS Job market in Italy opens after 8 years AMIL MAHMUD

After eight years of embargo, the Italian government will allow hiring workers from Bangladesh both in "seasonal" and "non-seasonal" categories starting from this year.

Bangladesh has been included in a list of 30 labour-sending countries while a process of submitting applications is going on at present, which will continue till December 31 this year, said officials.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on October 12 said Italy has included Bangladesh in their "seasonal and non-seasonal workers programme" responding to a request from Dhaka, according to UNB report

"The Italian government earlier withdrew this privilege as Bangladeshi farm workers violated conditions of this programme by not returning home after each season," he had said.

At present, Italy is home to about 1.45 lakh Bangladeshis who are registered with the Italian government.

Besides, a significant number of undocumented Bangladeshis also live in the European country, said sources at the Bangladesh mission there.

Arfanul Haque, labour welfare counsellor at the Bangladesh Embassy in Rome, said Italian government hires seasonal and non-seasonal workers each year under the "Flussi Decree".

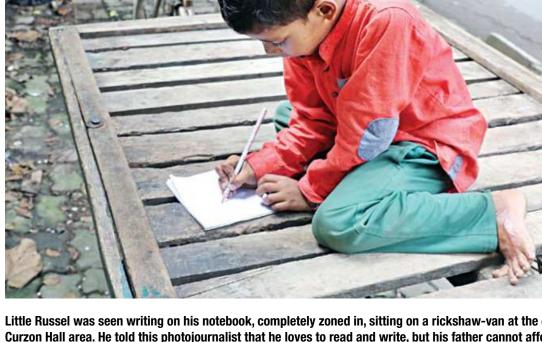
"This year, both categories will be applicable for Bangladesh," he told this newspaper in a WhatsApp call.

Under the present initiative, Italy will hire about 30,850 workers in both categories, he said, adding, 18,000 of them will be recruited under seasonal visa and the rest as non-seasonal workers.

He, however, could not tell how many Bangladeshis will get the opportunity this year.

He said although the number of Bangladeshi workers might not be high, it is important that a new labour market has been opened for them.

money he had and bought Russel pencils and a notebook. Far from being discouraged, he makes full use of the stationery, aiming to become -- in his own words -- a great man. SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Little Russel was seen writing on his notebook, completely zoned in, sitting on a rickshaw-van at the capital's Curzon Hall area. He told this photojournalist that he loves to read and write, but his father cannot afford to send him to school. One day, when Russel asked to get admitted to a school, the father collected what little

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Sajeeb Wazed Joy "Whatever religion we belong to, we are all Bangalees," he said at the Joy Bangla Youth Award 2020 conferring ceremony, organised by Young Bangla on Tuesday night

Joining from the US, Sajeeb Wazed said the Covid-19 induced restrictions resulted in holding the award giving ceremony online, a testament to making the pledge of Digital Bangladesh a reality, reads a press release of the Centre for Research & Information (CRI).

Referring to the young champions of change who were conferred with this award for transforming lives in their communities, he said, "Each time I look at you, I feel inspired."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



BIWTA staffers separate non-biodegradable waste and silt picked up by dredging machines. This photo was taken on Sunday from the Barishal River Port.

BARISHAL RIVER PORT **Plastic waste slows** down dredging work

Sushanta Ghosh

When Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (VISTA) started a dredging operation to remove silt from Barishal River Port around October 16, they expected it to be over by now. However, more than a month later, not even half of the works could be completed.

The depth of the 40 km long Kirtankhola river is 100-150 feet in the middle side. During low tide, it stands at seven or feet around the port area, said sources within the department. However, launches get stuck on their way to the port if there isn't at least 10-12 feet of depth. This means there's no other way but to dredg the area of silt, and the polythene

DSCC mayor calls for closing shops, businesses by 8pm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday urged all shopkeepers and owners of business establishments to close by 8pm daily, to reduce traffic congestion.

The mayor called upon residents of DSCC areas while inaugurating the 10-storey Sheikh Hasina academic building at Sher-e-Bangla Mohila Mohabiddyaloy in Tikatuli, as chief guest.

He said authorities want to bring the whole city under proper management, and they want to close every shop and business establishment by 8pm, as in many foreign countries, they start closing from 5pm-9pm, depending on areas

He further said if the establishments start shutting down early, traffic congestion in Dhaka will reduce.

the Dhaka south mayor said if everyone goes home early, they will be able to give more time to their family, which is essential.

Before inauguration, the mayor also laid down the foundation stone of Azimpur modern city market, commencing construction work.

CLOSED FACTORY IN SAVAR

RMG workers stage sit-in for 10-months' arrears

POLICE CYBER SUPPORT FOR WOMEN 691 complaints in 48hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Cyber Support for Women, a special cell formed on November 16 to contain the rising trend of online harassment against women, has received around 691 complaints in the last two days

Of the complaints, 331 were received

on Tuesday and 360 yesterday. The complaints include allegations of cyber bullying, blackmailing, ID hacking and threats, Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general of Police Headquarters, told The Daily Star yesterday.

During this period, the special cell has already been able to settle 170 complaints, which is around 25 percent of the total received ones, he said.

According to cell officials, these complaints were mostly over ID hacking or creating fake social media accounts.

Sohel Rana said for these types of complaints, the cell, composed solely of female officials, has already prepared some templates on how to keep social media accounts secure or report against fake accounts

Once one submits a complaint, the officials immediately send those templates to her with guidelines.

In the last 48 hours, 52 complaints are being handled at the "follow up desk" and complainers have been contacted for some relevant information to investigate into those allegations. These complaints will be disposed of upon receiving further information from them, said desk officials.

The remaining 489 complaints have been registered as "complaints for investigation" and necessary legal action will be taken after probe, according to a statement issued by the PHQ.

Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed officially launched the all-woman special wing at an event at the Rajarbagh Police Lines Auditorium in Dhaka.

The cell receives complaints through three platforms -- Facebook page: Police Cyber Support for Women (PCSW); email: cybersupport.women@police.gov.bd or hotline: 01320000888.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



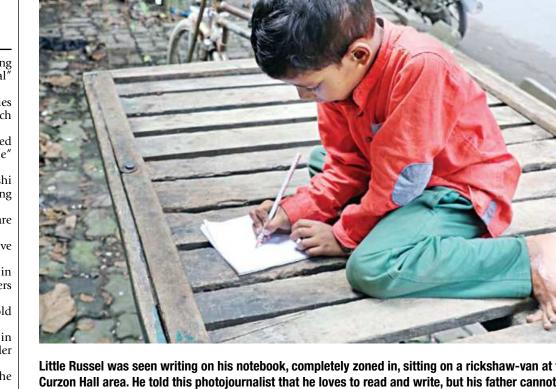
Won't budge from

our principle of

secularism: Joy

Bangladesh

founding



BIWTA officials said it's the huge amount of polythene, plastic and other trash dumped into the water that is slowing down the project. As of yesterday, they have been recovering at least three maunds of junk every day.

"We set out to finish this as quickly as possible. The river needs to be dredged regularly for navigability's sake, but we haven't been able to dredg even half of our targeted 1.5 lakh cubic metres of silt," BIWTA's Assistant Engineer (Dredging) told this correspondent. "A lot of time and money is being wasted because of plastic pollution."

After visiting the Barishal River Port and Kirtonkhola river area, it has been found that a huge amount of cloth, ropes, and plastic waste are coming up with the silt. After every 30-40 minute of operation, staffers take cloth, ropes, and plastic waste out of the dredging machines and keep them separately. This is done make disposal and recycling easier. Additionally, after every day, at least one submerged trawler is being collected from the river, the officials said.

and plastic waste that comes with it.

Mostafizur Rahman, Joint Director of BIWTA and Barishal River Port Officer, said the operation will be carried out across 30 points on the Dhaka-Barishal route, including a few points at the port area. Dredging work is going on with two machines, he told this correspondent. "If everyone is not aware, the river port will start resembling the Buri Ganga river."

Siddiqur Rahaman is a regular at the port. He collects revenues related to goodstransportation at the port. "I've seen launch passengers and staffers indiscriminately dump waste into the river. That's at least 8-10 vehicles everyday."

"Relevant authorities used to monitor the area and keep waste dumping under control, but after the early days of the pandemic, the monitoring has slackened," he added.

"Although dumping garbage into the river is banned, some people are violating it and creating this problem," said Saidur Rahman Rintu, Vice president of the SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Workers of A-One BD Ltd, a closed factory of Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) have been staging a sit-in programme demanding arrears of 10 months.

During the past two days, around 700 workers of the factory gathered in front of Ashulia Press Club for the sit-in which took place from 10am to 4pm.

The demonstrators said that at least 1,100 workers of the factory, which is owned by an Italian named Alessandra Ferry, have been living in a dire situation as they haven't been paid in the last 10 months. Neither the factory authorities, nor the BEPZA authorities or the government have taken any responsibility for their payment, said workers.

The factory has remained closed since March, when the pandemic hit Bangladesh. Wages have remained unpaid since January, the workers said, adding that they have been running from door to door of DEPZ authorities to get the arrears.

Asraf Ali, a worker, said they have held several demonstrations and DEPZ officials have assured them at least 18 times that the arrears will be paid. "We cannot provide for our families. It has been so difficult for us to survive in the last 10 months,' said Asraf, "This sit-in programme will continue until we receive our due payment.'

Another worker, Ujjal Hossain, said DEPZ authorities had said that the workers will be paid after auctioning the factory, but then the auction was stayed after a High Court order. "We demand the PM's intervention in this matter," said Uzzal.

Taslima Akter, president of Bangladesh Garment Sramik Sanghati, said, "We along with some workers of the factory tried to urgently discuss the matter with DEPZ authorities. They said they can't do anything until the stay order is withdrawn."

Contacted, Abdus Subhan, general manger of DEPZ told the Daily Star that workers will get salaries of three-and-a-half months and they have already paid two months' salaries.

"We were trying to pay the rest of their salary by auctioning the factory but a stay order from the HC on October 20 has stalled this process. The stay order was issued following a dispute with the bank," said Abdus Sobhan.

"We are trying to vacate the stay order through the Attorney General's office," he added, "A hearing may take place next week."

The verdict in the case filed over the rape of a Dhaka University student in the capital's Kurmitola on January 5 will be given today. Judge Begum Mosammat Quamrunnahar of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka is scheduled to read out the judgement in presence of the lone accused Md Majnu around noon, court sources said.

On November 12, the tribunal set the date after conclusion of arguments from both the prosecution and defence.Earlier, the tribunal recorded statements of 20 out of 24 prosecution witnesses, including the victim and the case's complainant.

On January 5, the DU student was raped while she was walking from Kurmitola bus stop to a friend's house near Shewra Rail gate around 7:30pm after getting off a university bus.

The next day, the girl's father filed the case with Cantonment Police Station, accusing unknown people.

On January 8, Rapid Action Battalion arrested 30-year-old Majnu from Shewra area.

Bangladesh, Qatar commit to strenthen bilateral relations STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ambassador of Bangladesh in Qatar, Jashim Uddin, has emphasised on recruitment of more skilled workers and professionals in the Gulf country from Bangladesh.

He raised the issue during a meeting with the Secretary General (foreign secretary) of Qatar's foreign affairs ministry Hassan Al Hammadi on Tuesday.

During the meeting, both officials discussed several issues concerning bilateral relations, including strengthening trade cooperation. They agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), said a press release of the embassy.

The Bangladesh envoy said more than four lakh Bangladeshi expatriates are currently living in Qatar and that their presence is "one of the key pillars" of bilateral relations between the two countries, it said.

At the meeting, the ambassador thanked Qatar government for ensuring treatment of Bangladeshi expatriates amid the coronavirus pandemic.

He also highlighted Bangladeshi expatriates' contribution in economic developments of both countries and discussed aspects of the Bangladeshi community's well-being in Qatar.



The entirety of Sylhet division was cut off from electricity supply following a blaze at a power plant on Tuesday. The literal darkness prevailed for 31 hours until power was restored at around 6:10pm yesterday. This photo of Zindabazar point was taken soon after the neon signs and lights turned back on. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

World Toilet Day 2020 Improve sanitation to combat impact of climate change: WaterAid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even in 2020, one in four people around the world does not have a toilet. For Bangladesh, while 48 percent of the population has access to basic sanitation facilities, the rest only have access to limited and unimproved sanitation, a WaterAid Global Report has found.

The global charity organisation released the report to mark the "World Toilet Day 2020" yesterday.

The report -- titled 'Living in a fragile world: The impact of climate change on the sanitation crisis' -- highlights the link between poor sanitation and the transmission of fatal but preventable illnesses, and examines how these are compounded by the effects of climate change, a press release said.

Tim Wainwright, Chief Executive, WaterAid UK, said "WaterAid's report shows that climate change has intensified the sanitation crisis, with increasingly frequent and extreme weather events destroying toilets and sanitation systems, putting the health and lives of millions of people around the world at risk.

According to the report, Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world when it comes to the impact of climate change. Two-thirds of Bangladesh sits less than five metres above sea level, leaving these areas highly susceptible to river and tidal flooding. Draught, rising sea levels and cyclones also significantly impact access to clean water.

A lack of clean water, decent toilets, and hygiene claim the lives of around 800 children under five every day. In total, around 829,000 lives are lost due to this problem every year.

City

An officer of the desk said

they work round the clock

the complaints through

Facebook. In the last two

days, we have also received

around 250 calls," said the

official

said they often need to

provide counseling

On Tuesday night, a

person called and started

crying. "She was badly

shaken up and said she

"We assured her that

about. We took the details

and communicated with

the local police station to

provide her legal support.

We are trying to solve the

issues as early as possible.

week or two to resolve the

Presently, two assistant

Stationed at the Police

Headquarters, under the

supervision of the Lawful

consisted of has 12 full-

time personnel.

Interception Cell, the wing

superintendents of police

are leading the cell's

If any investigation is

needed, it may need a

was a victim of cyber

we are beside her and

there's nothing to worry

further

to

"We are getting most of

FROM PAGE 3

in shifts.

officer.

The

bullying."

matter."

activities.

complainants.

123rd birth anniv of Manorama Basu Masima observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

The 123rd birth anniversary of women's rights icon Manorama Basu Masima was observed in Barishal yesterday.

Manorama Basu Smriti Trust and Mahila Parishad Barishal held a discussion and a cultural event marking the day in front of Matri Mandir Government Primary School in Barishal city. Manorama founded the school at her own residence in 1973. Before that, she established 'Matri Mandir', an organisation to rehabilitate destitute women in 1933-34.

A devoted social worker, Manorama, later famous as 'Masima' (maternal aunt), founded a host of other social organisations and collectives. Some of these include Mohila Attorakkha Samity, Nari Kallyan Bhaban, Mukul Milon Khelaghar, Palli Unnyan Amrita Pathagar.

She was also involved in politics, and was sent to jail during both the anti-British Swadeshi Movement and in the Pakistan period. She was a member of the Communist Party and formed the Soviet Shurid Samity in 1932.

She remained active in progressive socio-cultural and political movements till she died in October 16, 1986.

Speakers and participants at yesterday's session asked everyone to remember her legacy and take her stories to the youth. Later, Udichi Barishal district unit performed 'Gonosangeet' as a tribute.

Improve

FROM PAGE 3

However, these deaths fail to reach the headlines, in part because they predominately occur in poorer communities, the document says

In light of this, WaterAid demands urgent action from governments and the international community to increase investment in sanitation services.

Won't

FROM PAGE 3 "We harbour a culture of complaining. But, look at these youths who chose not to complain. Rather, they are harnessing their merit and giving their best to solve problems they observed in society. Instead of pinning their hope on someone else, they came forward to advancing the

country through their leadership," he added. "Those who are awarded here and those not -- I congratulate you both. This is

because the dream Bangabandhu dreamt of was to take the country forward. You carried out that task," he further said.

"When we see the death toll due to the coronavirus, it is quite high in many developed countries, [but] the death toll in our country is low. Not a single death is expected, though!... They didn't pay heed to their doctors' advice. We did," he added.

Observing that the country's economic growth is still on the rise despite the pandemic, the PM's ICT advisor said, Many developed countries suffered significant economic losses. But we are still progressing owing to the leadership.

Joy Bangla Youth Award has been awarded to 30 youth-led organisations that turned around lives and brought about positive changes to the country and society Sajeeb Wazed Joy, the son of Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina, announced the award-winning organisations through a virtual ceremony launched by Young Bangla, the youth front of ruling Awami League's research wing CRI.

CRI Trustee Nasrul Hamid attended the virtual session, conducted by Dr Nuzhat Choudhury. Certificates, crests, and laptops will be dispatched to the awardees. Apart from them, top nominees will also receive certificates.

691 complaints Job market

FROM PAGE 3

Arfanul said employers have to apply directly to Italian authorities by submitting worker's passport number, name, address and other details.

The embassy has plans to collect employers' list once this year's recruitment is done, he said, adding this will help create link between Bangladeshi workers and prospective Italian employers in future.

Workers' recruitment from Bangladesh under the process remained suspended after 2012, he further said.

MINISTRY URGES WORKERS TO AVOID SYNDICATION Meanwhile in a release sent to media, the expatriates' welfare ministry yesterday urged job-seeking Bangladeshi workers to avoid any syndication and restrain from making illegal payments while securing seasonal and non-seasonal

Italian visas The ministry said it has learned from different sources that a syndicate has been active to lure job-seeking Bangladeshis, and urged potential migrants to abide by rules and regulations set by the Italy government.

Wishing anonymity, an embassy official said the embassy has received information that some job-seeking Bangladeshis were trying to get a "contract" per visa of Tk 14 lakh to Tk 15 lakh.

He said under a seasonal visa, a Bangladeshi worker will be able to stay in Italy for nine months while a non-seasonal visa-holder will get the opportunity to work for two years.

Validity of non-seasonal visa can be extended in future, he said, raisibng concerns that paying high amount of money would make Bangladeshi workers stay in the country illegally after visa expiry. This could portray Bangladesh's image negatively, he added.

Rules and Regulations

According to ministry release, to recruit a worker, an Italian employer has to apply via a designated email to a local government body, mentioning details of the migrant worker, to get a no-objection certificate.

Once the employer gets it, he will send it to the potential migrant in Bangladesh. Later, the migrant has to apply for visa at the Italian embassy in Dhaka along with the noobjection certificate.

Upon obtaining the visa, the worker will fly to Italy and sign in his employment agreement at the Prefettura.

26th death anniv of ATM Walie Ashraf

CITY DESK

Today is the 26th death anniversary of ATM Walie Ashraf, freedom fighter and former member of parliament from Brahmanbaria-6.



To mark the day, milad and doa mahfils will be held

at his Mayakanan residence and grave in Bancharampur of Brahmanbaria.

Walie was a political leader, social worker and journalist, who worked for BBC and was founder editor of Bengali weekly Janomot.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Plastic

FROM PAGE 3

Barisal Launch Owners Association. In the last two weeks, two launches got stuck near the port due to siltation, he informed.

This is a cause for alarm for citizens of Barishal, environmentalists, and government officials alike. Rafiqul Alam, Divisional Coordinator Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), said the accumulating waste has become a threat to navigability of the river port area, and the situation will only get worse if steps aren't taken immediately.

Md Kamruzzaman Sarkar, acting director of the Environment Department, Barishal Divisional Office, said, "This is not just a local problem, it has spread to every region. If everyone were more aware and responsible, all of this could've been avoided."

Power

FROM PAGE 12

Grid Company Bangladesh (PGCB) told The Daily Star that the power supply to all other upazilas in Sylhet and Sunamganj under Palli Bidyut were restored earlier on Tuesday night through alternative sub-stations.

"In the grid substation, the fire blazed at the 33KV feeder line, then to one transformer of BPDB and one of PGCB. Then one control board of the station exploded", he said describing the incident.

Meanwhile, two probe committees -- one of PGCB and another of BPDB -were formed on Tuesday.

Due to the power crisis, services at hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres have been disrupted.

"The small health care establishments are not being able to provide services due to the power outage. Larger ones are also suffering to provide uninterrupted services", said Dr Naseem Hossain, president of the owners

'Stop arms race' FROM PAGE 12 Bangabandhu says there is no problem which could not be resolved peacefully through

negotiation. Then why is this absurd race for arms and why is strife overtaking the world? He regrets that the big powers are making bombs on the one hand and shedding crocodile tears for peace on the other. He is doubtful whether these powers genuinely love humanity and want world peace. If they really did so, how could they use science to build war machinery when the teeming millions of the world are hungry and shelter-less, he asks.

The prime minister expresses anxiety about imperialists disturbing the peace in Africa, Middle East and South East Asia. He regrets that the small nations are being used as pawns in big power politics. He observes that Bangladesh is an underdeveloped country in Asia and greatly needs peace.

BANGABÁNDHU GREETS INDIRA

Bangabandhu today sends a message of "warm personal felicitations" to the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the occasion of her birthday. "May the friendship between India and Bangladesh to, which your contribution has been historic, last forever," reads the message. SOURCES: November 20, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Govt to buy 40 lakh MRPs for expatriate FROM PAGE 12

handing over e-passports to Bangladeshi expatriates, they need to set up machines at relevant offices abroad.

"Due to the Covid-19 situation, we are not getting approvals from many countries regarding setting up of machines. On the other hand, passports of many Bangladeshis are going to expire and they need to renew these.

"So, we are procuring these MRP books," he added.

Saidur said they are sending 8,000-9,000 MRPs abroad every day to meet the demand

of expatriates, most of whom are migrant workers. He said they cannot switch over to e-passport from MRP directly as e-passport needs

more biometric information. He added that they along with the foreign ministry are trying to get permissions from respective countries regarding setting up of machines to hand over e-passports to Bangladeshi expatriates.

Saidur said they are distributing e-passports from 64 passport offices across the country, except three hill districts and Cox's Bazar.

On January 22 this year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the e-passport and

Robot FROM PAGE 12

week and will run at least through the end of the month. It will be extended according to the situation,

With around 120,000 reported coronavirus cases and close to 2,000 deaths, Japan has weathered the pandemic better than many nations, and people are mostly compliant with requests to wear masks.

But authorities are calling for vigilance after a resurgence in cases as the weather gets colder and people spend more time indoors.

Europe sees FROM PAGE 12

decline of 10 percent in weekly cases. At the same time

though, more than 29,000 new Covid-19 deaths were registered across Europe

- an 18 percent jump from the previous week, it said. The Americas, which

continued to show surging

is the second worst-

hit region, meanwhile

numbers of cases and a

Watch on drug rehab centres stepped up

FROM PAGE 12

A team from the DNC's south division conducted drives in Doyaganj, Sanir Akhra areas and closed three unauthorised rehab centres. It also arrested one person for selling medicines without approval from the relevant authorities, said the officials.

Manjurul Islam, deputy director (Dhaka South) of the DNC, told The Daily Star that they first raided Hadi Rehab Centre, situated on the eighth floor of Madina Hospital and Diagnostic Centre in Doyaganj, for operating without approval. There were 11 patients, who were handed to their guardians.

The team then shut down "Ananda and Jibon Paribartan" in Sanir Akhra area.

Manjurul said rehabilitation centres must have full-time doctors and part-time psychiatrists, but none of the said centres had any full-time doctors.

REGISTRAR'S ARREST IRKS PSYCHIATRISTS

The arrest of National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital (NIMH) Registrar Dr Abdullah Al Mamun following the death of the senior ASP has angered psychiatrists.

In protest, all psychiatrists in the country decided to close their private chambers and online healthcare services from yesterday to today evening, Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists (BAP) said in a press statement yesterday.

On Tuesday, police arrested the NIMH registrar in Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area. He was later placed on two-day remand. He allegedly had referred the police officer from NIMH to Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital as he gets commission on such referrals.

The BAP said they came to know that Anisul's sister and her husband, who are also doctors by profession, took him to Mind Aid hospital on their own as they were interested in giving Anisul treatment at a private facility.

They questioned how Dr Mamun could be an accused in a murder case when he was not present at the scene. They demanded immediate release of Mamun.

The association claimed that some media outlets were reporting on the incident "negatively, unscientifically and based on assumptions". It urged journalists to report the incident with objectivity.

Meanwhile, doctors and other staffers at NIMH yesterday staged a demonstration and observed work abstention protesting the arrest, from 10:00am, causing sufferings to patients and their relatives who were left to wait for nearly three hours.

Terming the allegations against Dr Mamun false, the agitators also confined the hospital Director Prof Dr Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder and other senior doctors to Bidhan's room. After the protest ended, Dr Bidhan told reporters, "Dr Mamun was arrested in the hospital's dormitory around 4:00am on Tuesday. A government official cannot be arrested without the permission of the authorities." Doctors at the hospital said their internal investigation did not find that registrar Mamun had any role in sending ASP Anisul to Mind Aid hospital. With Mamun, 13 people, including two directors of Mind Aid hospital, have so far been arrested in the murder case. Anisul's father Faijuddin Ahmed filed the case with Adabor Police Station on November 10, accusing 15 people, including five shareholders of the private hospital, for murdering his son. Six out of 10 arrested employees of Mind Aid hospital admitted to a Dhaka court their involvement in the death of Anisul after competition of their seven-day remand each. The hospital's three other directors are still on the run. Meanwhile, a doctor, Nusrat Farzana, who was on duty at Mind Aid hospital on November 9, was granted anticipatory bail from the High Court till January 5. Her lawyer Ruhul Quddus told reporters that the doctor was on "on-call duty" at the hospital. Her name was not mentioned as an accused in the case statement. The statement only says she assisted Anisul in the admission process.

Robovie's deployment is a trial that started last

ATR said.

hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres in Sylhet.

association of private

Moreover, thousands of people have been suffering from crisis of water and other related services due to the power outage.

Alauddin Ahmed, a resident of Dakshin Surma area said, "Due to the outage, we suffered most as Mobile phones had no charge, internet connection were disrupted and most importantly -- no water in house".

Zaheda Akter, of the area, said, "Frozen foods are also perishing due to this extended power cut. Candles become scarce in the shops and we had to buy water from sellers moving with drums of water in van".

Ali Akbar, executive engineer of Sylhet City Corporation (water distribution), said, "We are not being able to supply the demand of eight crore litres per day. People will keep suffering until the power connection is restored completely".

e-gate services at a ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

There will be an embedded microprocessor chip that will contain all information of the passport holders, including their photos, fingerprints and scans of their iris.

So far, 118 countries have already introduced the e-passport, making Bangladesh the 119th country in the world to introduce e-passport.

Trump fires US election security chief

FROM PAGE 12

Krebs was in charge of fending off possible foreign and domestic hacker intrusions into myriad voting, sorting and counting machines, as well as databases and other systems that states and localities rely on to tally ballots.

Senator Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said: "Chris Krebs is an extraordinary public servant and exactly the person Americans want protecting the security of our elections. It speaks volumes that the president chose to fire him simply for telling the truth."

Republican senator Richard Burr, who until recently was chairman of the same committee, said Krebs and his team "worked diligently to strengthen our election infrastructure, helping to shore up vulnerabilities and build trust between State and Federal Governments.

Govt officials outnumber politicians

FROM PAGE 12

Reporters Unity (DRU) in the capital.

He said many government officials have houses in Toronto and their children are studying there.

Such a situation is not only there in Canada, but also in Malaysia, he added.

Momen said it is difficult to get information. He said what they see in media reports on siphoning off thousands of crores of taka are not fully true considering the figure.

Some foreign countries were also responsible to some extent in this regard, he said, adding that Switzerland does not give the government information on who is depositing money in their banks.

DRU President Rafiqul Islam Azad and General Secretary Reaz Chowdhury also spoke at the programme.

Islami Bank **Bangladesh Limited** ed on Islamic Shari'ah

OPERATIONS WING COMMON SERVICES DIVISION HEAD OFFICE

20 DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA-1000

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from experienced and reputed suppliers for the works of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 500 sets Close Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) with 04 Ch. DVR, 02/03 Cameras and 4/6TB HDD with all other accessories (all complete) for proposed 500 ATM/CRM Booths of the Bank throughout the country under the following terms and conditions:

The intending Bidders have to apply in their letter head pad for purchasing Tender Document. Tender Schedule will be issued on payment of Tk.5,000/-(Five thousand) only in cash (non refundable) from November 22, 2020 to December 1, 2020 only. Tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned up to 2.00 PM on December 2, 2020 and only the Technical Offers will be opened on the same date at 2:10 PM in presence of Tenderers or their representative(s) who may like to attend at the time of tender opening. Detailed information regarding purchasing of Tender Document is available in the Tender Notice at Bank's website www.islamibankbd.com or in the form of hard copy at the office of the undersigned.

Executive Vice President

TENDER NOTICE

Ref: NGOF/AAR Japan/Phase III/Cox's/ITB/2020-02

NGO Forum for Public Health has undertaken a project named "WaSH & Protection Services for the Vulnerable Communities in Teknaf at Cox's Bazar" funded by AAR Japan. NGOF Cox's Bazar Project Office Invites open tender for "Maintenance & Repair of School Latrine in Teknaf at Cox's Bazar".

The interested and bona fide contractors/firms are invited to collect ITB from Cox's Bazar Project Office, Flat#A4 (1st Floor), Plot#71, Sayeman pink pearl, Block-A, Hotel-Motel Zone, Kolatoli Road, Cox's Bazar and Quotation to be submitted in same address as per the following schedule:

ITB Collection	Bid submission last date
22nd to 26th November'2020	26th November'2020 by
by 10:00am	before 2:00pm

The trade license enclosure must be shown at the time of receiving the ITB.

Note: Hard copy of bids with proper document in sealed envelopes only will be accepted.



INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh, is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in the following Tender as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per Terms and Conditions stated below:

1. Purchasing Windows, Red Hat Linux and Anti-Virus Licenses for different Servers located at Data Center of Pubali Bank Limited.

Please visit https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp for more details. Interested Parties may purchase Tender documents by 01 December 2020 duly fulfilling all other requirements.

(Md. Helal Uddin) GM & Division Head

ICT OPERATION DIVISION Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

Eastern Refinery Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation) North Patenga, Post Box No. 35 Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh

Date: November 18, 2020

Extension of Tender Closing Date (Tender Package No. ER/I&C/ATG/01/2020)

This notification is in continuation of the tender floated on September 22, 2020 for "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Auto Gauging System of 37 Tanks at Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL)" (Invitation Ref. No. 28.25.0000.027.07.001.20; Tender Package No. ER/I&C/ATG/01/2020). The Tender Closing Date and Time was November 23, 2020 at BST 15.00 hrs. However, due to the request for extension of tender closing date by most of the bidders, the Closing Date and Time has been extended to December 09, 2020 at BST 15.00 hrs. New Tender Last Selling Date will be on December 08, 2020 and Tender Opening Date and Time will be on December 09, 2020 at BST 15.15 hrs. All other information regarding the tender will remain unchanged. GD-1843

hike in deaths from the novel coronavirus Schoolgirl FROM PAGE 12 home from her tutor's

house All of a sudden, Mashiur

intercepted her way and forcibly took her to a roadside bamboo bush in the foggy morning and raped her, the OC said,

quoting the girl. As she kept screaming, some locals rescued her, but the alleged rapist managed to flee. She was later sent to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital for medical

examinations, he added. Her father filed a rape case against Mashiur with Kaliganj Police Station. Talking to The Daily

Star, he demanded capital punishment for the accused. "Police are conducting

drives to arrest Mashiur," said the OC.



ইস্টার্ণ রিফাইনারী

COUNTRY Drug addict Two years into building, nursing institute not opened

A housewife was killed by

her drug addicted husband allegedly for money in Joypurhat Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

kills wife

for money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpu

Being informed by the villagers, police recovered the body of Monika Rani Mohanta, 26, wife of Anukul Chandra Mohanta of Belamla village, and sent it to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for autopsy.

Culprit Anukul, however, fled the house with his five-year-old son, keeping Monika's body lying on the floor.

Locals said Anukul, a carpenter and son of Horen Chandra, often used to torture his wife for money since their marriage about eight years ago.

On Tuesday night, Anukul demanded money from Monika to buy drugs, but as she refused to give the money he beat her mercilessly and strangled her to death before fleeing the scene.

Villagers spotted Monika's body yesterday morning and informed the police.

Ahmed Humayun Kabir Topu, Pabna

Two years into construction of a nursing institute in the district town, it is yet to become operational, thanks to the negligence of the authorities concerned. The Public Works Department (PWD) is

not handing over the three-storey building due to lack of power and water supply, sources said.

The health ministry and Diabetic Association of Bangladesh in 2013 took a joint project to build the 200-seated nursing institute at a cost of Tk 17. 97 crore. It is a public private partnership (PPP) project.

The government has funded Tk 14.29 crore while the rest of the amount was funded by Pabna Diabetic Association for construction of the nursing institute.

It was scheduled to complete construction work of the three-storey building in 2018. It ended in December the same year.

On January 15 in 2014, the Public Works Department issued work order to the contractor for construction of the nursing institute in Pabna Diabetic Association. Later, Zinnat Ali Zinna construction firm

got the work order. According to the district health department and Pabna Diabetic Association, although construction of the nursing institute was completed in 2018, the building is still awaiting its

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়



The nursing institute in Pabna town is yet to be opened, two years into building.

finishing touch. So, the institute is yet to ended within the scheduled time but the newly-constructed building to Pabna be opened.

Construction of the three-storey building the last two years as the finishing touches said.

on the building are yet to be completed, said Md Baby Islam, president of Pabna Diabetic Association.

City

As electric and power supply lines to the building are yet to be connected, the PWD cannot hand over it, he said.

Meanwhile, the colour and decoration of the newly-built building are being damaged due to lack of maintenance, Baby Islam said.

The PWD has extended the time for the project till June, 2019 but they did not complete the work within the time. Later, the deadline for completion of the construction work was extended till June this year but one percent of the finishing touches on the building is yet to be completed.

Due to the negligence of the authority, the nursing institute is yet to become operational, said Baby Islam, adding that recently, a letter has been sent to the ministry of health, letting it know about the slow progress of the construction work.

Pabna PWD Executive Engineer Anwarul Azim said the work of electrical wearing and water supply to the building is yet to be completed. They are expecting to finish the work very soon.

PHOTO: **STAR**

They are expecting to hand over the PWD did not hand over the building in Diabetic Association within this year, he

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat The body of a 17-day-old girl child, who was stolen from her house allegedly by one of her neighbours early Monday, was found floating

dead

Missing

baby found

in a pond in Morelganj upazila of the district yesterday. The victim, Sohana Akhter, was daughter of

The Daily Star | 5

Sujan Khan of Gabtala village in the upazila. Local people found

Sanjida's body floating in a pond nearby her house in the morning and informed the police, Officer in Charge (OC) of Morelganj Police Station Mohammad Monirul Islam said, adding that they recovered the body and sent it to the hospital for autopsy

Earlier, after having their meal on Sunday night the girl's parents went to sleep with the baby.

They woke up early Monday and found the baby girl missing from the bed.

Sujan alleged that his daughter might have been abducted and killed as a sequel to a conflict over land disputes with his neighbours.

Volunteers step in to end misery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Over the last four years, the Local Government Engineering (LGED) Department officials visited the two-kilometre dirt road -- in Shukurullahgaon village of Kamalganj upazila -- and took measurements three times, but did not repair it.

Fed up, the villagers finally took matters in their own hands and straightened out the road that is used daily by thousands in 10 villages of two neighbouring unions.

During a visit on November 14, at least 30 volunteers from Shukurullahgaon village were seen mending the road with whatever tools they had available. Some were bringing in dirt, while others were packing the dirt into large and small potholes that surfaced all over the road.

Sanjeeb Das, a retired teacher from the village said, thousands of residents



ঢাকা বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর: ১৫৪/২০২০ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যভুক্ত রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এ নিমুবর্ণিত সংখ্যক শূন্য পদসমূহ প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে পূরণের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে Online এ দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ ক্রমিক শিরোনাম বিববণ সিনিয়র অফিসার (অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট নেটওয়ার্ক ইঞ্জিনিয়ার) (২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক) পদের নাম ۵. 10110 যা আবেদন ফি প্রদানের সময় নির্ধারিত স্থানে ব্যবহার করতে হবে। ভুল Job ID No ব্যবহারপূর্বক ফি २. Job ID No জমা দিলে আবেদন সম্পন্ন হবে না এবং কোনোক্রমেই সিস্টেম হতে জমাকত টাকা ফেরত পাওয়া যাবে না। ৩. পদ সংখ্যা জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ এর টাকা ২২০০০-২৩১০০-২৪২৬০... ... -৪৮১২০-৫০৫৩০-৫৩০৬০ স্কেল এবং বেতন স্কেল 8 তৎসহ নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা। যে কোন বিষয়ে ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স বিষয়ে স্নাতক শিক্ষাগত ¢. যোগ্যতা ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন পর্যায়েই ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। প্লেডিং পদ্ধতিতে প্রকাশিত ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৬/২০০৯ ও ০২/০৩/২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/৫-১(অংশ)/৫৮২ এবং শিম/শাঃ১১/১৯-১/২০০৭/১৭৪ অনুযায়ী বর্তমান প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ক্ষেত্রমত, সিজিপিএ এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম ও ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হবেঃ (১) এস.এস.সি বা সমমান এবং এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে-জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব প্রথম বিভাগ জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ

(২) অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত সিজিপিএ এর ক্ষেত্রে-অৰ্জিত সিজিপিএ সমতুল্য শ্রেলি/বিভাগ ৪.০০ পয়েন্ট কেলে ৫.০০ পয়েন্ট ক্ষেলে প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণি ৩.০০ বা তদৃধ্ ৩.৭৫ বা তদৃধ্ব ২.২৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম ২.৮১৩ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি প্রার্থীকে Aptitude Test এবং প্রোম্রামিংসহ ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উস্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। ঙ) কোন স্বীকৃত পেশাদার (Professional) কম্পিউটার সোসাইটির সহযোগী সদস্য হতে হবে। বয়স (০১/০৭/২০১৯ তারিখে) : ক) মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থী ব্যতীত সকল প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর । খ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর।

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় ০২ অগ্রহায়ণ, ১৪২৭ ১৭ নভেম্বর,২০২০

- আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও ফি প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় :০২/১২/২০২০ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।
- Tracking Page সংগ্রহের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় :০৬/১২/২০২০ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা। ь.
- আবেদন ফি এর পরিমাণ: পরীক্ষার ফি অফেরতযোগ্য টা. ২০০/-(টাকা দুইশত মাত্র) যা ডাচ বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর ລ.
 - Payment Gateway 'রকেট' এর মাধ্যমে প্রদান করতে হবে
- ১০. আবেদন পদ্ধতি:
 - Online Application Form: শুধুমাত্র বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd) -এর Online Application Form পুরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে Online এ আবেদন দাখিলের সময় ফরম পুরণ করার নিয়ম ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী ওয়েবসাইটেই পাওয়া যাবে।
 - প্রার্থীর বিবরণ: প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম এসএসসি অথবা সমমানের সনদে যেভাবে লেখা আছে Online আবেদনে ঠিক সেভাবে লিখতে হবে।
 - প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা: প্রার্থীর ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌরসভার মেয়র/ ওয়ার্ড কাউপিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত জাতীয়তা সনদে উল্লিখিত স্থায়ী ঠিকানা প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হিসেবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। তবে অবিবাহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন দাখিলের পরে বিবাহবদ্ধনে আবদ্ধ হলে যথাযথ প্রমাণ সাপেক্ষে স্বামীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানার অনুকূলে নিজের স্থায়ী ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন করতে পারবেন।
 - ছবি (Photo): বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে ইতঃপূর্বে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীগণ বিদ্যমান ছবি ব্যবহার করে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে নতুন প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত স্থানে 600x600 pixel এর কম বা বেশী নয় এবং file size 100 KB এর বেশী নয় এরূপ মাপের অনধিক তিন মাস পূর্বে তোলা রন্ডিন ছবি (সাদা ব্যাক্ণ্ণাউন্ড সম্বলিত) scan করে আপলোড করতে হবে। ছবি তোলার সময় মুখ ও কানের উপর আবরণ রাখা যাবে না। সাদাকালো ছবি এবং Informal ছবি **গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না**।
 - স্বাক্ষর (Signature): Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত স্থানে 300x80 pixel এর কম বা বেশী নয় এবং file size 60 KB এর বেশী নয় এরূপ মাপের প্রার্থীর নিজের স্বাক্ষর scan করে আপলোড করতে হবে। আপলোডকৃত প্রার্থীর স্বাক্ষর অবশ্যই সাদা কাগজের উপর কালো কালিতে প্রদত্ত হতে হবে।
 - অর্জিত ডিগ্রীর ফলাফলের তারিখ: Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত ঘরে পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত সংশ্লিষ্ট ডিগ্রীর ফলাফল প্রকাশের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
 - বিদেশী ডিম্মীধারী প্রার্থী: প্রার্থী 'O' Level ও 'A' Level পাশ হলে দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) এবং বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ডিগ্রী প্রাপ্ত হলে দেশীয় সংখ্লিষ্ট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন/শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রী ও ফলাফলের (শ্রেণি/ বিভাগ/জিপিএ/সিজিপিএ উল্লেখসহ) তথ্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় চেকিং বোর্ডে অবশ্যই উপস্থাপন করতে হবে। অন্যথায় মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
 - CV ID No. গ্রহণ: বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে ইতঃপূর্বে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীদের বিদ্যমান CV ID No. এবং Password ব্যবহার করে Online Application Form পূরণ করতে হবে। নতুন আবেদনকারীগণ ওয়েবসাইট (https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd) এর মাধ্যমে Online Application Form এর প্রয়োজনীয় ঘরগুলো পূরণ করলে একটি CV ID No. এবং Password প্রাণ্ড হবেন। প্রাণ্ড CV ID No. এর ১ম অংশ হিাইফেনের(-) পূর্বের অংশ] আবেদন ফি প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে ব্যবহৃত হবে ।
 - আবেদন ফি প্রদান পদ্ধতি: আবেদন ফি জমা দেয়ার পদ্ধতি সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত জানতে <u>https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd/onlineapp/rocketpreepay.pdf</u> ওয়েবসাইটটি ভিজিট করতে হবে। Prepaid পদ্ধতিতে একজন আবেদনকারী এজেন্ট অথবা নিজের একাউন্ট এর মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত Job ID No এবং প্রার্থীর CV ID No. এর ১ম অংশ [হাইফেনের(-) পূর্বের অংশ] এর বিপরীতে আবেদন ফি প্রদান করবেন। আবেদন ফি প্রদান করলে প্রার্থী জমাকৃত ফি এর বিপরীতে একটি Txn ID নমর পাবেন।
 - Tracking Page সংগ্রহ: ফি প্রদানের পর বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইটে সংরক্ষিত প্রার্থীর Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত ঘরে Txn ID নম্বরটি বসালে ফি প্রদানের verification সাপেক্ষে তাঁকে একটি Tracking ID No. প্রদান করা হবে। Tracking ID No. প্রাপ্ত হলেই প্রার্থীর আবেদন যথাযথভাবে সম্পন্ন হয়েছে বলে বিবেচিত হবে। Tracking ID No. সম্বলিত Tracking Page টি ভবিষ্যতে ব্যবহারের জন্য প্রিন্ট করে যথাযথভাবে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। কোনো অবস্থাতেই Tracking Page এর Duplicate Copy সরবরাহ করা হবে না।

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্যঃ শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও নির্ধারিত ফি প্রদান করতঃ Tracking Page টি হার্ডকপি আকারে সংরক্ষণ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

- ১১. Online Application Form এ প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী জেলা, জন্ম তারিখ, ছবি, স্বাক্ষরসহ অন্যান্য তথ্য অত্যন্ত সতর্কতার সাথে নির্ভুলভাবে নিজে পূরণ করতে হবে। Online Application Form এ প্রদন্ত সার্বিক তথ্য, ছবি, স্বাক্ষর ইত্যাদি verification সাপেক্ষে প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের নির্বাচন করা হবে।
- ১২. প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র ও নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষার তারিখ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি যথাসময়ে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট ও দৈনিক জাতীয় পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ করা হবে। উল্লেখ্য, প্রাথীদের অবহিতকরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের পক্ষ হতে এসএমএস/ই-মেইল/ফোন/পত্র প্রেরণ বা অন্য কোনো মাধ্যমে কোনো প্রকার যোগাযোগ করা হবে না।
- ১৩. প্রার্থীদেরকে নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীদেরকে Online আবেদনের সময় কোনো কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণকে অনলাইন আবেদনে 38. প্রদন্ত প্রতিটি তথ্যের স্বপক্ষে যথাযথ সনদ/প্রত্যয়নপত্র মৌথিক পরীক্ষার দিন জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। Online Application Form এ প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত তথ্যের সঠিকতা যাচাইয়ান্তে কোনো substantive ত্রুটি ধরা পড়লে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশ্চাহলের সুযোগ থাকবে না। তাছাড়া, মৌখিক পরীক্ষা শেষে প্যানেল প্রস্তুতিকালে কোনো প্রকার ক্রটি পরিলক্ষিত হলেও প্রার্থীকে প্যানেলভুক্ত করা হবে না ৷
- ১৫. চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীগণ তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বানুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার দিন উক্ত অনুমোদনের কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সংক্রান্ত সরকারী সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা ও অন্যান্য বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগ প্রদান করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। Σ٩.

স্বাক্ষরিত/= ডিসিপি: ৪৮/২০২০-৩৩৩৫ (আরিফ হোসেন খান) ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা তারিখ: ১৮/১১/২০২০ মহাব্যবস্থাপক ও সদস্য সচিব কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন। ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি GD-1846

in Adampur and Madhabpur unions have been suffering immensely as the Ghoramara-Shukurullahgaon road had been left unmaintained for four years.

The road was supposed to be paved a long while ago, but that did not happen either, he said frustratingly.

The impassable road not only became risky for children and the elderly, but it also had been affecting the local economy, said a number of villagers whose livelihoods mainly depend on agriculture.

Without a proper road, the farmers in the villages had been counting losses as they could not ensure timely delivery of their agricultural goods and produce to nearby markets, they added.

The makeshift repair work on the dirt road will last only till the next monsoon and the authorities should take immediate steps to pave it before the monsoon arrives, the villagers

He was in hospital, still made accused

buses on November 12, 16 cases were

filed against more than 500 identified

leaders and activists of BNP, its affiliate

torched by the accused at the directive

of their central leaders with an aim to

foil the Dhaka-18 by-polls held that

murder by torching buses, sabotage

Police are yet to arrest anyone directly

They have, however, arrested around

The arrestees were quizzed on

A CCTV video clip found after an

arson attack showed two young men

throwing something inside a parked

bus at Paltan causing a fire inside the

The duo fled the scene quickly.

vehicle in the blink of an eye.

50 people, mostly BNP and its front

remand but police could not glean any

information about the real arsonists,

attempt, exploding bombs,

involved in the torching of buses.

organisations' leaders and activists.

ARSONISTS STILL AT LARGE

possessing explosives

sources said

The charges include attempted

Police claimed that the buses were

bodies, and unidentified others.

demanded.

work by ourselves.

villager Anil Singha.

Dhaka to seek bail.

day.

FROM PAGE 1

He said he had been getting treatment from LabAid since then but he had to get admitted on November 10 as his condition deteriorated due to bloodrelated problems.

"I was astonished to see my name in the bus-torching case. How could I torch a bus when I am so sick and having treatment in a hospital," Zakir, a resident of city's Malibagh area, said over phone.

Asked about Zakir's claim of being in hospital during the incident, SI Shaheen Mia of Paltan Police Station, who filed one of the 16 cases, said he will not talk about the matter then.

Zakir is not the only one though. Nazmul Alam Nazu, Rangpur district Jubo Dal president and joint general secretary of Jubo Dal central committee, claimed that he was also falsely accused.

He said he had a bypass surgery at a hospital in Dhaka on October 13 and had been on bed rest, as prescribed by doctors.

"I am on three months' complete bed rest as per doctor's suggestion after the surgery. Yet, I have been made an accused in a bus torching case filed with Motijheel police," he said over the phone.

Nazmul said he left Dhaka for

A few of the villagers, young and old, who joined hands to repair the two-kilometre-long dirt road in Shukurullahgaon village of Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila. PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

road.

One of the volunteers, Miraj Miah,

the authorities broken over the years,

"we decided to carry out the repair

a major cause for concern and we

had our hopes up when the local UP

chairman visited our area. But they

broke all their promises too," said

Madhabpur Union Parishad (UP),

said after they informed LGED

officials in Moulvibazar about the

poor condition of the road, they

came and took measurements of it

three times over the past four years,

Babul Kumar Singh, a member of

"The dilapidated road has been

UP Chairman Pushpa Kumar Kanu said after seeing promises made by said they asked the authorities to pave Ghoramara-Shukurullahgaon the road as well as other rundown roads in the union, but necessary funding was not available for the task.

> When contacted, Deputy Assistant Engineer Mamun Bhuiyan of LGED in Kamalganj upazila said the Ghoramara-Shukurullahgaon road is the most important road in Adampur and Madhabpur unions.

Praising the villagers' efforts, he also said under a project proposal sent to the ministry, they included the name of the road in a list of roads that need to be repaired the upazila. but sufficient fund was yet to be but did not take any step to pave the available for it, he added.

Rangpur on November 14 in an Paltan police and different other ambulance and could not return to intelligence agencies have been

scrutinising the video to identify them. He has been accused in two cases. "We have been trying to identify Following the arson attacks on nine

the arsonists from the footage, but are yet to succeed," Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge (OC) of Paltan Police Station said yesterday.

A top official of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, however, said they have already identified the two in the video and drives were on to arrest them.

OC Abu Bakar said they arrested 11 people in the case filed with his police station and have quizzed some of them on remand. They were yet to get any information on the arsonists, he said, adding that they were hopeful getting information soon.

This newspaper also talked to the OCs of city's Uttara Purba, Airport, Bangshal, and Bhatara police stations. They too said they were yet to arrest anyone who was directly involved in setting the buses on fire.

Bangshal OC Shaheen Fakir on Tuesday said they arrested 16 people in a case filed over an arson attack on a bus. Some of the accused had been interrogated on remand, he added.

"We have gleaned some information but cannot disclose those as the investigation is going on," he said.

Israel air strikes hit Iran targets in Syria 10 killed; Tehran to return to

nuke deal if sanctions lifted

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli warplanes struck Syria yesterday, hitting Iranian targets and killing 10 Syrian and foreign fighters in what the Israeli army called a retaliatory attack after explosive devices were found near one of its bases on the occupied Golan Heights.

The air strikes came hours before US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was to land in Israel for talks including on Iran, in what was likely to be his last visit to the staunch American ally before President Donald Trump leaves office.

An Israeli army statement said its fighter jets had overnight hit eight "military targets belonging to the Iranian Quds Force and the Syrian armed forces". The elite Quds Force is the main foreign operations arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

The targets included "storage facilities, headquarters and military compounds" as well as "Syrian surface-to-air missile batteries," it said.

Syrian state news agency SANA said the strikes had killed three of its soldiers and wounded another. The monitoring group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 10 people were killed, including foreign fighters as well as Syrian soldiers.

Israel has carried out hundreds of air and missile strikes on Syria since civil war broke out there in 2011, targeting Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah forces as well as government troops.

Meanwhile, Iran yesterday said it would will "automatically" return to its nuclear commitments if US President-elect Joe Biden lifts sanctions imposed over the past two years.

Tehran's return to its commitments "can be done automatically and needs no conditions or even negotiations," Mohammad Javad Zarif said in comments published in the state-run Iran daily.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian Authority to restoring Israel coordination

The Palestinian Authority said Tuesday it will restore coordination with Israel, ending a six-month suspension. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas had announced a halt to coordination with Israel, including US-backed security cooperation, in May in response to Israeli plans to annex parts of the West Bank. "In the light of Mahmud Abbas's international contacts... and given the written and verbal commitments we have received from the Israelis, we will resume relations where they were before May 19, 2020," Hussein al-Sheikh, the PA's civil affairs minister, said late Tuesday. But Hamas, the Islamist group which runs the Gaza Strip, condemned the PA's lifting of the suspension. It said the move was a "stab in the back" for reconciliation efforts between the group and Abbas' West Bank-based administration, adding that Biden "would not" end Israel's half-century-old occupation of Palestinian territory.

Iraq, Saudi reopen border crossing after 30 years

Iraq and Saudi Arabia yesterday reopened their Arar desert crossing, a long-awaited sign of closer trade ties after 30 years of sealed land borders between the two countries. Top officials including Iraq's interior minister and the head of its border commission travelled from Baghdad to

INTERNATIONAL



A general view of a protest against the government's coronavirus disease (Covid-19) restrictions, while police use water cannons, near the Reichstag, the seat of Germany's lower house of parliament Bundestag, in Berlin, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

US to slash troop levels in Iraq, Afghanistan

AFP, Washington

The US will slash troop levels in Afghanistan and Iraq to their lowest levels in nearly 20 years of war after President Donald Trump pledged to end conflicts abroad, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

Rejecting concerns that precipitous drawdowns could give up all the US has fought for, Acting Defense Secretary Chris Miller said around 2,000 troops would be pulled from Afghanistan by January 15.

Five hundred more would come back from Iraq by the same date, leaving 2,500 in each country.

The moves reflect Trump's policy "to bring the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to a successful and responsible conclusion and to bring our brave service members home," Miller said.

Miller said the US had met its goals, set in 2001 after the al-Qaeda attacks on the United States, to defeat Islamist extremists and to help "local partners and allies to take the lead in the fight."

"With the blessings of providence in the coming year, we will finish this generational war and bring our men and women home," he said.

The moves took the United States closer to disengaging from conflicts that have blazed and smouldered through three presidencies with no end in sight since 2001.

But critics said they risk appearing like a humiliating defeat, leaving the original threat of Islamic extremist attacks intact.

The announcement came just weeks before Trump cedes the White House in the wake of his November 3 reelection loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Amid criticism that Trump was acting abruptly since his defeat, White House National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said the troop cuts have been in the works for some time.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON US ELECTION DISINFORMATION 'Seems you're the ultimate editor' *Twitter, Facebook CEO's face tough questions as lawmakers*

seek to curb social media's 'mafia like' powers

AFP, Washington

Facebook and Twitter defended their handling of US election misinformation at a heated congressional hearing Tuesday where one key senator assailed the platforms for being the "ultimate editor" of political news.

The hearing, the second in less than a month, came with social media under fire from both the left and the right for their handling of political content during a bitter US presidential campaign.

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg and Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey testified remotely to the session, which was called to discuss "censorship and suppression of news articles" and the "handling of the 2020 election" by the platforms.

"It seems like you're the ultimate editor," Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, chairing the Judiciary

both platforms to limit the or traditional media. distribution of a New York Post article Joe Biden during the campaign.

"When you have companies that have the power of governments (and) have far more power than traditional media outlets, something has to give." Graham said the law known as

Section 230 that gives immunity to online services for content posted by others "needs to be changed."

Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal also called for reform of Section 230 while rebuking the companies for what he said was inadequate action against political misinformation by President Donald Trump

Both Dorsey and Zuckerberg said they were open to reform on Section the integrity of the voting process.

Trump lost because of 'rigged' polls Say half of Republicans

REUTERS

About half of all Republicans believe President Donald Trump "rightfully won" the US election but that it was stolen from him by widespread voter fraud that favored Democratic President-elect Joe Biden, according to a new Reuters/ Ipsos opinion poll.

The Nov 13-17 opinion poll showed that Trump's open defiance of Biden's victory appears to be affecting the public's confidence in American public's democracy, especially among Republicans. Altogether, 73% of those polled agreed that Biden won the election while 5% thought Trump won. But when asked specifically whether Biden had "rightfully won," Republicans showed they were suspicious about how Biden won. Fifty-two percent of Republicans said that Trump "rightfully won," while only 29% said that Biden had rightfully won.

68% of Republicans said they were concerned that the election was "rigged.

Committee hearing, said at the 230 but cautioned that the platforms opening as he took aim at decisions should not be treated as "publishers"

Both CEOs defended their efforts to claiming to expose malfeasance curb harmful misinformation during involving the son of President-elect the election campaign.

Zuckerberg said Facebook removed false claims about polling conditions and displayed warnings on more than 150 million pieces of content flagged by independent fact-checkers.

Both CEOs said they would study the spread of election misinformation while allowing independent academics to carry out similar research.

Dorsey meanwhile said filtering at Twitter was not a result of bias, despite claims to the contrary by conservatives.

Both platforms have begun limiting the reach of many of Trump's tweets, notably those in which the president rejected his election defeat or questioned

formally open Arar, where a line of cargo trucks stood waiting. The Saudi ambassador to Iraq was also in attendance and a delegation from Riyadh was to open the Saudi side of the border. Arar will be open to both goods and people for the first time since Riyadh cut off its diplomatic relationship with Baghdad in 1990, following Iraqi ex-dictator Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.

Ethiopia civil war: Both sides claim big wins

Both sides in Ethiopia's raging internal conflict claimed military successes yesterday, creating a muddied picture of fighting even as the government promised it would soon be over. Prime Minister Abiv Ahmed, last year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, announced the military campaign in Tigray on November 4, saying it was in response to Tigray region's local forces' attacks on federal military camps. Tigrayan leader Debretsion Gebremichael said his forces are battering the federal forces, while Ethiopia army chief Berhanu Jula said in a statement that army was "winning on all fronts". "The TPLF's plan to drag Ethiopia into civil war and tear it apart has failed," Berhanu said. Abiy has resisted international pressure to bring about a cessation of hostilities.

Thai protesters rally after violent clashes

AFP, Bangkok

Thousands of democracy activists marched on Thailand's police headquarters in downtown Bangkok yesterday, a day after six people were shot during violent clashes.

The kingdom has been rocked by months of protests demanding changes to the constitution, the removal of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha -- and even changes to the untouchable monarchy.

Protesters -- numbering more than 10,000 according to an AFP estimate -- packed the Ratchaprasong intersection in the heart of Bangkok's shopping and commercial district, after their leaders vowed to step up the movement.

After daubing anti-royal slogans on walls and the ground they marched on the heavily-defended national police headquarters.

Some protesters threw glass bottles and paint bombs over the walls of police HO, which was barricaded with dumper trucks, concrete blocks and razor wire, while others used water pistols to hurl paint inside the compound.

Wednesday's protest came a day after the most violent confrontations since the democracy movement began in July, as police used tear gas and irritant-laced water cannon on protesters trying to reach parliament, and democracy activists clashed with royalists. More than 50 people were injured, six of them with gunshot wounds, according to medical officials, though it is not clear who was responsible for the shooting.



Demonstrators show the three-fingered salute during a rally in Bangkok, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

UK to ban petrol, diesel cars from 2030

AFP, London

Britain will ban petrol and diesel vehicle sales from 2030 as part of a 10-point plan for a "green industrial revolution" to be unveiled yesterday by Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The British premier has earmarked £12 billion (13.4 billion euros, \$15.9 billion) for the wideranging plans, which he hopes will secure up to 250,000 jobs and help meet a target for the UK to become carbon neutral by 2050.

The proposals include quadrupling offshore wind power within a decade while scaling up hydrogen production capacity for industry, transport, power and homes.

Investment will also be made in zero-emission public transport, alongside research into zeroemission planes and ships, and in making cycling and walking "more attractive".

The plans contain broader aims

to make Britain a "world-leader" in carbon capture technology and the City of London a "global centre of green finance".

The 2030 ban on petrol and diesel cars and vans follows what



Downing Street called "extensive consultation with car manufacturers and sellers'

Johnson had said in February his government would aim to end such sales by 2035, but will now only allow the sale of hybrid vehicles until that year.

Under the new plans, it will invest £1.3 billion on expanding electric vehicle chargepoints in

homes and streets across England, and make £582 million available in grants for people to buy zero or ultra-low emission vehicles.

Meanwhile nearly £500 million will be spent in the next four years on the development and production

of electric vehicle batteries. Under proposals to reduce carbon-emitting gas usage, another £500 million is earmarked to trial using hydrogen in homes for heating and cooking.

The government is aiming to build a so-called "Hydrogen Neighbourhood" within three years, a "Hydrogen Village" by 2025, and a town of tens of thousands of homes using the gas by the end of the decade.

It is also set to invest £1 billion in a grant scheme launched in September, and now to be extended for a year, to make homes and public buildings more energy efficient.

4b overweight people by 2050! AFP, Paris

More than four billion people could be overweight by 2050, with 1.5 billion of them obese, if the current global dietary trend towards processed foods continues, a first-of-its-kind study predicted yesterday.

Warning of a health and environmental crisis of "mind-blowing magnitude", experts from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) said that global food demand would leap 50 percent by mid-century, pushing past Earth's capacity to sustain nature.

Food production already hoovers up three-quarters of the world's fresh water and one-third of its land -- and accounts for up to a third of greenhouse gas emissions.

Providing a long-term overview of changing global eating habits between 1965 and 2100, the researchers used an open-source model to forecast how food demand would respond to a variety of factors such as population growth, ageing, growing body masses, declining physical activity and increased food waste.

They found that "business as usual" - a continuation of current trends -- will likely see more than four billion people, or 45 percent of the world's population,

overweight by 2050.

The model predicted that 16 percent would be obese, compared with nine percent currently among the 29 percent of the population who are overweight.

The increasing waste of food and the rising consumption of animal protein mean that the environmental impact of our agricultural system will spiral out of control," said Benjamin Bodirsky, lead author of the study published in Nature Scientific Reports.

"Whether greenhouse gasses, nitrogen pollution or deforestation: we are pushing the limits of our planet -- and exceeding them.'

The study found that as a result of increasing inequality along with food waste and loss -- food that is produced but not consumed due to lack of storage or overbuying -- around half a billion people will still be undernourished by mid-century.

There is enough food in the world -- the problem is that the poorest people on our planet have simply not the income to purchase it," said co-author Prajal Pradhan. "And in rich countries, people don't feel the economic and environmental consequences of wasting food."

to Netanyahu, Modi

AFP, Washington

President-elect US Ioe Biden on Tuesday held his first talks since his victory with the prime ministers of Israel and India, allies of Donald Trump who has not conceded defeat.

Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who had notoriously rocky relationship with the last Democratic president, Barack Obama, that he was determined "to ensure that the US-Israel relationship is strengthened and enjoys strong bipartisan support."

Biden "reiterated his steadfast support for Israel's security and its future as a Jewish and democratic state," the president-elect's office said in a statement.

The office of Netanyahu, who had vigorously the 2009challenged Obama-Biden 2017 administration over its diplomacy with Iran and push for Palestinian rights, said he had a "warm" conversation with the president-elect.

Biden separately voiced optimism about working with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had heaped praise on Trump.

India enjoys support across party lines in Washington but Democratic lawmakers have increasingly voiced concern about human rights under the Hindu nationalist Modi, including his championing of a controversial citizenship law and revocation of autonomy in Muslimmajority Kashmir.

Biden said he hoped to cooperate with Modi on common challenges including the Covid pandemic, regional security, climate change and, in a delicate choice of words, on strengthening democracy at home and abroad."

BOOKS

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION Reclaiming Historical Spaces through Fiction

With a touch of whimsy, 'The Adventures of China Iron' rewrites a historical narrative and renders spaces inclusive.

ISHRAT JAHAN

The Adventures of China Iron by Gabriela Cabezón Cámara (Charco Press, 2019) begins in the poor encampments of a village in 19th century Argentina, with the protagonist marvelling at the hope and light she finds in the sight of a puppy playing in some dirt.

The 14-year-old narrator does not have a name; she answers to "La China"—pronounced Chee-na—a Quechua word that translates to "someone's woman." As an orphan China was raised by abusive parents in the slums. They eventually sold her off to one Martin Fierro with whom she bore two children. After her husband is (forcefully) conscripted by the Argentinian Army, China is left alone to navigate a life for herself. She discovers joy and freedom in this solitude, an experience that others around her perceive as misfortune.

As she settles into the novelty of her freedom, China meets Elizabeth, a Scottish woman left alone in their village because her husband, too, was mistakenly picked up by the Army. Liz shares that she will be journeying in search of him far into the frontier and indigenous territory. China sets off with her on impulse, taking along the puppy whom she has lovingly named Estreya (translating to "The Star"). It is Liz who first gives La China the dignity of a name, La China Josefina Fierro: China Josephine Iron. And together they set off across the Argentinian pampas, juxtaposed against a nation being adopted into the British colonial project.

China narrates her story in three parts and one can sense her voice mature as she learns about herself and the world. Her narration is conversational, with a childlike sense of wonder both for the beautiful skies and grasslands, as well as the unforgiving landscapes "pearled with bones" across the pampas. "No longer flat, it heaved with grain, tents, Indians on the move, white women escaping from captivity, horses swimming with their gaucho riders still astride, while all around the dorado fish darted like lightning into the depths, into the middle of the bursting river. It didn't seem real to witness such a thing, to see the whole world being dragged along, slowly spiralling, muddy and dizzying, a hundred leagues away to the sea," she writes.

First published in Spanish in 2017, the book was translated into English by Fiona Mackintosh and Iona Macintyre in 2019, shortlisted for the International Man Booker Prize 2020. This translation does the characters and their voices justice, weaving in local terms to stay true to the original and providing sufficient guidance for a reader unfamiliar with Spanish. China's voice—and Camara's skill as a writer—are strongest when speaking of brutal and systemic injustices through ordinary events of their excursion. An example of this is how the British Empire's nation building ideologies

Gabriela Cabezón Cámara The Adventures of China Iron

Translated by Fiona Mackintosh & Iona Macintyre



overshadow Liz's budding relation with her. Liz speaks of the wonders which Britain has discovered: tea illustrates India, whisky, her native land; French craftsmanship in skill petticoats and gowns; Chinese paddy field and its curly roofed pagodas. Liz populates China's perspective with her own, in which the British Empire is at the top (quite literally, in her notion of the world map), controlling and navigating the fates of far off countries. While China is enraptured in her evolving feelings for Liz, she questions, albeit naively, the notion that the glorious Argentinian pampas should form the dull bottom half of that world.

Through this story, Cámara upends the epic tales of Argentinian resistance, which were predominantly narrated through the male gaze of "macho men corralling with the natives and cultivating the vast grasslands." China's story is placed on top of José Hernández's 1872 epic poem "El Gaucho Martín Fierro" (The Gaucho Martin Iron), which carries heavy national significance in Argentina, having established gauchos—skilled brave horsemen who roamed the peripheries of Argentinian and Uruguayan land and law-as a symbol for the fight against corruption and pro-European sympathies. But Cámara does more than draw inspiration. She reinvents the classic tale. From the margins of El Gaucho's single-voiced narrative, she brings to centre stage the wives left behind and the

DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

indigenous communities. This shifts not only the centre of Hernandez's epic poem, but also the narratives of political struggle, colonial agenda, and nationalist sentiments created in and cemented into literature.

In Hernandez's poem, Fierro's wife and her struggles are condensed into the following verse: "When she hadn't a single copper left, And of husband and sons she was bereft/ If she wasn't to stay and starve to death, What else could the poor thing do?"

Cámara shows "the possibilities Fierro's 'poor wife'" navigates for herself amidst the trauma and turbulence of national and personal power struggles. If one has read El Gaucho, The Adventures of China Iron will reveal the blind spots in the epic poem. But China's tale stands on its own merits as a feminist queer romance, a coming-of-age story that critiques an enduring patriarchal, capitalist world order. There are no boundaries between imperialist agenda and national resistance inside China and Liz's travelling wagon. Despite its short length, the book is an immersive lesson that the personal and political are forever in flux in all our realities. In fiction it manages to become what we expect our realities to be-honest and inclusive.

BOOK REVIEW: NON-FICTION Money Still Makes the World Go Round

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2020

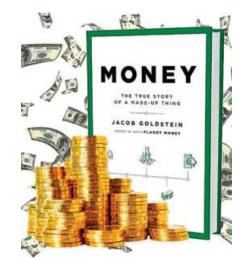
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ASRAR CHOWDHURY

Jacob Goldstein, author of *Money: The True Story of a Made-Up Thing* (Hachette Books, 2020), and the co-host of the radio podcast, *Planet Money* of npr. org, isn't an economist. He completed a Master's in creative writing from Concordia University. He slowly found his way reporting on stock markets during the financial crash of 2008. That is when he started asking the question: what is money?

A few weeks after the 2008 financial crash, Goldstein had dinner with his Aunt Janet, a business graduate who was a poet in her younger days. "Money is fiction. It was never there in the first place." Aunt Janet's response to the financial crash was the eureka moment for Goldstein. Twelve years later, Goldstein narrates a story of the history of money.

The book is based on two central and recurring themes. First, that money is a 'shared fiction'. We all accept it and value it. "Otherwise, it's just a chunk of metal, or a piece of paper, or, ... a number stored on a bank's computers". Second, the history of money hasn't been linear. Out of necessity, or due to some unexpected accident, money has changed form over time.



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

Before money, people exchanged through barter. Barter works well in communities where members are aware of each other's needs, and where everybody has the necessary skills to produce what others need. With the formation of cities in Mesopotamia, a 'shared fiction' of a medium of exchange was needed. This is where the story begins with Babylonians using clay tokens as an accepted medium of exchange to clear debts. Goldstein sets the stage in Greece, where coins and metal money took off. III

As he seeks to find how money changed over time, Goldstein dramatizes events and explores how they influenced societies.

Paper money was invented in China by a merchant in Sichuan around 995 AD. This freed people from carrying and storing heavy metal coins. The effect was explosive. By the 13th century, China became the most prosperous country in the world.

However, hyperinflation during the Ming dynasty led to China reverting back to metal coins. China became the 'sleeping giant' Napoleon was to 'coin' centuries later.

The Mongols introduced paper money to run their empire and facilitate trade. All of a sudden, paper money became 'shared fiction' for different cultures and regions. This had an explosive effect on trade and what would today be termed as 'globalisation'.

Goldstein then jumps directly to renaissance Europe, bypassing the Arabs. He delves into the historical events that lead to the creation of stock markets, central banks, and Europe's adoption of paper money.

The Great Depression of the 1930s was a turning point. Roosevelt took the US off the Gold Standard. Whether by accident or by design, the US Dollar slowly became the global legal tender after World War II.

Goldstein shows how panic during the 2008 crash lead to the collapse of a financial system. States ended up bailing out big corporations. Looking into the future, Goldstein finishes the book with bitcoin, and modern monetary theory.

Goldstein's exploration of history bears traits of Ibn Khaldun's *Al Muqaddimah*. It looks at history objectively. His 'shared fiction' hypothesis rings bells of Yuval Harari's *Sapiens* in its ability to accept and believe 'shared myths'. Once the trust of the 'shared fiction' of money breaks, societies find a new 'shared fiction'.

Books on economic history should be written like this. Whatever one's back ground, Goldstein has an uncanny ability to blend facts with humour and wit, leaving the reader to pause, think, and move on.

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ILLUSTRATION: NAFIA JAHAN MONNI

THE BOOK REPORT On Children's Literature in Bangladesh: Then and Now

RASHA JAMEEL

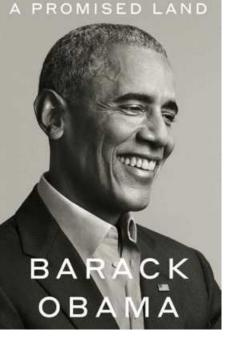
For World Children's Day on Friday, November 20, Daily Star Books speaks to contemporary and veteran authors, publishers, and readers of children's literature written in Bangladesh.

Read the article online on The Daily Star website, and on fb.com/DailyStarBooks, @thedailystarbooks on Instagram, and @DailyStarBooks on Twitter.

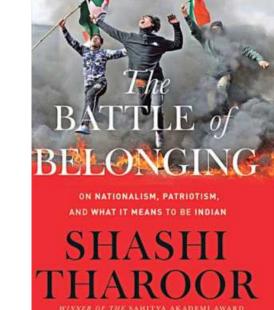
THE SHELF 5 NEW NON-FICTION RELEASES TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS MONTH

STAR BOOKS DESK

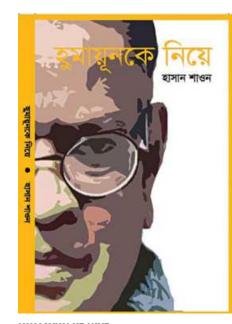
Autumn means a harvest of new books the world over. While novels and short stories continue to sweep through shelves, this past month has brought about an especially exciting basket of non-fiction releases, covering history, politics, reportage, and literature. Stay tuned for Daily Star Books' reviews and interviews on some of these new books in the coming weeks! Read more about each book on the online version of this article.



A PROMISED LAND Barack Obama



THE BATTLE OF BELONGING *Shashi Tharoor*



THE AGE OF PANDEMICS (1817-1920) *Chinmay Tumbe*

CHINMAY

TUMBE Author of India Maving: A History of Migra

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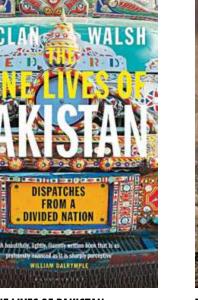
PANDEMICS 1817-1920

HOW THEY SHAPED

HUMAYUN KE NIYE Hasan Shawon



VOICES OF DISSENT *Romila Thapar*



THE NINE LIVES OF PAKISTAN Declan Walsh

EDITORIAL



FOUNDER EDITOR LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2020, AGRAHAYAN 4, 1427 BS

Existing cold chain not enough for **Covid-19 vaccines**

A robust network required for preserving vaccines scientifically and their efficient delivery

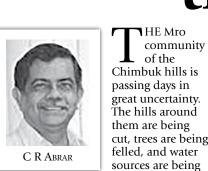
FTER the government recently signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Serum Institute of India and Bangladesh's Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd to get three crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines from Serum-which will be collected and transported by Beximco to the storage facilities under the health directorate's EPI—the challenges Bangladesh would face in scientifically preserving and delivering the vaccines with its existing cold chain network have come under the spotlight. According to the deal, the three crore Covishield doses will be delivered in phases, with 50 lakh doses every month.

Although we have a very good network of EPI (Expanded Programme on Immunisation) which is capable of keeping life-saving drugs at temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius, it is basically used for vaccination of children and has a capacity of storing, transporting and distributing around 1.5 crore doses at a time, according to government officials. So experts believe, with the existing facilities, it will be really difficult to store and deliver such a large volume of Covid-19 vaccines within a short time since those will need to be kept within the WHO-recommended temperature ranges, from the point of manufacture to the point of administration. Sadly, for us, the main challenge will be to efficiently deliver the vaccines to the health centres across the country.

We understand that the government is thinking of purchasing vaccines that can be managed with its existing capacity, as upgrading the present system will be very expensive. As we know, different vaccines require different temperatures, cold chain facilities and handling procedures. While the vaccine being developed by Pfizer requires a storage temperature of minus 80 degrees Celsius, the one being developed by Moderna was initially stored at minus 70 degrees Celsius (although now the company plans to ship the shots at minus 20). And the Covishield vaccines that Bangladesh will purchase are supposed to be stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius. But since no vaccine candidate has been approved by the WHO as yet, its administrative protocol and logistics are still unknown to us. If it turns out that the approved vaccines need to be stored at much colder temperature, we will have no alternative but to upgrade the system.

Therefore, it will be a mistake to completely rely on our existing cold chain for storing, transporting and distributing the Covid-19 vaccines. Although the government should have thought about it in advance, there's still time. The government should now focus on upgrading the existing vaccine cold chain network so that after procurement, vaccines can be transported to the remote parts of the country and administered rapidly at the right temperature.

School threatened



disrupted taking a huge toll on this otherwise sedate region. Over the last few months, the people of Chimbuk hills have seen engineers and contractors being ferried in impressive SUVs to measure the site and plan construction of state-of-the-art structures, noisy trucks bringing in construction materials, while workers are shoving in pillars piercing the Mother Earth.

HE Mro

of the

community

All these portend a calamity for the local Mro people. They are deeply concerned that not only would this "development" initiative take a severe toll on their lifestyle and livelihoods, it would also harm the flora and fauna and thereby the ecological balance of this pristine expanse, one of the very few that exist in the country.

It is interesting to note that in Bangladesh's 50 years of existence, this community which did not have the fortune to host a junior high or even a primary school to educate its children is now being thrust down with a mega project of a 5-star hotel and an amusement park. Fear is pervasive that Mro households in Karpupara, Dolapara and Evapara will face eviction; others in close vicinity in Markinpara, Longbaitanpara, Riamaneirpara and Menringpara are also likely to meet the same fate in the not-so-distant future.

The news of the onset of the tide of "development" sweeping the Chimbuk range caught its residents by surprise. So far, they believed that as members of a bona fide indigenous community, they were protected by a number of national and international laws, regulations, protocols, declarations and customs. On October 8, they appealed for redress to the highest executive of the state through the District Commissioner without success. As the construction process gained traction on the ground involving tractors, diggers, lorries and other heavy equipment, the Mro people, finding no other recourse, began to organise to protect their rights and entitlements that are guaranteed by the Constitution and laws as well as international treaties that Bangladesh is party to.

It has been estimated that between 800 and 1,000 acres of land will be adversely impacted by the project involving a hotel, amusement park and artificial lake. Twelve hills will be connected with cable cars. Water, power and other utility services for the facilities, including the residential quarters of the staff members. would require construction of a network

Land grab and resistance in the Chimbuk hills

essential to pursue livelihoods and social and cultural interactions.

News reports inform that security forces have taken lease of 20 acres of land from the Bandarban District Hill Council (BDHC). The head of BDHC admitted that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for lease of land was signed, but the land is yet to be transferred as the approval of the government was pending. He was unable to say under what authority the construction activities have commenced (Deutsche Welle, 13/11/2020). An arrangement has been worked out between the Sikder Groupowned R&R Holdings Ltd. and the Army Welfare Trust for a thirty-five-year lease on a profit-sharing basis. Refuting the claims of land grabbing, R&R Holdings informed that the BHDC has an eight-percent ownership of the project (DS, 8/11/2020). The group further said that a further 10 acres have been added to the original lease of 20 acres. The concerned Brigade Commander of Bangladesh Army assured that, if the need arises, shops and houses will be built for the affected Mro people.

Like their counterparts in other hill

while Article 23A obligates the state "to protect and develop the unique local culture and tradition of the tribes, minor races, ethic sectors and communities.' It is worth noting that the progressive Articles 18A and 23A were inserted into the Constitution by the 15th Amendment in 2011 under the Awami League government.

The Hill District Council Act precludes BHDC authorities from transferring ownership of land to other parties without the expressed consent of the people and recommendation of the concerned mauza headmen. Therefore, any arrangement drawn by parties in breach of the provision makes the instrument void under the law. Under the CHT Land Commission Act, the Commission is solely responsible for adjudicating on land disputes. Thus far, the failure of the government to frame the Rules of Business of the Commission has precluded it from functioning effectively. The project also violates the 1997 CHT agreement that explicitly prohibits building of any commercial facility that impairs the interests of the indigenous

the restrictions imposed on their free movement in the Chimbuk hills due to cordoning off larger areas than the area under lease by security forces. They have also claimed that they have been subjected to threats and intimidation.

On November 13, the community organised a human chain and rally in Cheragi Hill. The unique protest was a cultural showdown. Instead of chanting slogans, the beat of drums and sound of traditional phlong flute reverberated through the hills, perhaps echoing the pang of the Mro's hearts for the land-a critical element of their identity-they are about to lose. Community members of all ages participated in the event. Mothers made sure that their children join the protest to stake a claim on what is theirs.

This move of according priority to profit over people and using common resources for private gain in violation of the law has triggered disapproval of the mainstream Bangladesh community. The Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples, the International CHT Commission, the Adibashi Forum, Jatiya Mukti Council and many other



Members of several organisations in Chattogram city staged a demonstration protesting against the construction of a five-star hotel in Chimbuk hills in Bandarban, on November 13, 2020.

communities, Mros were also adversely affected by the past development projects of the state and were deprived of fair compensation. In the recent past, they lost 11 acres of land acquired for a firing range. Large segments were acquired for rubber plantations in Nilgiri. In several cases, parcels of land that were taken remained unutilised. Although some plots were released for non-utilisation through the intervention of a local MP, those were re-allotted to others instead of being handed over to the original owners. Analysts have raised some pertinent issues. Fundamental among those is that the project violates the Constitution of the republic, provisions of CHT Regulations 1900 (reinstated by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on November 22, 2016), Bandarban Hill Council Act 1989, Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Commission Act 2001, and many established protocols and traditions. Article 18A of Bangladesh Constitution commits the state "to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, bio-diversity, wetlands, forests and wild life for the present and future citizens. Article 23 obliges the state "to adopt measures to conserve the cultural traditions and heritage of the people,"

people.

Another gaping hole of the lease transfer mechanism is its failure to secure the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Mro people impacted by the project. FPIC is an emerging standard in engaging with indigenous peoples and is becoming part of customary international law. The UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) asserts that it is the duty of the state to obtain FPIC of indigenous peoples to effectively determine the outcome of decision-making that affects them. FPIC is a standard protected by international human rights law. "Anybody with property understands that you can't just take the property without consent, unless there's some over-arching governmental purpose," observes James Anaya, the UN Special Rapporteur on Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He further notes, Because of this special significance of lands and resources to the cultural survival of indigenous peoples... it would have to meet a very, very high burden of justification." Surely, leasing of land for construction of a hotel and an amusement park does not meet the criteria of "very, very high burden of justification.'

PHOTO RAJIB RAIHAN

public platforms have condemned the commercialisation of the Chimbuk hills and demanded immediate cessation of "developmental" activities. They also stated that through its involvement with this controversial project, the concerned security force is tarnishing its own image. Perhaps the political leadership should reassess if publicly-funded state institutions should at all be involved

over Victory Day cultural event

We cannot allow such extremist ideologies to create fear in the country

TH the Victory Day in less than a month, organisations and individuals across the country are gearing up to celebrate a day of great pride for this nation, made even more special on this occasion by Mujib Borsho and the fact that we will be stepping into our 50th year as independent Bangladesh. Against this backdrop, it is extremely distressing to see that after all these years, there are still certain groups that cannot partake in the joy and pride we feel in our liberation, and are using prejudiced beliefs as an excuse to oppose everything that we as a nation stand for.

This became apparent in a report published in this daily yesterday, which detailed how a school in Dinajpur's Ghoraghat area had suspended all rehearsals for its Victory Day cultural programmes after receiving a letter demanding a halt to such activities as Islam does not support it. The letter was sent by a group calling themselves Bangladesh Islamic Shachetan Dal on November 4, in which they said they are ready to "sacrifice their lives for Allah". According to the general diary filed by the headmaster in this regard, three villagers also personally went to the school on November 6 and demanded a stop to the rehearsals.

There is no need for us to get into the misguided interpretations that twist a peaceful religion into hateful ideas that are on a direct collision course with cultural spaces and practices. We are, however, extremely concerned, not only because we are seeing a rise in such violent and extremist ideas-cricketer Shakib Al Hasan, for example, recently received death threats for attending a puja celebration in Kolkata—but also because of the fear that those on the receiving end of such threats are suffering. Why did the Ghoraghat school have to suspend its rehearsals? Why did the law enforcement agencies not take adequate steps to protect the children and give their guardians the confidence to continue with their cultural activities? What message does this send to minority communities and cultural practitioners across the country when such threats, instead of being dealt with as crimes, are given in to, thus validating their illiberal demands and achieving their ends? How will we inculcate the values and spirit of our Liberation struggle in young people if they are being undermined by extremist forces?

We urge the authorities to look into such incidents with the utmost seriousness and take immediate steps to apprehend the people behind the threats. This week, the prime minister's ICT advisor and CRI chairperson, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, said that Bangladesh can never budge from its founding principle of secularism. We hope this is truly the stance of everyone in government, and that all involved authorities will play their part in rooting out all extremist misinterpretations of faith which have no place in a liberal and democratic society.

of buildings, roads, drainage and sewage system. All these structures will be constructed

on a land that hosts dwellings of hundreds of Mro families, forest, streams and fountains, orchards, temples, sacred cremation grounds, holy stones, revered hills, and the like that are integral to the identity of the Mro. Already, the noted Natibong hill has been re-christened with a Bangla name. Initially, it will lead to displacement of at least 115 families of four villages, and 10,000 more Mros of adjoining villages are likely to be affected. The livelihoods of most members of the community dependent on *jhum* cultivation will be severely impacted. Mango, pineapple and papaya orchards will suffer due to diversion of the natural flow of streams. Along with harming the ecological balance, the project will impede the movement of people that is

The Mro community has protested

in commercial enterprises that may bear the risk of compromising their professionalism.

The failure of the government to uphold the constitutional rights of the Mro people has been palpable. Article 11 of the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 of the ILO (C-107) obliges the state to recognise the "right of ownership, collective or individual, of the members of the populations concerned over the lands which these populations traditionally occupy." Bangladesh ratified the convention in 1972, when the Father of the Nation was at the helm. Rescinding the imprudent decision to lease out the land of the indigenous people for private gain will surely be an apt tribute of the government in his birth centenary.

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

US RE-ENTRY INTO PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT Transition to renewable energy must start now

Mostofa Sarwar

THE difficulties associated with the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind were touched upon in the last US presidential debate, bringing the contentious topic to the forefront again. Hopefully, it's not too late.

Both petroleum and natural gas reserves will be depleted in approximately 50 years at the current rate of production and consumption. This is a formidable challenge to humanity. Even if new reservoirs are found-which I can attest is an increasingly difficult and elusive prospect after a career of studying and developing ways to find them—these non-renewable resources will inevitably run out. It takes millions of years for geological and geochemical processes to generate natural gas or petroleum.

Based on the consumption rates alone, there simply must be a transition to renewable energy sources for the survival of the United States and the world. The true urgency of this transition becomes clearer when we consider the adverse impact of fossil fuel use on global

warming, and the effects associated with any attendant climate change, including rising sea levels, eroding coastlines, and intensified natural disasters-drought, forest fires, catastrophic flooding.

Sea level is already rising. If this continues at the current accelerated rate, vast low-lying areas of Bangladesh and other countries of the world would be uninhabitable, causing economic and ecological catastrophe of gargantuan proportions. In 30 years, Bangladesh will lose approximately one-tenth of its land and fifteen million people will be displaced. Social unrest, political upheavals, wars, famine, plague, and unimaginable sufferings would be unleashed on Bangladesh and other vulnerable countries. The desperate population would be forced to migrate to higher ground. Nobody would be spared from the collateral damage and destruction. The entire humanity would descend to a horrible dystopia.

Not everyone is burying their heads in the sand. The US domestic and international private sector has made noteworthy progress in developing electric vehicles. And while the US government

has sadly reduced financial incentives for renewable energy and relaxed carbon emission standards over the last few years, we've noticed the opposite from many other governments of the world.

In several countries, we've seen notable progress towards increased reliance on renewable energy sources such as hydrothermal, nuclear, wind, and solar for electric power generation. Unfortunately, the United States is behind the pack. Bold implementation of a visionary plan, obviously, requires leadership and endurance to face short-term financial pains for survival and the greater good in the future.

Nobody disagrees that the transition from fossil fuels will be a Herculean task. We use about two-thirds of our fossil fuel production for transportation, and onefourth in industrial applications, such as the production of plastics. How would we replace that? How would we handle the retraining and placement of millions of workers unemployed from shrinking oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, and their associated manufacturing and service sectors?

Finding solutions to these problems

will be formidable. But there are no alternatives. We will run out of fossil fuels; we will have to transition eventually whether we like it or not.

We can't wait for divine or extraterrestrial intervention to magically transform non-renewable hydrocarbon into a renewable resource. To save the planet, the transition must start now, with all hands on deck. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won the 2020 US presidential election. President-elect Biden on January 20, 2021—the day of his inaugurationwill rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement by an executive order. The main goal of this agreement is to lower the carbon emission by reducing the use of fossil fuels, which will slow down global warming.

A year of dark winter, unleashed by the US withdrawal notification on November 4, 2019, would be replaced by hope and optimism for the entire humanity with the US re-entering the Paris Climate Agreement.

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Crisis of opportunities feeds Bangladesh's human trafficking problem



thousands of people seek jobs abroad every year from Bangladesh. And it is this dream that human traffickers exploit to entrap people in the guise of labour migration to profitable work destinations.

According to a report published on the website of Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP), an average of around 590,000 people migrate out of Bangladesh every year seeking better employment opportunities abroad. And many of them fall victim to human trafficking. These individuals are often forced into bonded labour, sex slavery, domestic servitude, or are exploited for organ trafficking. In an extreme and alarmingly increasing trend, the victims of trafficking are also often held hostage in foreign lands while their families are forced to pay for their release. Mass graves of Bangladeshi and Rohingya nationals found in Malaysia and Thailand are a tragic reminder of the grim fate our people encounter at the hands of ruthless traffickers.

While the government has taken various measures to curb human trafficking—such as enacting the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act 2012, setting up seven special tribunals to fast-track trial of human trafficking cases, and cracking down on individuals and agencies involved in smuggling and trafficking—these measures are mostly focused on addressing the symptoms rather than the causes that are forcing people to migrate for a better life.

People's decision to migrate is aided by

various factors. For the affluent, the prospect of better education, better standards of living, and better facilities are the determinant factors. For those living on the fringes of society, the causes are much more diverse and desperate. Even if we narrow down the causes to the socio-economic triggers, four key areas come to the fore.

"If we look at the profile of the people who are migrating, we'll see that they are basically the youth," said noted economist education or training or employment. Which means, there is a lack of opportunity both in terms of employment and skills development. So there is a big void there, a crisis of opportunities facing the youth. And this crisis presents a big existential threat for them, leading them to migrate out of desperation."

The second bundle of factors, according to Rahman, relates to the overall governance environment and governance or political norms in the country. "The party-affiliation-



Many migrants seeking better employment opportunities abroad fall victim to human trafficking.

and chairperson of Brac, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, while discussing this issue at length with this writer. "It's not the older group. It's the youth who are going abroad in search of livelihood. It's a youth desperation issue," he said. And why is that? "There might be particular family-specific reasons. But as a group, there are two bundles of factors at work for them. One is the prospect of finding productive employment within the country. According to official statistics, within the age group of 15-29—which we call the youth segment—nearly 30 percent is not in PHOTO: IOM/FRANCESCO MALAVOLTA

based local government elections that we now see have served to destroy the social fabric of villages. Earlier, despite the political competition, there used to be a kind of a social environment that was maintained, which is not there now. Before, political conflict was confined to the higher level. Now a kind of an oppressive political environment has trickled down to the very base of the society, including in the villages. In this kind of environment, most of the youth who are desperate feel powerless while trying to find opportunities. These young people are willing to work hard but they are helpless against the reality that, here, merit is not appropriately rewarded nor are rules followed."

And the third factor is the deteriorating employment elasticity of growth. Dr Rahman referred to the statistics of Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)—a nationally representative survey used to measure monetary poverty that is conducted every five years-which suggests that between 2010 and 2016, the overall employment elasticity of growth has gone down. It means that one percent growth in 2016 could not generate as many employment opportunities as it did in 2010. And this has also exacerbated the desperation of the jobless. With Covid-19 taking a toll on the nation's economy and pushing people out of jobs, people now have become even more vulnerable to the lures of clandestine trafficking rackets.

In addition to these, women's lack of access to education and skills development opportunities is another factor that leads to their migration abroad. Most of the women who are forced to go abroad take up menial jobs, for example as domestic help. In a report published last year, a local newspaper citing the data of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) suggested that more than 8.4 lakh female workers went abroad since 1992; of them, 98 percent migrated to Middle Eastern countries as domestic help. And a good number of them fell victim to physical torture and abuse. Dead bodies of 473 women returned to Bangladesh between 2016 and September this year. Many of them had committed suicide.

Despite the increasing cases of abuse of our female migrant workers abroad and the risks of human trafficking, women and girls still take the risks out of desperation to support themselves and their families. The ones that are lucky find decent employment. The ones that are not fall prey to the traps set by traffickers, and are often sold into prostitution and servitude. While talking to a local newspaper, Sumaiya Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra, suggested that education for migrant workers should be improved and the standard of their training should be enhanced to international standards to make work abroad safer for them.

Apart from this, child marriage (I wrote a column last year detailing how early marriage is making our girls more vulnerable to trafficking), social stigma, and lack of empowerment are added factors which make women and girls more prone to trafficking.

These social and economic factors must be rooted out, and only then can we eliminate the causes that enable human trafficking. While the academic and skills development curricula need to be made more comprehensive to empower the youth with knowledge and skills to earn a better living, the country's economic planners need to work on creating more sustainable employment opportunities at home to accommodate the job needs of people-boys and girls, men and women. Such job opportunities must be available to everyone, not just those who are associated with the politically influential. The ministries of women and children affairs, education and social welfare can work together to promote education for girls, eliminate child marriage and remove the social barriers women face in their search for livelihood opportunities.

It is through these initiatives that some of the key economic and social triggers of human trafficking can be eliminated. We also need to ensure that individuals seeking employment abroad go through formal channels to avoid being exploited by trafficking rings. Addressing these will not end the problem of human trafficking in its entirety—human trafficking is, after all, made up of a much more complex set of factors. But it is certainly a good place to start.

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is: @TayebTasneem

UAE and Israeli settlers find common ground in Jerusalem



EAKENED by Joe Biden's electoral defeat of US President Donald J. Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu risks being caught between a rock and a hard place as Jordan, the Palestine

Authority and the United Arab Emirates manoeuvre for control of what is to Jews the Temple Mount and to Jordanian-Palestinian control of the Haram ash-Sharif and counter Turkish efforts to stoke Palestinian nationalist and religious sentiment. The settlers and the far-right are calling for internationalisation of the administration of the Haram ash-Sharif, which plays into the UAE's hands.

"Ironically, it may be the case that calls for just such an arrangement may come from Muslim citizens of countries that have normalised their ties with Israel and find it offensive that a small group of Palestinians are attempting to ban them from visiting one of their holiest sites," said Josiah Rotenberg,



endorsed annexation, recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and cut off funding for the Palestinians.

Palestinian officials suspect the UAE, backed by Israel, of positioning Mohammed Dahlan, an Abu Dhabi-based former Palestinian security chief with close ties to Emirati Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed as well as US officials, as a potential successor to Mr Abbas.

Mr Abbas could be disappointed by the degree to which a Biden administration may reverse Mr Trump's policy and find that it may not oppose broadening the administration of

Muslims the Haram ash-Sharif, the third most holy site in Islam.

The rivalry for control of Jerusalem's most sensitive, emotive, contested, and potentially explosive place is occurring against the backdrop of a parallel and interlinked run-up to a competition for the succession of Mahmoud Abbas, the frail 84-year-old Palestinian president.

The Jerusalem site has been administered since Israel conquered East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war by the Jordanian and Palestinian-controlled Supreme Muslim Council. Rivalry for the religious control of the site, which hosts the Al-Aqsa Mosque and is where the First Jewish Temple was built by King Solomon in 957 BC, involves multiple risks for Mr Netanyahu.

Mr Netanyahu's inclination to back attempts by the UAE—with Saudi Arabia, home to Mecca and Medina, Islam's holiest cities, in the background—to muscle their way into the administration of the Haram ash-Sharif could complicate relations with Jordan and widen differences with the Palestine Authority. The UAE enhanced its ability to manoeuvre by establishing diplomatic relations with Israel and rushing to forge closer ties to the country's political, security and economic elites.

In a twist of irony, the UAE finds common ground with the Israeli settler movement and the Jewish far-right in wanting to weaken a member of the Board of Governors of the Middle East Forum, a Philadelphia-based rightwing think tank.

The UAE's recognition of Israel and willingness to engage not only with businesses located in Israel's pre-1967 borders but also those headquartered in Israeli settlements on the occupied West Bank and invest in a technology park in East Jerusalem have fuelled a war of words with the Palestinians and sparked incidents with Emirati visitors to the Haram ash-Sharif.

"Most of the citizens of Israel, myself included, continue to... demand that Prime Minister Netanyahu apply full sovereignty to Judea and Samaria," said settlement leader Yossi Dagan after heading a settlers' delegation on a visit to Dubai to discuss business opportunities. Mr Dagan was using the biblical name of the West Bank.

The visit reinforced Palestinian assertions that the creation of diplomatic ties between Israel and Arab states prior to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would reinforce Israeli occupation rather than open the door to the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The "Israeli-Emirati deal raises the concern and fear within the Jordanian Awqaf and among Palestinians, because it aims to give the UAE a new role inside Al-Aqsa," said former Palestinian minister of Jerusalem affairs Khaled

Jordan, the Palestine Authority and the UAE manoeuvre for control of what is to Jews the Temple Mount and to Muslims the Haram ash-Sharif, the third most holy site in Islam.

Abu Arafa, referring to the Supreme Muslim Council.

Muhammad Hussein, the grand mufti of Jerusalem, didn't need Mr Dagan's statement to come to that conclusion. Resigning in protest from an Emirati clerical group established to project the UAE as a beacon of moderate Islam immediately after the announcement of UAE-Israel relations, Mr Hussein banned Muslims from the Emirates from visiting and praying at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

An Emirati business delegation visiting Israel last month was verbally assaulted and told to go home by Palestinian worshippers when they went to pray at the mosque. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh scolded the Emiratis, saying that "one ought to enter the gates of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque by way of its owners, rather than FILE PHOTO: REUTERS/AMMAR AWAD

through the gates of the occupation."

Responding on Twitter, Laith al-Awadhi, an Emirati national, retorted: "We will visit Al-Aqsa because it does not belong to you, it belongs to all Muslims." Saudi lawyer and writer Abdel Rahman al-Lahim chipped in arguing that "it is very important for the Emiratis and Bahrainis to discuss with Israel ways of liberating Al-Aqsa Mosque from Palestinian thugs in order to protect visitors from Palestinian thuggery."

Mr Abbas, the Palestinian president, has slowed down a reconciliation between his Fatah movement and Hamas, the Islamist group that controls the Gaza Strip, in anticipation of a more empathetic policy by an incoming Biden administration. He broke off relations with the United States after Mr Trump produced an Israeli-Palestinian peace plan that the Haram ash-Sharif.

In an interview with *The Times of Israel*, Antony "Tony" Blinken, Mr Biden's top foreign policy advisor and a former senior official under President Barak Obama, signalled that Mr Biden would, in contrast to Mr Trump, oppose Israeli efforts to annex parts of the West Bank and could adopt a more critical attitude towards expansion of existing Israeli settlements. It would likely be a position endorsed by the UAE despite the Emirates' engagement with the settlers.

Mr Blinken insisted that a two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was the "only way to ensure Israel's future as a Jewish and democratic state and also to fulfil the Palestinian right to a state of their own." With both Israel and the Palestinians "far from a place where they're ready to engage on negotiations or final status talks", he said that a Biden administration would seek to ensure that "neither side takes additional unilateral steps that make the prospect of two states even more distant or closing it entirely."

The Biden administration could well see broadening of the governance of Haram ash-Sharif as one way of achieving that goal.

Dr James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and a senior fellow at Nanyang Technological University's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore and the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute.

QUOTABLE Quote

JEAN RACINE (1639-1699) French dramatic poet and historiographer.

There are no secrets that time does not reveal.

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14 To the core	land	20 Niagara's source	38	39
15 "Die Winterreise"	42 Florentine	21 Retreats	42	
composer	painter	22 Scoop	44	
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ESTERDAY'S **ANSWERS**

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Star NOVOZ



GRAPE VINE



Ahmed risvy for Noble's 'Ovinoy'

Lyricist Ahmed Risvy once again came to the spotlight after writing the lyrics for Noble's new song, *Ovinoy*, which was given tune to by Ahmmed Humayun. Ahmed Risvy has written a lot of renowned songs over the years, including *Tumi Jodi Bolo* by Kumar Bishwajit and *Prithibir Sob Sukh* by Dolly Shantoni, among many others. Risvy said, "I have been writing lyrics for over twenty-five years now, and I have seen a lot of change in music throughout the years. With my lyrics, I have been trying to adapt to these changes."

Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub



Popular singer Sania Sultana Liza recently released a new song, *Bhabna*. Besides singing, the song's lyrics, tune and music composition is done by Hridoy Khan. Regarding the song Liza said, *"Bhabna* has a different feel to it. I believe the audience will appreciate the song. This is the first time I am working with Hridoy Khan. I really enjoyed working for the project." The song has been released on Hridoy Khan's official *YouTube* channel.



COVER STORY

JILL OF ALL TRADES

Versatile media personality and 'The Ekushey Padak' awardee Sara Zaker began her journey into the world of acting with 'Nagorik Natya Sampradaya' in 1973. After that, the actor took on several other roles which includes being an entrepreneur, director and counsellor. In this interview with Rafi Hossain, Sara Zaker talks about her life, theatre and her time during this pandemic.

Rafi Hossain: Welcome to Uncensored with Rafi Hossain. Today, we have with us actor, entrepreneur, director and counsellor, Sara Zaker. Thank you for being with us today. Sara Zaker: Thank you for having me.

Rafi Hossain: I first want to say that I really love your name, 'Chixie'. Who gave you that name? Sara Zaker: My mother actually gave me that name. It might sound modern and catchy, but at this age, I am not sure if it matches my personality. My mother wanted to name her first daughter Chinki, but since her first child was a son, she named him Chinku. That was my brother who we lost in the war of 1971. Later, she had another son, my brother, who was named Picho by my dada. He had a small nose and was named after Pinocchio, meaning that it would grow bigger if he lied. When I was born, as my mother had originally wanted to name me Chinki, she found a similar alternative, and named me Chixie. My close friends call me Chixie, and formally people refer to me as Sara.

Rafi Hossain: Some people find you intimidating. How do you feel about that?

Sara Zaker: While a little intimidation is needed in some situations, I generally feel upset when someone is scared of me. The colour of my eyes often makes people think that I'm angry, which is something I noticed even when I was young. People perceive me as rather closed-off, which I am not. However, it did give me a different personality and image.

Rafi Hossain: How did you get into acting?

Sara Zaker: Both my parents were supportive, and they never forced us to pursue any activity. My dad played a bigger role in me getting into acting, however. My elder brother was a big fanatic of movies, shows, and theatre. He even used to act in English at his university sometimes. He performed at the British Council stage, Bangladesh Mohila Samity stage and so on. He had big dreams about acting. I had an interest in acting, and this, perhaps, influenced me further. Additionally, I studied at an English Medium school and had a Western outlook. So, an uncle of mine told my dad to get me into Nagorik Natya Sampradaya to learn and participate in Bangla theatre as it would help me get more accustomed to the Bangla culture and language. That is how I got into acting. Aly Zaker had really inspired me as well.

Rafi Hossain: *How did your relationship begin with Aly Zaker?*

Sara Zaker: I believe he liked me first, and gave a proposal. I accepted his proposal after thinking things through, and I realised that it would also help me continue pursuing my acting. My father, however, did not accept the proposal readily. He met with him, and visited his house to see how he lived his life. But, in the end, it all worked out well.

your life? Sara Zaker: I took advantage of the opportunities that came to me. I wish, however, that I had known I would pursue acting as a career and worked even harder when I was young, like my son Iresh does. Many individuals identify themselves as an actor, but I have taken part in many kinds of activities and sectors. I would say that I am a jack of all trades, but a master of none. However, I do not have any regret, as I did everything with devotion. I took part in a play, Shot Manusher Khoje, which was later televised. I had to make a decision back then as I had to choose between television, my studies, or my children. That is how I almost had twenty-five years of hiatus from acting on television. Later, when I went into television, I realised that I was confident, but the audience did not know me and so, did not accept me as well as the other actors. Acting in Humayun Ahmed's play later helped me gain more recognition.

Rafi Hossain: Your fans often say that you hold a strong position in theatre, rather than television. Why is that? **Sara Zaker:** I am more associated with the theatre stage than television. I feel more confident and can hold the stage in theatre plays, but I don't feel the same when I'm doing a show for television. I believe that is because of the practice I have had, and my deep involvement with the theatre compared to television.



industry. We are losing audience from theatre and plays because of this as well.

Rafi Hossain: *How do you feel about the new individuals in the industry?*

Sara Zaker: Working in communications and in a multi-media platform has given me an insight into the changes that have been made recently. Despite our general view on the industry today, there are many new and talented individuals. I even downloaded *TikTok* and watch Youtubers and see influencers to understand how they work and what they aim to create. From there, I realised that many of them have fresh and unique ideas, and can connect with the audience. This world that is new and different to us must also be paid attention to if we want to create content today.

Rafi Hossain: *Whose films, since the last decade, did you think were outstanding?*

Sara Zaker: I really liked the films by Hridi Haq, Shuvashish, younger people like Haider and so on. I really like the directions they take. There are certainly many good films around. But, I think people don't focus on a lot of these individually because there is a lot of content in the market.

Rafi Hossain: Before the pandemic, did you regularly visit the theatre to watch new local films? Sara Zaker: Yes, definitely. I used to go very frequently. Sometimes, I would even go alone because I really like watching new films, especially ones made by the youth of Bangladesh. This is why I have been very supportive of them as I think they don't get enough support from the general public.

Rafi Hossain: *Can you name some younger actors and actresses that you think have a lot potential in the film industry.*

Sara Zaker: I can't think of many names right now but a few people that come to mind are people like Haider, Jaya and Abrar who I believe take their work very seriously.

Rafi Hossain: What are your thoughts on the type of content we find online, now that people are more gravitated towards these due to the pandemic. **Sara Zaker:** I feel that video content is the most popular compared to written and other types of content, especially on platforms like *Facebook* and *TikTok*.

Rafi Hossain: *How important do you think it is to grasp the attention of viewers in the least amount of time possible?*

Sara Zaker: It is definitely very important. We always see how articles and videos with interesting headlines and buzzwords get the most attention. People think that there will be something to learn from by clicking on those. In my personal experience I have noticed some interviewers ask very personal questions in

Jaya Filming During the Pandemic

Throughout her career, actor Jaya Ahsan has been seen playing the roles of many different kinds of characters. She has made each character unique and gained a lot of popularity in the process. Now, she will be seen playing a widow in the film *Nakshi Kathar Jamin*, which is being directed by Akram Khan. She started shooting for it on the 8th of November. She revealed that the film is being planned to release on the 16th of December, 2021 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's victory day. The film is based on the novel *Bidhobader Kotha*, by Hasan Azizul Haque. Aside from this, Jaya has also been shooting for an untitled film by Piplu R Khan since this September, which has already been completed.

Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

Rafi Hossain: Could you share more about the Liberation War Museum that you founded?

Sara Zaker: I started as a founder and trustee. Since I was so emotionally attached to the history, it did not feel like something grand to me. Now, I'm the Secretary General, and I have more responsibilities. The team we have now are very efficient and the trustees are extremely supportive. Tariq bhai, who we lost, was also a trustee and helped tremendously during the foundation of the museum. People ask me how I am running so many establishments even during this pandemic and with personal struggles at home. However, I believe that without work, I would fall apart, as it gives me a sense of purpose.

Rafi Hossain: How did you get involved with the advertising agencies?

Sara Zaker: My husband had suggested it first. I had finished my masters, and was interested in working for a travel agency. He mentioned an advertising agency, but I disregarded it as frivolous. He then asked if I would join a research organization they had. I agreed to it as I was good at English, and I thought I would be able to write the reports well. However, I did not take into consideration that I neither had a statistics or economics background. That was perhaps one of the times I had to struggle and learn. I only went into communications after I had established the organisation strongly. This would be a brief history of my career.

Rafi Hossain: How did you balance everything in

Rafi Hossain: Who would you say are co-actors that you feel comfortable working with?

Sara Zaker: I was always blessed to have great co-actors by my side. I always enjoyed working with Aly Zaker, Asaduzzaman Noor, Abul Hayat, Juboraj, Suborna and so on. They are all extremely talented actors. Similarly, when I worked alongside amateur actors, like in Catherine and Tareque Masud's movies, I had the luck to work alongside many new but skilled actors as well.

Rafi Hossain: *How did you prevent your work from interfering or affecting your personal life?* Sara Zaker: I believe it was my upbringing. Growing up, we were not wealthy and often had to struggle financially. So, when our careers began to take-off, we valued the money we earned. We never took it for granted, and that is how we prevented the issue in our professional life from affecting our personal ones.

Rafi Hossain: What are your views on the state of the industry today?

Sara Zaker: There are many serious actors nowadays. However, in the show business, I believe that a lack of proper critiques and reviews is leading to the downfall of the industry as it is crucial in the order to extract more information.

Rafi Hossain: Do you think this is an appropriate practice for hosts? And do you think all viewers would willingly watch such interviews? Sara Zaker: No, I don't think every viewer would want to watch these. And it is rather inappropriate for hosts, especially since the media usually focuses on the personal lives of younger female celebrities before thinking as these comments can often come off as degrading.

Rafi Hossain: Do you think this encourages people to behave more misogynistically, especially considering the rising rape cases in Bangladesh? How do you think we should speak out against rape culture? Sara Zaker: I believe that some men use rape or encourage rape culture on social media as a show of power, in order to silence an entire sex. It is almost as if they are trying to start a war within the country against women by shifting the blame to them. Many of these men get off the hook too easily. There should be appropriate laws established against such actions and we should certainly show a zerotolerance policy towards it. While we cannot make such huge changes overnight, I do believe if enough people spoke out unanimously, we could make these changes much faster.

Rafi Hossain: Thank you for being with us today. It was a pleasure talking to you.

Sara Zaker: Thank you for having me.

Shreya Shomoyeeta

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

DASH & LILY

Dash & Lily is a rom-com TV series on Netflix, first aired on November 10, 2020. It was created by Joe Tracz, produced by Karl Frankenfield under the banners of 21 Laps Entertainment, Boy Detective Inc. and Image 32, and stars Austin Abrams, Midori Francis and Dante Brown, among others. The storyline, which is based on Dash & Lily's Book of Dares by Rachel Cohn & David Levithan, follows the unexpected romance between polar opposites Dash and Lily, as they trade notebooks all across New York City.



POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

Dracula Sir

Dracula Sir is a Bangla horrorthriller film, following the life of a teacher with prominent canines, who discovers that he has stark resemblances with Count Dracula. It was written and directed by Debaloy Bhattacharya and Kallol Lahiri, produced by Shrikant Mohata and Mahendra Soni under the banner of Shree Venkatesh Films, and stars Anirban Bhattacharya, Mimi Chakraborty and Bidipta Chakraborty, among others. The film was released on October 21, 2020 in theatres.





A Teacher is a drama series, created by Hannah Fidell, who also directed the show along with Gillian Robespierre and Andrew Neel, produced under the banners of Aggregate Films, Hola Fidel and FXP, distributed by 20th Television, and stars Kate Mara, Nick Robinson and Ashley Zukerman, among others. The plot, which is based on the eponymous film, follows the illicit relationship between a young teacher at a high school and her student. It was aired on November 10, 2020 on FX on Hulu. e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2020, *AGRAHAYAN 4, 1427 BS*

England's short Pakistan tour confirmed

England will visit Pakistan for the first time in 16 years when they play two T20 Internationals in October 2021, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Wednesday. The short tour will serve as a build-up to the Twenty20 World Cup in India that is scheduled to start the same month, and comes as international cricket returns to Pakistan following a deadly terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in 2009 that killed six policemen and two civilians. The matches are scheduled for Oct. 14 and 15, both in Karachi. "This will be the first time since 2005 that an England team has toured Pakistan and as such it represents a significant moment for both nations," ECB Chief Executive Officer Tom Harrison said. --- REUTE





Bangladesh Army's Abdul Malek tries to manoeuvre the ball past a BHF Red XI player during the opening match of the President's Cup at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday as competitive hockey returned to the country after ten months' break due to the coronavirus pandemic. Army won the match 1-0. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Booters leave with tall task ahead of Qatar tie

SPORTS REPORTER



sanctioned friendlies against Nepal, the Bangladesh national football team are set to leave for Qatar this morning to play their away World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifying match on December 4.

When this report was filed, the number in Bangladesh's contingent was yet to be finalised as players and officials took a Covid-19 test on Tuesday night after the second match against Jamie Day, who tested positive for played friendlies against Nepal."

but they know well that playing against Asian champions Qatar in some Doha will be an altogether steeper challenge, especially as there is a cloud over their physical fitness after a long break from the game due to the coronavirus outbreak in Bangladesh in March.

"I think we are at about 80 percent fitness and we have two warm-up games for match fitness as well but we are still 20 percent away from the required fitness and need more friendly matches," Jamie told The Daily Star yesterday. "They have not played for the last eight months and had only 25 days' training, so they will be short Nepal. Bangladesh head coach of match fitness... that's why we

go unbeaten in two games with two clean sheets and win a trophy with 25 days' training, so credit to all staff and players," Jamie said. "It is the time frame we he been given so we have to do our best in that time." However, Jamie won't be available to prepare his charges until he is cleared on medical

grounds. "Jamie will be in touch with the team through other coaching staff and oversee the programme of the national team in Qatar and give inputs from Dhaka," the national teams committee chairman and BFF Vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed told The Daily Star.

"The players have to quarantine for three days after undergoing Covid-19 tests in Oatar and then

"It is a fantastic achievement to for them because they can avail gym and swimming pool facilities at the hotel during that time," said Nabil, who also thought the players are short on fitness.

Assistant coach Stuart Watkiss also emphasised on improving the players' fitness in the next two weeks before facing Qatar.

"In Europe, the pre-season preparation is normally six to eight weeks and it takes at least six weeks to be match-fit, whereas we only had three weeks' preparation at home. We can't hope for dramatic improvement of the players' fitness in the next two weeks but I am happy with their attitude and commitment, which shows that we are on the right track but far away from the target."

More than just a dynamic duo

With the Bangabandhu T20 Cup starting from November 24, cricket enthusiasts in Bangladesh are eager to watch local stars battle it out against each. In the lead-up to the tournament, The Daily Star tries to assess and analyse each of the five teams. Today, we present the second part, an

overview of Gemcon Khulna.

SPORTS REPORTER



Background: In terms of spending, Gemcon Khulna topped the charts in the players' draft and have become one of the most talked-about teams in the tournament. The reason is the inclusion of

star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who will make his comeback to cricket through the tournament after serving a one-year ban for not reporting corrupt approaches he had received from a bookie. Apart from Shakib, Khulna picked another grade A cricketer from the draft – Bangladesh's T20 captain Mahmudullah Riyad, who has been tasked with leading the side.

National Stars: Apart from Shakib and Mahmudullah, Khulna banked on loads of experience. Imrul Kayes has always been a prolific performer in the domestic circuit and his decade-long experience of international cricket will definitely add strength to the side. Like the batting department, the pace bowling department also consists of experience in the form of Al Amin Hossain and Shafiul Islam, who have shown their ability to perform in the T20 format over the years. In the spin department, apart from Shakib and Mahmudullah, Khulna also have left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam Apu.

Local performers: Aside from their stars, Khulna can also count on local performers

to play vital roles.

There are few national discards such as Anamul Haque, Jahurul Islam, Shuvagata Hom, all-rounder Ariful Haque, and wicketkeeper-batsman Zakir Hasan to add depth. Khulna also has a nice blend of youth as well, most promising among them leg-spinner Rishad Hossain, who impressed many during the BCB President's Cup last month along with young pacer Hasan Mahmud. Shamim Patowary, who was a member of the Bangladesh U-19 World Cup-winning side adds variety.

What sets Khulna apart: According to head coach Mizanur Rahman Babul, having two world-class T20 players in the form of Shakib and Mahmudullah distinguishes the side from others. However, he is also confident that the variety in both the spin and pace bowling departments will play a key role. "Obviously we are lucky to have the world's top all-rounder, Shakib, along with Bangladesh's T20 captain Mahmudullah in the side. Their experience will be a goldmine for us. Apart from that, I think we have a wide range of variety in our bowling department both in pace and spin and I think we are a well-balanced side," Babul said.

Key Player: Undoubtedly, it is Shakib who will be the main strength for Khulna both with bat and ball. The top all-rounder will surely look to make a mark in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup after all the recent controversies that have kept him in the headlines for all the wrong reasons.



a second time on Monday, has to tests negative for coronavirus.

out on top at home against Nepal, the Qatar tie.

Jamie praised his charges for

stay in isolation in Dhaka and can their good performance against will get the opportunity to practice only join the team in Qatar if he Nepal despite a short preparation outdoors. I think they also need and urged his charges to do their some rest after playing two matches The booters may have come best within the available time for in five days and staying at a hotel for three days won't be a big deal

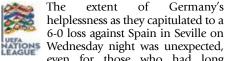
Watkiss also thought that playing Qatar would be a massive challenge and the quality of the players' preparation is very important for the boys in red and green over the next two weeks.

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who will play for Gemcon Khulna under the leadership of Mahmudullah Riyad in the upcoming Bangabandhu T20 Cup, had a security person alongside him during training in Mirpur yesterday as precautionary measure following a threat on his life on Facebook a couple of days ago. PHOTO: STAR

An all-time Löw

extent of Germany's

SAMAMA RAHMAN



Wednesday night was unexpected, even for those who had long banished any hopes they had once harbored about the current side.

It was Germany's worst loss in competitive football and the first time they had conceded six since a 6-3 loss to France in the 1958 World Cup. In terms of losses in all competitions, it matched a 6-0 defeat to Austria in 1931.

Die Mannschaft, now six years removed from their World Cup triumph, were outplayed to such an extent that even a cursory glance at the statistics paints a turbulent picture. They managed a total of zero shots on target and two shots overall,

compared to Spain who had 10 and 22 respectively.

Schweinsteiger's Bastian summation offered interesting insight into the psyche of the team. "What bothered me is that they didn't fight back. It didn't feel like a team. No commands. You only heard the Spanish speak.

As much of a cliché as it

may be at this point, everything we know suggests football is cyclical. Spain, after conquering the globe between 2008 and 2012, suffered a 5-1 defeat to the Netherlands in the 2014 World Cup, exiting in the group stages.

That famous curse of the champions -which has seen World Cup holders regularly exit in the group stages as they launch their title defence -- goes a long way towards illustrating this point.

In winning the 2010 World Cup, Spain scored 8 goals, the fewest-ever by a winning team. By 2014, Germany raised the stakes to 18 goals.

That, again, can be indicative of the direction the sport had moved. Spain's possession-based style was countered by a low-block, counter-attacking style. That led to managers like Jurgen Klopp and Hansi Flick determining that possession was not the beall and end-all, with Klopp going so far as to saying "pressing is the best playmaker".

Most damning perhaps, given that Joachim Low has chosen to stick to a slower style of the game, often experimenting with a five-at-the-back, is that Germany had only 30% of possession, despite boasting midfield generals like Toni Kroos and Leon Goretzka. The front three of Leroy Sane, Serge Gnabry and Timo Werner would also be better suited to a much faster style of play.

Another major deficiency has been the 60-year-old's inability to select the right players. After the debacle in 2018, Low dropped Thomas Mueller, Jerome Boateng and Mats Hummels. It was widely regarded as the correct decision at the time, but despite those players, especially Muller, staging a resurgence, they have been denied a chance at reintegration. That has also led to reports

of ill-will within in the team, reflected perhaps in the lack

of fight on display. legend Even German Lothar Matthaus was left screaming for those players to return, hoping Hummels and Boateng could shore up a defence that featured the likes of Robin Koch and Phillip Max. Regardless, Low will

continue at Germany as national team director Oliver Bierhoff confirmed, saying: "This game changes nothing. We still trust Joachim Loew, no doubt about that."

Low's legacy has been tainted to such an extent that Flick's influence on Germany has also become a raging issue. He was the national team assistant from 2006 to the end of the 2014 World Cup and now some wonder whether he was the true mastermind behind it all. After all, he guided Bayern Munich to the most impressive Champions League run in history backed with a clear, ultra-modern style of play, unaffected by Germany's dismal run.

At best, Low is a manager who has simply failed to adapt. At worst, he is the man that has alienated his team by refusing the play to their strengths and with the right players. And despite his past exploits, he now risks leaving behind a legacy of a man who wore out his welcome like none other.

Brazil, Argentina march on

AGENCIES



Brazil continued their perfect start to the qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup with a 2-0 win

over Uruguay while rivals Argentina stayed in touch with an easy win in Peru.

First-half goals from Arthur and Richarlison helped Brazil to a 2-0 win over Uruguay, who had Manchester United striker Edinson Cavani sent off.

Argentina, with Lionel Messi pulling the strings, brushed aside a limited Peru 2-0 in Lima, with goals from Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez and Nicholas Gonzalez in a game in which they were never troubled.

Ecuador, playing on their home turf in high-altitude Quito, hammered Colombia 6-1. Paraguay and Bolivia fought out a 2-2 draw while Venezuela -- the only South

a World Cup finals -- picked up their first points in a 2-1 victory over Chile in Caracas. Victory in Montevideo left Brazil on top of South America's qualifying standings on 12 points with four wins from four games. Argentina are second on 10 points after beating Peru, with surprise team Ecuador third on nine points. We needed this win, says Messi

In Lima, Nicolas Gonzalez put Argentina ahead with an angled shot in 17 minutes following incisive work from Giovani Lo Ceslo on the left flank and then Lautaro Martinez doubled their lead 11 minutes later when he ran on to a superb pass from Leandro Paredes and rounded the keeper to slot home.

"From the very start we played a great game, the goals came and we created lots of chances," captain Lionel Messi said after the match. "Happy with the victory, we needed it after the game we played the other day," he added in reference to their



Richarlison celebrates his goal as Brazil beat Uruquay 2-0 in a World Cup qualifier in Montevideo on Wednesday morning to stay top of the table with four wins out of four. Argentina, meanwhile, had an identicalmargin victory away to Peru, with Lautaro Martinez (top) and Nicolas Gonzalez getting the goals. PHOTO: REUTERS

American team never to qualify for 1-1 draw at home to Paraguay last week

"This is the path we have to keep on going down."

The win extended Argentina's unbeaten run to 11 games. It also marked the first time since the year 2000 that the two-time world champions have won three consecutive away qualifiers.

Arthur delighted with Brazil goal



Midfielder Arthur returned to the Brazil side and got the goal that set them on their way to a 2-0 win over Uruguay but the Juventus player said four wins out of four do not mean Brazil can rest on their laurels.

Arthur's first half goal was fortunate as it took a deflection that wrongfooted the Uruguayan keeper, but the stroke of luck came at the right time and helped ease the nerves of a side missing free-scoring Neymar.

"There is always room for improvement," Arthur said. "We are not getting arrogant because we're unbeaten." "We know that every game is difficult and every game different but we are on the right path. Not because we've won but because sometimes we've been playing well.

"We are on the right path, we have total faith in the coaches and they have faith in us.

Nadal positive despite defeat

AFP, LONDON

Rafael Nadal insisted he can still win the ATP Finals for the first time despite a damaging 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (7/4) defeat against Austria's Dominic Thiem on Tuesday.

Thiem overpowered Nadal behind closed doors at London's O2 Arena to put a dent in the Spanish star's bid to finally lift the one major prize missing from his packed trophy cabinet.

Thiem became the first player to qualify for the semi-finals a few hours later when reigning champion Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Russian seventh seed Andrey Rublev 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (8/6).

Nadal, who lost the 2010 and 2013 finals of the event, has to beat Tsitsipas in his last group match to reach the semi-finals of the prestigious season-ending tournament.

Despite his perilous position, Nadal goes into the showdown against Tsitsipas, with the winner guaranteed to progress to the last four, in confident mood after battling hard against the inspired Thiem.

"He played I think an amazing match, and I played well too. So my feeling is not negative. I lost, but I had plenty of chances," said Nadal.

"I'm happy with the way I played. I think my chances are bigger to have a very good result now than five days ago because the level of tennis, even if I lost today, for me is much higher."



DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2020, AGRAHAYAN 4, 1427 BS









MATARBARI POWER PLANT **Cox's Bazar**

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER

SHAH

Watch on drug rehab centres stepped up

5 shut in city; psychiatrists observe one-day work stoppage to protest NIMH registrar's arrest STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) yesterday closed five drug rehabilitation centres in the capital as those were running without licence.

The move comes days after the death of senior ASP Anisul Karim at Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital in the city's Adabor area.

Several teams raided the illegal centres in Doyaganj, Sanir Akhra, Mohammadpur and Mirpur areas and shut down their operations, DNC Director General Muhammed Ahsanul Jabbar told The Daily Star.

He said the DNC beefed up vigilance after the police officer was allegedly beaten to death inside the private rehabilitation centre by its staffers on November 9.

The DNC DG also said there were about 350 licensed rehab centres across the country, including 105 in the capital. "There is no scope to convert rehab facilities into psychiatric treatment facilities without permission, which was done by Mind Aid," he added.

During yesterday's drives, a team from the DNC's north division sealed off Hira Rehabilitation Centre in Mirpur-2 and Diner Alo Rehabilitation Centre in Mohammadpur. DNC officials said the centres had applied for licences but were yet to get them. They also did not have enough psychiatrists and support staffers, including ward boys. SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

People crossing the Dhaka-Aricha highway near Abdullahpur, paying scarcely any attention to an advancing truck, which has to make way for the pedestrians rather than the other way round. This photo was taken on Tuesday morning.

РНОТО: SK ENAMUL HAQ

SIPHONING OFF MONEY Govt officials outnumber politicians

FM says citing initial info on 28 cases in Canada

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said he was surprised to see the number of government officials who siphoned off money and sent the amounts Toronto, to Canada, outnumbering politicians.

initial "It was an information. We have to verify it," he told reporters referring to information the government has about 28 cases

Of the 28 cases, only four are linked to politicians while the rest to government officials and a few businesspeople. "I thought that the

number of politicians would be higher. I was surprised, though the information is not comprehensive," said the minister.

Momen was talking to reporters at an interaction Dhaka session with

Europe sees first dip in Covid-19 cases in months

Says WHO; Pfizer/BioNTech say results show Covid vaccine 95% effective AGENCIES

The number of new Covid-19 cases declined last week for the first time in over three months, but deaths in the region continued to climb, WHO data showed yesterday

In total, nearly four million cases of the novel coronavirus were registered worldwide during the week ending Sunday, and almost 60,000 people of from the disease during the same period, the World Health Organization said. Europe, which on Tuesday saw its total number of coronavirus infections climb past 15 million, remained the hardest-hit region. Last week it accounted for 46 percent of the new global cases and 49 percent of the deaths, the UN health agency's weekly epidemiological update showed. With 1.84 million new cases registered, the caseload across the region remained staggeringly high, but WHO noted that "in the past week, for the first time in over three months, the region observed a

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES 'Stop arms race'



November 19, 1972

Fire at Grid Substation Power partly restored in Sylhet city after 31 hrs **OUR CORRESPONDENT**, Sylhet

After almost 31 hours, power supply at many areas in Sylhet city started restoring from 6:10pm yesterday

Most parts of Sylhet and some parts of Sunamganj districts plunged into darkness after a fire broke out at the 132/33 KV Svlhet Grid Substation in Kumargaon area of Sylhet around 11:00am Tuesdav Juwel Rana, assistant engineer (sale and distribution) of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) in Sylhet, said, "After emergency repair work, we've started restoring power connection at different parts of the city and outskirts. As the

Robot enforces maskwearing, distancing at Japan store



SEE PAGE 4 COL 2 Schoolgirl raped in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A female student of class ten was raped in a village of Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila yesterday morning, police said.

The alleged rapist, 27-year-old Mashiur Rahman from the upazila's Chandrapur village, was on the run till evening.

Quoting the victim, Arju Md Sajjad Hossain, officerin-charge of Kaliganj Police Station, said the incident happened around 8:00am when the girl was returning SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Shamsuddoza Saien

BANGABANDHU'S CALL FOR LASTING WORLD PEACE

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today calls upon

peace-loving people of the world to strengthen the movement for world peace and made a fervent appeal to the big powers to stop the maddening arms race. The prime minister is confident that no power would be able to ignore the world opinion in favour of world peace. In this age one country could not subjugate or oppress another country for long, he adds. Bangabandhu is speaking at a reception accorded to him by the Bangladesh Awami League for his being awarded the Juliot-Curie peace medal.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

damage is huge, it will take some time to restore all connection to normalcy". Masnun Alam, sub-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

assistant engineer of Power

A robot has signed on as the newest staff member at a store in Japan, taking on the job of ensuring customers wear masks and practice social distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Robovie, developed by Kyoto-based Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR), guides customers around the sales floor at the official store of soccer team Cerezo Osaka.

It warns customers when it detects through a camera and 3D laser beam technology that they are not wearing masks or abiding by social distancing rules.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 19 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esh AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-25 7-00 JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATIO

Govt to buy 40 lakh MRPs for expatriate Bangladeshis STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs yesterday approved a proposal to procure 40 lakh machinereadable passport (MRP) books to meet the immediate requirement of Bangladeshi expatriates.

The home ministry made the proposal before the committee so that Bangladeshis living abroad get the passports, as the government cannot give them e-passports due to the coronavirus pandemic across the globe.

Cabinet Division Additional Secretary Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal said the government's target is to give everyone e-passport.

"But we are going to buy 40 lakh MRPs due to the Covid-19 situation," he told this newspaper after the cabinet committee meeting was held virtually. Contacted, Brig Gen Saidur Rahman Khan, project director of e-passport, said for SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Children in Hatirjheel creating earthen toys, which they will leave out in the sun to dry before they can start playing with them. Amid the continuing closure of schools during the coronavirus pandemic, children across the country have had a lot of time to engage in recreational activities. This photo was taken around noon yesterday.

PHOTO RASHED SHUMON

REJECTION OF FRAUD CLAIMS Trump fires **US** election security chief

Judge skeptical of Trump bid to halt Biden win in Pennsylvania Agencies

Donald Trump on Tuesday fired the US government's top election security official, who had rejected the president's unsubstantiated claims of "massive" fraud in the vote he lost to Joe Biden.

Trump announced on Twitter the termination "effective immediately" of Chris Krebs, who led the agency that jointly declared "the November 3rd election was the most secure in American history." The US president, who refuses to acknowledge that

he lost his bid for reelection to Democrat Biden, has repeatedly claimed without evidence that the voting and count were replete with fraud.

"The recent statement by Chris Krebs on the security of the 2020 Election was highly inaccurate, in that there were massive improprieties and fraud," he wrote in a tweet.

"Therefore, effective immediately, Chris Krebs has been terminated as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Krebs, who reportedly told friends last week he expected to be removed, appeared to confirm it in a tweet on his personal account.

"Honored to serve. We did it right. Defend Today, Secure Tomorrow," he wrote.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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