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Your Right to Know

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"The contractors who will finish their work within the stipulated time will get their bill, or they will not get it."
DSCC MAYOR SHEIKH FAZLE NOOR TAPOSH



"BNP's democracy means getting assurance of their win in elections."
AWAMI LEAGUE GENERAL SECRETARY
OBAIDUL QUADER



"It's very important to have transparency... it's also important to get across that this is a normal part of virus evolution."
WHO EMERGENCIES CHIEF MIKE RYAN ON NEW COVID STRAIN

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROCEEDS

Papul, family made over Tk 355cr

Finds a CID probe into money-laundering allegations against the independent lawmaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Independent lawmaker Mohammad Shahid Islam Papul and his family members amassed more than Tk 355 crore mainly through human trafficking over the last several years.

The money was transacted through more than 500 bank accounts and Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs). Over Tk 130 crore is now available in these accounts.

The Criminal Investigation Department of Police has come up with the findings after a probe into the allegations of money laundering against the MP from Laxmipur-2 and his family members.

The CID yesterday filed a money laundering case against Papul, his daughter Wafa Islam, brother Kazi Badrul Alam Liton, sister-in-law Jesmin Prodhana, staffers Sadiqur Rahman Monir and Golam Mostafa, and two overseas employment agencies owned by Badrul and Jesmin.

This is the third case against the lawmaker and his family members.

"Over Tk 355 crore was transacted



through more than 500 bank accounts and FDRs in the last several years. In its primary investigation, the CID found that the money was made through human trafficking," said Assistant Superintendent of Police Al-Amin Hossain of the CID's Financial Crime Unit, who filed the case with Paltan Police Station.

According to the case statement, Papul's associate Monir took Tk 5 to 7 lakh from each victim seeking overseas job through "Job Bank International" owned by Badrul.

The CID found that Tk 38.22 crore was transferred and withdrawn by Papul, Wafa and Jesmin from Monir's bank account with a state-run bank between 2016 and this year.

Though there were no business relations between Jesmin and Monir, Tk 17.48 crore was transferred to Jesmin's bank account from Monir's account. Monir also transferred Tk 1.18 crore to Papul's company Four Point Housing and Real State, it said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



People through a road near Gulistan underpass in the capital yesterday to buy warm clothes without following health safety rules. A lane of the road is occupied by hawkers, causing a tailback. Such blatant violation of health safety rules remains a major concern for the authorities as the country is seeing a rise in Covid-19 infections.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SUSPENDING FLIGHTS TO UK

Govt taking time to decide over new strain fears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will decide on suspending flights to the UK after understanding the situation over the spread of a new strain of the novel coronavirus there, Mohibul Haque, senior secretary of the civil aviation and tourism ministry, said yesterday.

He made the comments after several countries have cancelled flights to the UK in the wake of the new coronavirus outbreak.

Talking to reporters at the secretariat, he said, "We are aware of the situation. We are collecting information. We are yet to make any decision on suspending flight to the UK. Action will be taken after understanding the situation in this regard."

Saudi Arabia suspended all international flights, including to and from Bangladesh, for a week amid reports of the appearance of a new strain of novel coronavirus in the UK.

The suspension casts uncertainty on the return of Bangladeshi expatriate workers to their workplaces in the Gulf country.

Asked what would happen to Saudi-

RELATED STORIES ON PAGE 12 SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Oxygen supply under strain

Disaster averted by taking prompt action to bring oxygen from India

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Supply of liquid oxygen to public hospitals has been under strain as a production plant of a key supplier remains out of service for nearly two weeks.

The supplier, Linde Bangladesh Limited, a multinational company, is now bringing in the life-saving oxygen from India using tankers and delivering it to the hospitals on a temporary basis.

It happened at a time when Covid-19 deaths are on the rise in this winter. Linde Bangladesh provides the government hospitals with 90 percent of their daily demand for 100 tonnes of liquid oxygen, which is essential to ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply.

But the plant, situated in Narayanjan's Rupganj, around 17km off the capital's zero point, went of service on December 11 following a technical glitch, said its officials.

They said they were working to fix it and resume the production, but it might take some time. In the meantime, they were keeping the supply chain unharmed using alternative means.

Asked, health officials claimed that the situation was under control. They thanked the government for taking prompt actions and ensure that the oxygen is imported from India on an emergency basis.

They said it could have been disastrous had the government not taken the steps immediately.

The officials said uninterrupted oxygen supply was extremely crucial in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

RISING CYBERCRIME

Police hotlines flooded with complaints

4,567 calls received in three weeks

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

"Please save me, I have no other option but to die."

A middle-aged homemaker pleaded while calling the hotline number of Police Cyber Support for Women (PCSW) wing at the Police Headquarters around midnight on November 29.

The victim said she gave an alert post on Facebook that her sister's ID had been hacked. Responding to it, a woman called her on messenger and said it would take money to recover the hacked ID.

During further communication, the caller hacked this woman's ID and demanded the victim engage in some unsocial activities or pay a huge sum of money to get her ID back.

As the victim refused to oblige, the hacker started sending fabricated messages to her relatives and friends. The messages were so offensive and vulgar that the woman broke down mentally.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCES

Not for those who avoid staying in govt houses: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government officials and public university teachers who do not stay in the houses and quarters earmarked for them will not be given any house rent allowances.

Presiding over the weekly Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) meeting, she also directed the finance ministry to take necessary steps to that end, said Ashadul Islam, senior secretary of the Planning Division, after the meeting.

Hasina gave the directions while talking about the first revision of the project to further develop Rajshahi Science and Technology University with the additional cost of Taka 259.17 crore, he said.

The Tk 340-crore project, originally planned to be completed by June 2020, was given a two-year extension at the meeting.

Ashadul added that it was seen that many government houses and quarters have been lying empty as a good number of teachers and government officers do not stay in their designated homes.

"If the houses remain vacant for too long, there is a lack of maintenance, which ultimately destroys the properties," he said.

Officials said that many government officials and university teachers outside the capital prefer staying in rented homes and not at their allocated quarters. If they stay in their allotted quarters, they do not get the rent allowance, which is usually more than the rent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



17 more die, 1,318 infected with Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate reported 17 people died from Covid-19 -- the lowest daily count in the last five weeks -- in 24 hours ending 8:00am yesterday.

With this, the number of deaths caused by the virus rose to 7,329 and the death rate stood at 1.46 percent, said a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services.

The same number of people -- 17 -- died on November 20.

In the 24 hours, 1,318 new infections were recorded, taking the number of people infected to 5,03,501, the release said.

Against 15,452 tests in those 24 hours, the positivity rate was 8.70 percent, while the overall positivity rate stood at 16.21 percent.

At least 2,235 Covid-19 patients recovered in the same 24 hours.

The total number of recoveries now stands at 4,41,929 and the recovery rate is 87.77 percent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



A woman cooks a meal while a train passes by with inches to spare in the capital's Tejjagon. Homeless people living along railway lines in the city are exposed to accidents and cold temperatures as they struggle to make ends meet. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MIGRATION TO ITALY

Don't fall in trap, use legal ways

Says Italian Ambassador Enrico Nunziata in interview with The Daily Star

PORIMOL PALMA

As Italy has enlisted Bangladesh as one of the 30 countries eligible to send seasonal and non-seasonal workers after an eight-year long suspension, Italian authorities have urged aspirants to use legal pathways.

"If you follow legal pathways, you can make a fortune. Or else, you [will] fall prey to the traps of middlemen and frauds," said Enrico Nunziata, Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh, in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star recently.

Once Bangladeshis will get a regular long-term stay permit and work regularly, they can take their families and eventually get Italian citizenship after 10 years of regular uninterrupted residence.

"Now that there is a new opportunity, don't waste it. Choose the legal pathway," he stressed.

Italy is home to some 148,000 registered Bangladeshis, while some thousand are undocumented. Under an amnesty programme, Italy regularised at least 12,746 undocumented Bangladeshis this year.

The only European country that recruits workers from Bangladesh as "seasonal" or "non-seasonal categories" had suspended this programme in 2012 as many people overstayed their terms.

The other phenomena in recent years was the illegal migration to Italy from Libya through the Mediterranean Sea. In 2017 alone, 9,000 Bangladeshis went to Italy illegally, using the sea route. That trend has now significantly come down.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BANGLADESH UPDATE



1,318
New cases in 24hrs



5,03,501
Total cases



7,329
Deaths



4,41,929
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



1,717,566
Deaths



78,104,605
Total cases

Cold wave likely to continue

STAR REPORT

Public sufferings caused by the ongoing cold spell remains unabated in many districts, especially in northern region.

Farmers are struggling to protect the crops in the cold-hit areas as crops in some areas have been affected due to biting cold.

The lowest temperature was recorded at 7.1 degree Celsius at Tentulia in Panchagarh yesterday.

"Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Gopalganj, Cumilla, Tentulia, Rajarhat and Chuadanga," read a weather bulletin.

"It may continue," added the bulletin of Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

"Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country," it added.

The Met office forecast for 24 hours was released at 6:00pm yesterday.

"Weather may remain dry over the country. Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country and light to moderate fog may occur at places elsewhere over the country during midnight to morning," it added.

The bulletin forecast that the weather may see little change in the

next 72 hours.

Our correspondents from different districts reported on the cold wave.

Blight disease are spreading in potato fields due to severe cold. Besides, Boro seedlings and peeper plants have also been damaged due to cold in some areas in Nilphamari.

Shamim Hossain Babu, a farmer of Uttor Durakuti village in Kishoreganj, said, "I have cultivated potato in 22 bighas of land. Of these, potato of 15 decimal lands have already been attacked by disease.

"Now, I have to use insecticides, deploy guards round the clock and take other initiative to protect my potato. It will increase my production cost."

Many feared that if cold spell continued for longer period, more crops will be damaged.

Contacted, Obaidur Rahman, deputy director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Nilphamari, said they have suggested farmers to use insecticides to protect crops.

He, however, claimed that he does not have any information of damaging crops due to cold.

Our Nilphamari correspondent contributed to this report.



Members of Bangladesh Chhatra Adhikar Parishad block Paltan intersection in the capital yesterday protesting what they say is the impunity for the attackers of their leaders at Ducusu Bhaban of Dhaka University a year ago. Movement of traffic was disrupted in the area for about half an hour.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Don't fall in trap, use legal ways

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during her visit to Italy in February this year, requested Italy to open the labour market for Bangladesh.

Enrico said, "We considered opening the labour market in response to Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's request. It is also because there is now a Standard Operating Procedure between Bangladesh and European Union for the repatriation of undocumented migrants."

He said seasonal workers' visas range from three months to nine months, while non-seasonal ones are for long term residence, adding that his government has announced the recruitment 30,000 seasonal workers for now.

The Italian ambassador however said the number of Bangladeshis who can be recruited cannot be predicted since quotas are open for workers of other nationalities as well.

The deadline for the employers to apply for the foreign workers from 30 countries is December 31.

RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE
Ambassador Enrico Nunziata ruled out the involvement of middlemen or agents in the recruitment process.

There is already a big Bangladeshi community in Italy, familiar with the employers. Here, familiarity and trustworthiness are important, he added.

Once the employer gets passports and other details of the aspirant migrants, they apply to the provincial one-stop service centre (involving departments of labour, interior and police) for foreign workers.

Once work permit is issued against the candidate, it is put online and is accessible by the Italian embassies concerned and is notified to the employer. The employer then notifies the jobseeker, who then has to apply

to VFS Italy -- the Italian visa service provider.

All the taxes and fees for the work permits are provided by the employers.

The only fee the jobseekers need to pay is the cost of the VFS service, which is 30 Euros, and the visa fee, which is 80 euros for short term visas up to 90 days and 116 Euros for long term visas, Enrico explains.

"We check if the information in the application matches with that of the work permit and then print it," he said.

He also warned that anyone claiming to arrange visas and collects money is a fraud.

An official at the Bangladesh's Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment said there is information that middlemen are offering Italian visas in exchange for hefty sums. The ministry also asked the jobseekers not to pay any money to these middlemen.

When workers pay hefty sums, they tend not to return but earn more in illegal ways. They think they can't obtain visas again, which is not right, said Ambassador Enrico.

"If they return home on time, they can go again. It's also good that after three to six months they can come, visit family and go back to Italy again," he said.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The Italian ambassador said while working as a seasonal worker, one could also be eligible in the future for indefinite work permit finding employers for a permanent job. More importantly, when one has a regular position in Italy, they can bring other family members and after 10 years of regular work and income, they can become Italian citizens.

Family reunification is a way through which the Bangladeshi community in Italy has been increasing every year. In 2013, there was 111,223 Bangladeshis.

That increased to 147,872 in 2019.

Enrico Nunziata said since his joining the Italian Embassy in Dhaka in January 2019, he cleared a lot of backlog of visa applications, including the family reunification visas.

BE PATIENT FOR RE-ENTRY VISAS
Just before or during the pandemic, many Bangladeshis had come here, but their resident permits got expired or lost. So, they applied for re-entry visas.

Between August and October, more than 2,000 Bangladeshis applied for re-entry visas that created immense pressure on the embassy. Though other embassies worked from home, officials of the Italian embassy had to work full-fledged in the office.

The challenge is that the Italian competent police headquarters (Questure) authorisation is required for issuing such visas, that it does after verification of the application. This is requiring a longer time since Italy is also battling the Covid-19 pandemic with lockdowns.

Some police headquarters, located in cities where the Bangladeshi community is larger and which receive higher requests of re-entries, take more time to respond compared to others. This is why some re-entry visas are issued before others. By December, the Italian embassy was able to issue around 1,500 re-entry visas.

"When we are working hard day and night, some applicants were agitating. This is so unfortunate," Enrico said, adding that the embassy is eager to clear the backlog and help the applicants, who were urged to be patient.

"Migration from Bangladesh to Italy forms a very important pillar of bilateral relationships. But we encourage legal pathways. If there are trends of people overstaying, the new opportunity may be wasted," he said.

US reinstates Sudan's sovereign immunity over past terror attacks

AFP, Washington

US lawmakers on Monday backed legislation granting Sudan legal immunity for past militant attacks, a final step in a historic deal removing Khartoum from Washington's blacklist of state sponsors of terrorism.

The text restores Sudan's sovereign immunity with the exception of litigation already pending in US federal courts related to the September 11, 2001 attacks, and earmarks hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Khartoum.

The legislation was part of the massive omnibus bill to fund the government for the coming year, which is also due to include a new aid package to help millions of Americans and businesses hit hard by the pandemic.

Sudan was removed from the US

state sponsors of terrorism blacklist a week ago, less than two months after the Arab nation pledged to normalize ties with Israel.

The move also promises aid, debt relief and investment to a country going through a rocky political transition and struggling under a severe economic crisis exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sudan will receive \$700 million in assistance funds and an additional \$120 million toward the repayment of its debt to the International Monetary Fund.

As part of a deal, Sudan agreed to pay \$335 million to compensate survivors and victims' families from the 1998 al-Qaeda twin attacks on the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and a 2000 attack by the jihadist group on the USS Cole off Yemen's coast.

Papul, family made

FROM PAGE 1

"Jesmin's 38 bank accounts and FDRs were directly and indirectly controlled by Papul who transferred crores of taka to different bank accounts," the CID official told The Daily Star.

He also said they are investigating whether Papul's wife Selina Islam, also a lawmaker, had any involvement in it.

Al-Amin suspected that the accused may have more illegally amassed wealth. The prime accused, Papul, could possess illegal assets outside the country. Information regarding this will be obtained from financial intelligence units of foreign countries through mutual legal assistance requests.

"We will probe further to trace the money he [Papul] laundered abroad. We may seek court order for freezing his accounts and confiscating his properties," he added.

According to the case statement, Papul in his wealth statement mentioned that he has wealth worth Tk 41.07 crore, while his wife Selina claimed she has wealth worth Tk 64.51 crore and their daughter Wafa Tk 7.77 crore.

In her wealth statement, Papul's sister-in-law Jesmin said she possesses wealth worth Tk 30 lakh. However, the CID probe found that she has transacted Tk 164 crore through 38 bank accounts and FDRs against her name or her organisation's name.

Papul was arrested in Kuwait in early June and is now behind bars. He faces trial on the charges of human trafficking and money laundering.

He has been accused of taking up to 3,000 Kuwaiti dinars (around Tk 8 lakh) each from migrant workers, mostly Bangladeshis, for sending them to Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti authorities shut down a big recruitment company jointly owned by Papul and a Kuwaiti citizen.

On July 7, Kuwait-returnee Abdul Alim from Naogaon filed a human trafficking case against Papul with Motijheel Police Station.

Alim said he paid Job Bank International Tk 7 lakh for a job in Kuwait with a monthly salary of Tk 35,000. Upon his arrival in Kuwait, he was given a job in a cleaning company owned by Papul. Alim was forced to work 16 hours a day and got Tk 22,000-27,000 a month.

Another Kuwait-returnee, Rubel Haq, alleged that he paid Tk 5 lakh to the same agency for a job in the Middle East country. But when he arrived there, he was not given the promised job. Instead, he along with 10 other Bangladeshis was sent back by the Kuwaiti authorities for not having legal documents.

Based on the allegations, the CID

arrested Job Bank International Manager Golam Mostafa who later confessed before a court that following instructions from Papul and Badrul, he took Tk 5 to 7 lakh each from many with promises of jobs in Kuwait. He then transferred the money to the two brothers.

The Anti-Corruption Commission on November 11 filed a case against Papul, his wife, daughter and sister-in-law for laundering Tk 148 crore.

HC ORDER
The High Court yesterday ordered Papul's wife Selina and daughter Wafa to surrender before the lower court concerned by December 28 in the Tk 148.41 crore laundering case.

The court gave the order after virtually hearing a petition filed by the two for including the word "vacation" in its earlier order.

Khurshid Alam Khan, counsel for the ACC, told this newspaper that the HC on December 10 rejected a bail petition filed by the two and ordered them to surrender before the court of metropolitan sessions judge in Dhaka.

The accused went to the court concerned on December 20 to surrender in line with the HC directive. But it did not accept their surrender as the HC order mentioned that they have to surrender to the court of metropolitan sessions judge, not to a vacation court, he said.

Selina and Wafa later submitted a petition to the HC for including the word "vacation" in its order, mentioned the lawyer.

The lower courts across the country are on 15-day annual vacation from December 17, added Khurshid.

In the case statement, the ACC said Papul deposited Tk 148.41 crore to different bank accounts of his sister-in-law Jesmin. Selina and Wafa also transferred their ill-gotten money to Jesmin's accounts.

The ACC also brought charges of illegally accumulating Tk 2.31 crore against the main accused, Jesmin.

The allegations surfaced after Kuwaiti newspapers reported in February that Papul was running a human trafficking racket in that country. The reports said the two Bangladeshi lawmakers and their daughter held key positions in three major companies that sent over 20,000 Bangladeshi workers to Kuwait in exchange for an amount believed to be at least Tk 1,391.6 crore.

On November 26, Selina, Wafa and Jesmin filed two separate petitions with the HC seeking anticipatory bail in the case.

In the petitions, they said the case was filed against them with malafide intention to harass them.

Police hotlines flooded with complaints

FROM PAGE 1

The PCSW officials first tried to calm her down, saying suicide could not be a solution and that she needed to be strong to ensure punishment of the criminals.

Following an hour-long counselling, the victim started providing information and the hacker was eventually arrested, according to a PCSW official.

Shakila Yeasmin Suchana, an assistant superintendent of police at the PCSW wing, told The Daily Star on December 7 that they often receive such desperate calls.

"We have to calm them down with proper counselling over phone or on Facebook messenger before taking action against the criminals," she added.

Since the special wing, consisting of only the female members of police, was launched on November 16, PCSW has received around 4,567 complaints on its hotline number -- 01320-000888 -- or its Facebook page.

Of the complaints, 1,096 were for fake ID, 638 for ID hack, 367 for blackmailing, 435 for mobile harassment and 356 for sending nude content, according to the wing's database.

Mir Abu Touhid, assistant inspector general at the Police Headquarters, said they act promptly whenever any complaints reach the wing.

Of the complaints, around 1,344 have been addressed till December 7, he added.

COMPLAINTS MULTIPLYING
Just nine months back in March this year, the Cyber Police Centre of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) launched a Facebook page to create awareness and receive complaints of cybercrime victims. It can also be reached over the phone by dialling 01320-010148.

"When we launched the page, we used to receive around 50 to 100 complaints daily," said Mohammad Mahmudul Islam Talukder, additional police superintendent at the Cyber Police Centre.

"But it started rising rapidly soon after as awareness among the victims grew about where to file complaints. Now the Cyber Police Centre is receiving around 1,500 complaints

daily from different areas of the country and the number is rising every day," he said.

The cell received around 700 to 800 complaints daily in September.

The official observed the lack of digital knowledge and slack vigilance from the authorities on the use of Facebook had worsened the situation. Many users get tricked, harassed and blackmailed by fake social media account holders and are left socially humiliated.

The Cyber Police Centre received around 7,020 complaints on Facebook and 8,486 complaints over phone from September 1 to November 18 this year, according to its database.

Majority of the victims are aged 14-30.

CID has completed investigation of around 197 cases in two years till November of this year and around 179 cases are under investigation.

ONLINE APPS UNDER SURVEILLANCE

Md Kamrul Ahsan, additional DIG of CID Cyber Police, told this newspaper recently that they have marked out some online applications behind sexual harassment.

Nude contents are being aired in these apps, instigating the youth to commit offences like sexual harassment, he said.

"We have prepared a list of around 100 such online applications, which are easy to download for free. We will write to BTRC soon to ban these online social media apps," the official added.

He said some neighbouring countries have already started taking action against this type of app.

In a recent move, India has taken off Likee from Google Play and App Store and also suspended the operation of Bigo app, according to media reports.

CRIME ZONE

The CID has marked out some districts as cybercrime zones after analysing the 7,020 complaints on Facebook and 8,486 complaints over phone from September 1 to November 18 of this year.

These complaints include digital fraud, digital question paper leak, dollar purchase, pornography and mobile financial account fraud, said SM Ashraf Alam, special superintendent (investigation and operation) of CID

Not for those

FROM PAGE 1

According to them, a teacher or government official in the capital get 50 to 60 percent of their basic as house rent, and those working in metropolitan cities get 40 to 60 percent. Those working outside the capital and metropolitan cities get 35 to 45 percent.

At the meeting, the PM also directed all universities to form a "master plan" so that there are no unplanned constructions of building or infrastructure on the campuses.

She added that "rate schedules" prepared by the executing agencies must get approval from the finance ministry before the project gets government approval.

The Planning Commission must scrutinise whether the rate schedule was approved by the finance ministry, Ashadul quoted the PM as saying.

Officials said that on many occasions executing agencies bring changes in the rate schedule and that causes an increase in the project cost.

Ashadul said the finance ministry has already issued a circular in this regard to effectively address the issue of rate schedules and the Cabinet Division is also taking due measures.

Oxygen supply

FROM PAGE 1

saving lives of critical coronavirus patients, who grasp for oxygen.

With cylinders, a patient can be given oxygen at the maximum rate of six litres per minute. Whereas, a central oxygen supply, which can provide much more oxygen in an uninterrupted manner, depends on liquid oxygen.

"The repair work is underway at our Ruppang plant. We are in the meantime importing oxygen from India ... and supplying it to the hospitals," Saika Majed, general manager of Linde Bangladesh Limited, told The Daily Star, adding that the import began on December 14.

She said they were bringing in around 60-80 tonnes of oxygen every day and would continue to do so until the plant resumed operation.

Besides, around 20 tonnes are being supplied to the hospitals from Linde's another plant in Chattogram, she said, adding, "We are hopeful that there will be no shortage of medical oxygen."

Officials of the Directorate General of Health Services said around 100 tonnes of oxygen are needed every day to ensure uninterrupted supply at the government hospitals and 90 percent of the supply comes from Linde Bangladesh. The rest is supplied by Spectra Oxygen Limited, they said.

"After the production stopped, the government acted quickly and ensured a smooth supply. Otherwise, the situation could have turned grave," said DGHS Director (hospital) Farid Uddin Mia.

Soon after the plant went out of order, the Prime Minister's Office, the health, home and foreign ministries, the NBR and other ministries and departments concerned were prompt in solving the crisis, he said.

"Now tankers loaded with liquid oxygen directly come to Bangladesh [from India] through Benapole border," he added.

Wishing not to be named, a DGHS official, however, said there were still some concerns. "The situation can turn bad if the supply gets disrupted somehow," he said.

The World Health Organisation says 15-20 percent of Covid-19 patients require hospitalisation and oxygen support, with around 15 percent of cases showing severe symptoms and five percent requiring intensive care.

DGHS officials said the number of critical Covid-19 patients seeking oxygen support at hospitals was increasing as winter set in.

On December 19, some 301 people were admitted to ICUs across the country, shows DGHS data. There are a total of 568 dedicated ICU beds for Covid-19 patients.

In the hospitals in Dhaka, 211 of the 286 ICU beds were occupied that day, the data shows.

Currently, 17 hospitals -- eight public and nine private -- are offering ICU facilities in Dhaka.

Dr Mushtaq Hussain, consultant of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), said the rise in the number of critical patients and a lack of intensive care facilities in hospitals in other districts were putting strain on the hospitals with ICUs in Dhaka.

He said patients from other districts rushed to Dhaka for many other reasons.

"It might be the case that a district has one hospital with ICU facilities, but it lacks manpower to run the ICUs or the machines do not function properly," he added.

17 more die

FROM PAGE 1

Of the 17 deceased, 11 were males.

Two were aged between 41 and 50, four between 51 and 60, and 11 were above 60 years, added the release.

Govt taking time

FROM PAGE 1

bound Bangladeshi migrant workers amid the flight suspension, Mohibul Haque said, "We have contacts with the Saudi government. Preference will be given to those who were waiting to return to Saudi Arabia after buying tickets. There is nothing to worry about."

UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock on December 20 warned that the new mutant strain of the coronavirus is "out of control" and suggested parts of England will be stuck in the new highest tier of restrictions until a vaccine is rolled out.

DNC planning to buy phone trackers

Setting up digital forensic lab for increased vigilance

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With an aim to detect narcotics rings and the masterminds behind it, the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has proposed to buy a mobile tracker system.

The anti-narcotics authority has also taken steps to set up a digital forensic centre so that they can check the history of a digital device used by narcotics dealers or traders.

Confirming the development, Md Meheddi Hasan, assistant director (AD) of DNC, told The Daily Star yesterday that they have already started work to set up a digital forensic centre and buy mobile tracker system to intensify anti-narcotics operation.

The director general (DG) of DNC has already given his approval a day back to formed a committee to work into the issue, according to officials of DNC.

The committee will be formed with representatives from the National Telecommunication Monitoring Center, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, home ministry, post and telecommunication ministry, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), they said.

According to sources, DNC DG Muhammed Ahsanul Jabbar in a letter proposed to buy the digital mobile tracker for the agency.

The letter addressing the secretary of BTRC reads that DNC has already got approval from the home ministry for lawful interception facility. However, the agency is failing to conduct successful drives in absence of a mobile tracker.

It often became difficult to trace the position of a narcotics trader without a tracker, reads the letter send by DG DNC.

DG Jabbar further mentioned that if an approval can be given to buy tracker for the agency then it would be easier to bring the mastermind of narcotics trade to book.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Finding no other way to fight the winter chills, many often come to lie down under the sun's warmth at the capital's Eidgah, beside the High Court. People in need of blankets, sweaters and roofs above their heads suffer the most when the temperature drops. This photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

REPAIR OF ROADS Won't clear bills if not finished on time: Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday asked the engineering section and contractors to take necessary steps to finish all development works timely.

Addressing a board meeting yesterday the mayor said repair work of roads, footpaths and drains was not completed timely and is going under uncertainty.

Asking contractors and engineers to take necessary steps to finish all the work timely, the mayor said they will not extend any more time for the job and they will not pay any bill to the contractors if they fail to finish their job in time.

"The contractors who will finish their work in scheduled time will get their bill, otherwise they will not," he added.

It is important to finish all the pending work timely so that they can start new development work, the mayor said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

New political party will be launched soon: Ex-VP Nur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new political party, Gono Adhikar Parishad, will officially be launched soon, said former Ducusu VP Nurul Haque Nur yesterday afternoon.



He said this during a rally at Dhaka's Paltan intersection, organised by Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, marking one year of the attack on Nur at Ducusu building.

"We are working to form a new political party amid persecution... our party, Gono Adhikar Parishad, will be launched soon," he said.

A black-flag procession started from Central Shaheed Minar. Activists of the parishad blockaded Paltan intersection for around half an hour in the afternoon.

500 NGOs, civil society orgs name new platform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform -- comprising of development organisations and civil society groups -- is a positive initiative indeed to achieve Bangladesh's SDG 2030 targets, says Dr Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister.

He said this newly formed platform will have in-depth research to find solutions for hunger, poverty and lack of education.

"It will then help build successful advocacy," he made these remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a virtual event organised to announce the formation of a greater platform of NGOs and civil society organisations of Bangladesh.

Leaders of over 500 NGOs and civil society organisations joined the virtual event chaired by Rasheda K Chowdhury, chairperson, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), and moderated by BRAC's senior director KAM Morshed.

Dr Rizvi said NGOs have immense contribution in the development of Bangladesh and the citizen groups have been actively engaged in their role since the birth of Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh must be able to deal with these challenges more efficiently, while it advances towards graduating to a middle income country. We should now reach the disadvantaged and deprived communities with services on priority basis," he added.

The event was organised yesterday with NGO Affairs Bureau director-general Md Rashadul Islam and eminent economist Professor Wahid Uddin Mahmud present as special guests.

At the virtual programme, the organisers focused on the mission, objectives and next steps of the newly founded platform. They also announced that Brac will be its secretariat for first two years.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

GRAFT CASE Former Teknaf UZ chairman denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to former chairman of Teknaf upazila Zafar Ahmed in a corruption case involving Tk 4.9 crore.

The HC also directed Zafar to surrender to the lower court concerned in two weeks in connection with the case.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohail came up with the order after hearing a petition filed by Zafar recently, seeking anticipatory bail.

He appeared before the HC bench for bail yesterday.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Double Mooring Police Station in Chattogram on April 1, 2019 against him on charge of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 4.9 crore, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

AN ALLIANCE SET IN STONE

New Liberation War sculpture in Sitakunda 'Mrityunjoyee Mitra'



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The sculpture is installed on the terrace of Chandranath hill, the spot where martyrs from the Indian allied forces were cremated after the battle to liberate Sitakunda.

ARUN BIKASH DEV, Ctg

The Chattogram Zila Parishad has installed a new sculpture in Sitakunda as a tribute to martyred Freedom Fighters and members of Indian allied forces.

The sculpture, named Mrityunjoyee Mitra, commemorates a front battle against the Pakistan army that took place in Sitakunda between December 12 and December 16 of 1971, during the Liberation War.

Located in the terrace of Sitakunda's Chandranath hill, the sculpture was inaugurated this Monday by Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami and chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Public Works Engr Mosharraf Hossain.

"Over 55 members of Indian friendly forces and over a hundred Freedom Fighters embraced martyrdom in the battle to free Sitakunda," Lawmaker from Sitakunda's Chattogram-4 Didarul Alam said.

"The martyred Indian fighters were cremated at the terrace of Chandranath hill. It's fitting that the zila parishad decided to found a tributary sculpture here," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Govt misleading people in name of dev: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the government is misleading the country's people in the name of development.

"The government is saying that it has implemented a huge development and it is a role model of development. But UNDP in its recent report on Human Development Index found Bangladesh in the fifth position in South Asia, which is even below Bhutan," said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Addressing a press conference at party chairperson's Gulshan office, the BNP leader said, "The report indicates that the government is trying to mislead people in the name of development. The main target of such propaganda is to stay in power."

Fakhrul said the incumbent government has destroyed all the spirits of the independence. The government has politicised the country's judiciary and economy, and turned

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

'SCAMMING JOBSEEKERS' Five fraudsters held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives claimed to have arrested five members of a fraud gang from Dhaka's Kamalapur area on charge of deceiving people, luring them with jobs.

They are: Ashraful Islam Babu (39), Abdul Karim (60), Fazlur Rahman (44), Shamsul Alam Majumder (50) and Shirina Akter (30).

A team of detectives made the arrest from a house on Monday evening, hours after a victim filed a case with Uttara Paschim Police Station in this regard, said Badruzzaman Zillu, additional deputy commissioner (DB, Uttara division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The gang used to rent offices in different areas in the capital and published job circulars in newspapers to attract

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'They killed one to frame another'

CID says 2 arrestees shot Gopalganj UP member to put blame on local chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two accused arrested by CID on Monday in connection with the killing of UP member Hamidul Sharif in Gopalganj on December 12 murdered him as part of their plan to frame the local chairman, with whom one of them had previous enmity.

The Criminal Investigation Department revealed the information at a press briefing at its headquarters in the capital's Malibagh yesterday.

Hamidul (45), a member of Ward-7 of Gopinathpur Union Parishad, was shot dead on December 12 by masked miscreants.

The arrestees are -- prime accused Amir Molla (35), Robiul Sharif (57) and Sagar (35).

At yesterday's briefing, Imam Hossain, deputy inspector general of CID, said, "Amir and Robiul shot Hamidul to frame local chairman Lacchu Sharif."

"A few days back, Hamidul expressed his mistrust on Lacchu. Robiul

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



This might seem like a graceful scene, but these open-bill storks -- locally known as Shamuk Khol -- are in motion out of desperation. The severity of cold during Poush has driven them to come flock at Bakshirchar village of Chandpasha union. This photo was taken on Sunday from Barishal's Babuganj upazila, of which Bakshirchar village is a part.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Sylhet at a standstill

72-hour transport strike enforced by stone traders to resume extraction begins in division

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

Road communication of Sylhet division with the rest of the country remained suspended since yesterday following a 72-hour transport strike.

"Greater Sylhet Stone-related Traders and Workers Union" in association with transport workers reportedly enforced the strike at 6am with a demand to resume stone extraction.

They also assured of following environment-friendly manual methods if the district administration allowed them to begin the extraction.

Environmentalists, however, warned that the stone workers never followed environment-friendly methods to extract stones and will not do so even if permission is given again.

Meanwhile, people of the division continued to suffer as no vehicles left or entered Sylhet as transport workers blocked all the access points since yesterday morning. The strike is being observed in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Habiganj. Sunamganj district's transport workers did not join the strike.

Saikat Das, a private job holder of Madina Market area in the city's Zindabazar, said finding no other alternatives, many like him had to walk to work. "Even rickshaws were hard to find due to the demand."

Extracting stones from different quarries

and nearby sites using heavy machineries had become a serious environmental concern over the decade, and finally the administration managed to control the situation this year in four upazilas (Companiganj, Gowainghat, Jaintiapur and Kanaighat) of Sylhet.

In 2010, the High Court issued an order to stop use of machineries for extraction following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

But stone traders continued to use illegal means while extracting stones.

At least 76 workers died in the pits from January 23, 2017 to January 20 this year, according to media reports.

Till this February 10, several HC and government orders were issued to stop stone extraction and during the first months of coronavirus pandemic, the administration started enforcing laws in this regard.

The Bureau of Mining Development also stopped leasing out quarries.

Abdul Jalil, convener of the union that called the strike, said, "There are around 15 lakh seasonal stone workers who work in the quarries during the season -- from December to March. Moreover, there are thousands of transport and stone-crusher workers. We are demanding that the authorities ensure livelihood of these people."

"We urged the administration to give us

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Court asks DB to probe extortion case against cops

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the Detective Branch (DB) of police to investigate an extortion case filed against four police personnel, including the officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station in Dhaka.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamunur Rashid passed the order, court sources said.

The magistrate also asked the DB to submit a probe report in the case before the court by January 20 next year.

Rahim, a trader, filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sufian Md Noman on November 17.

The four are OC Md Mizanur Rahman, SI Anisul Haque, and ASIs Khairul Islam and Shahidul Islam.

Apart from them, Delwar Hossain, a police source, and three unidentified persons were also made accused in the case.

The magistrate had fixed December 22 for passing an order in this regard.

According to the case documents, three persons identifying themselves as members of DB stopped Rahim on Chankutia Bridge in South Keraniganj around 8pm on October 12 while he was returning home

from Charkaliganj Zila Parishad Market.

They told the trader there was an arrest warrant against him. Later, they took him to a nearby shop and frisked him. As they didn't find any illegal item with him, shopkeepers requested the three to let him go.

The three then took Rahim to Babu Bazar Bridge where SI Anisul, ASI Khairul and their source Delwar were waiting.

Suddenly, the three men took out 650 yaba pills from their pockets and claimed that they seized those pills from Rahim.

SI Anisul told Rahim that he would be made an accused in a drug case if he didn't pay them Tk 2 lakh.

Later, Rahim handed over a gold chain weighing one tola and Tk 13,000 to Anisul.

As he failed to manage the remaining amount, he was taken to Kotwali Police Station around 9:15pm and kept in custody.

OC Mizanur told Rahim that he was made an accused in a case for possessing 10 yaba pills.

The following day, police produced Rahim before a court that sent him to jail. He was released on bail on October 30, added the case statement.



Competing over who gets to go first after the traffic light turned green, this motorbiker fell into a roadside drain trying to avoid hitting the bus. This photo was taken on Monday from the capital's Paribagh area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Bus chased by police kills motorcyclist

Phensedyl found inside vehicle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

After being chased by a highway police van, a bus hit a motorbike on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Cumilla yesterday afternoon, leaving the motorcyclist dead and 10 bus passengers injured.

The deceased -- identified as Kamal Uddin (40) -- used to work for Bank Asia agent banking, said police.

The incident occurred at Katherpol in Chandina area around 2pm while the bus of Satata Paribahan was heading towards Dhaka, said the law enforcers.

On information that the bus was carrying narcotics, they started chasing it, said Safayet Hossain, officer-in-charge of Mainamati Highway Police.

Instead of stopping the bus, its driver tried to speed away and ran over the motorcyclist, said the OC, adding that the bus fell into a roadside canal as the driver lost control over it.

Police seized the bus and found 11 bottles of Phensedyl inside it, said OC Safayet.

No arrest was made as the bus driver and helper managed to flee the scene, he said.

The injured passengers were taken to Chandina Upazila Health Complex, said the police officer.

An alliance

FROM PAGE 3

Describing the theme of the sculpture, MA Salam, chairman of Chattogram Zila Parishad, told The Daily Star, "The sculpture depicts a gun-slashing Freedom Fighter standing with an Indian soldier. It symbolises the camaraderie between the two forces during the front battle to free Sitakunda of during the Liberation War."

The sculpture also features a burning flame in the background, as well as the map of Bangladesh, he added. There's also an element of black in the sculpture, symbolising mourning.

Contacted, Firoj Hossain Mollah, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station, said police officials have been deployed to ensure the security of the sculpture.

Zila parishad chairman MA Salam said while the main theme of the sculpture was designed by sculptor Shubhashish Das, he came up with its idea.

A total of Tk 32 lakh was spent to build the sculpture, he said.

Five fraudsters

FROM PAGE 3

unemployed persons, he told The Daily Star.

As the interested youths appeared for "interviews", the frauds demanded money from them as prerequisite; in exchange they offered shares of their so-called company, Zillu said.

After getting the money, they used to issue appointment letters to the jobseekers.

A couple of days after that, they would vanish, closing their office but resumed their fraudulent activities in another place with different name, he added.

Govt sincere to keep borders stable: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday termed BNP's programme centring border issues an "eye wash" and said the government is very sincere about keeping stability in bordering areas.

He said this at a press conference at his secretariat office, after the inauguration of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) bus service on Sylhet-Srimangal and Sylhet-Habiganj routes. He joined the inaugural ceremony through videoconferencing. Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen also joined it virtually.

DNC planning

FROM PAGE 3

AD Mehedi Hasan said that the mobile tracking system will not only allow them to trace the actual position of the dealer but also the communication details and identities of the masterminds behind the smuggling racket.

Regarding the digital forensic centre, Mehedi said that in many cases the accused people remove the contents from their cell phone after communication. "We will be able to recover the contents after setting up the centre," he explained.

The mobile tracker and forensic centre will increase the strength of DNC operation, he added.

Officials claimed that DNC have already increased their vigilance and increased anti-narcotics drive to battle the trading of drugs such as yaba.

According to database, around 3.71 lakh yaba pills were seized in November and 3.33 lakh in October. But in July of this year, the figure was only 1.40 lakh and 1.74 lakh in August. Around 3.18 crore yaba tablets were recovered in 11 months of this year while the figure was 346 crore in 2019, reads the DNC database.

The figure was 2.94 crore in 2016, 4.79 crore in 2017 and around 5.30 crore in 2018.

Md Bazlur Rahman, assistant director (operation) of DNC, told The Daily Star, "We are adopting new techniques every day so that narcotics traders do not get the chance to smuggle yaba."

AD Bazlur, however, did not disclose the operation techniques for security reasons.

Meanwhile, the DNC authority is planning to conduct a dope test among the agency officials.

"We are planning to start the dope test from January 2 of this year," said a high official of DNC, requesting anonymity.

500 NGOs

FROM PAGE 3

NGO Affairs Bureau director general Md Rashadul Islam said collaborative efforts will take the country to the targeted position of development.

"The NGO Affairs Bureau will give all possible assistance in this regard", he added.

Eminent economist Professor Wahid Uddin Mahmud said creating a collaborative relation with the government as well as forming a common platform for all the non-governmental organisations are exceedingly important tasks for ensuring inclusive development and establishing a progressive society.

"The service-giving development organisations are a big strength for Bangladesh," he said, adding

that the government has to act proactively for enabling the development organisations to operate with freedom while maintaining accountability and commitment.

The objectives of this platform are - acting in collaboration with the government in finding effective solutions for issues such as graduating to middle income country, fourth industrial revolution, climate change impact, Covid-induced challenges facing the health sector etc.

Creating opportunity for CSOs to exchange their acquired knowledge and experience is also an objective. Celebrating together 50 years of independence of Bangladesh is also part of the objective of the new platform.

Aroma Dutta, member of parliament; Dr Fahmida Khatun, executive director, CPD; Asif Saleh, executive director, BRAC; Khushi Kabir, coordinator, Nijera Kori; Dr Maleka Banu, general secretary, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad; Shaheen Anam, executive director, Manusher Jonno Foundation; Sharif Jamil, general secretary, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon; Karavi Rakhsand, founder, Jaago Foundation; Farah Kabir, country director, Action Aid; Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum; Shafiqul Islam, representative, INGO Forum, and Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director, Bangladesh Jatiya Protibondhi Kalyan Foundation, spoke at the event, among others.

Sylhet at

FROM PAGE 3

a timeframe to resolve the issue. As they failed, we're continuing our strike and urged public transport workers to join our cause," he said.

To avert the strike, Sylhet District Administration organised a meeting with stone and transport leaders and workers on Monday afternoon, but there was no fruitful outcome.

Abdul Muhit, general secretary of Road Transport Workers Union's Sylhet district unit, said, "We and stone transport workers are all part of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation. That's why we had to stand with them; and the federation also instructed us that way."

Contacted, Selim Ahmed Folik, president of the federation's (Sylhet)

divisional unit, said, "When the stone transport workers call strike, they block all roads and public transport also faces problem. That's the reason we had to stand with them so that their problems can be resolved for good."

However, Folik, also the president of Road Transport Workers Union's Sylhet district unit, said he did not know if the federation instructed anyone to join the strike.

Meanwhile, environmentalists continue to raise concerns over the issue, saying that the demands of stone traders and workers are "unfair" and "unjust".

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Sylhet chapter, said, "There's

no way stone traders will extract stones manually, they never did. Yet, they are trying to pressurise the government through enforcing the strike in connivance with transport workers, causing sufferings to people."

"We demand that they not be given permission to extract stone," he said.

Contacted, Mohammad Mashur Rahman, divisional commissioner of Sylhet, said, "The government has banned stone extraction in Sylhet to save the environment. We are trying to come up with an amicable solution through talking with the stone traders and workers. However, we don't know why transport leaders and workers joined the strike, it's only causing suffering to people."

They killed

FROM PAGE 3

thought that if Hamidul was killed, suspicion would fall on Lacchu... Meanwhile, Amir had previous enmity with the chairman as he earlier accused him in a kidnapping case," he added.

Robiul was arrested from Patuatuli in the capital on Monday, Amir from Jashore on Sunday night and Sagar from Gopalganj, the official said.

Talking about their investigation, the CID official said they first identified the motorcycle used during the incident.

The accused were later identified

through the CCTV footage of a petrol pump and Rupsha Bridge toll plaza.

He said both Robiul and Amir live in Jashore. Robiul is from the same village as the slain UP member.

The official said Robiul had collected weapons from a criminal in Jashore.

On the day of the incident, Amir stopped the rickshaw-van Hamidul was on near Gopinathpur High School around 7:30pm and fired four shots at point-blank range. They then fled to Jashore.

Rickshaw-van puller Sagar was shown arrested on suspicion. His

involvement will be investigated, the official said.

Contacted, Gopinathpur Union Parishad Chairman Lachchu Sharif said he did not know Amir Molla. He said he did know Robiul Sharif, who lived next to Hamidul.

Lachchu, however, denied the allegation that Hamidul or any other UP member "mistrusted" him.

A murder case was filed with Gopalganj Sadar Police Station on December 14 over the incident. CID said they will continue their investigation to find out if there was any involvement of others.

Govt misleading

FROM PAGE 3

the parliament and Election Commission dysfunctional.

Fakhrul said his party is trying to restore democratic values and dignity of people who fought for the country.

The party has chalked out a number of programmes to celebrate the golden jubilee of the country's independence.

BNP standing committee member Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain was announced as the convener of a committee while vice chairman Abdus Salam member secretary, to celebrate the golden jubilee programmes.

Won't clear

FROM PAGE 3

Mayor Taposh said they will work together to make Dhaka a developed city overcoming all the hurdles.

Speaking to the officials of DSCC, mayor said the targets set by DSCC must be achieved and for that, work must be done in a speedy manner.

"We have failed reach the desired pace in our work so far," he said.

The mayor said they will not be slipped from their target no matter what kind of hurdles they have to face.

DSCC mayor also formed a nine-member market monitoring and control affairs standing committee headed by ward-46 councilor Shahid Ullah.

College Education Development Project (CEDP)
Govt. BL College, Khulna

Memo No. BLC/CEDP/1102 Dated: 22 December 2020

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No.	Package No. and description	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time
528420	CEDP/2020-2021/G-2 Procurement of Latest Chemicals Glassware etc. for the laboratories	12-Jan-2021 16:00	13-Jan-2021 14:00
528886	CEDP/2020-2021/G-11 Procurement and Installation of Drinking Water Plants	13-Jan-2021 16:00	14-Jan-2021 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of any registered banks within the date mentioned in the tender notice. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Prof. K. M. Alamgir Hossain
Principal
Govt. BL College, Khulna

GD-2038

Save the Children

Date: December 23, 2020 Reference No. EOI/SCI/BD/CO/FY-20/01

Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Enlistment of Audit Firm

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from the interested experienced bona fide audit firm to conduct external audits (required by NGOAB, Donor, SCI member and others). Interested firms are requested to submit their relevant document to Save the Children in Bangladesh, House# CWN(A) 35, Road# 43, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212 on or before January 3rd, 2021 within 3pm. For detailed information, please see the ToR which is available at: <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification for free download. SCI management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever. Save the Children would not bear any cost or expenses in connection with the preparation or submission or EOI.

Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

Save the Children

Date: December 23, 2020 Reference No. EOI/SCI/BD/CO/FY-20/01

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Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

আবেদনের সময়সীমা

বর্ধিতকরণ

রাসমাটি বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির (স্মারক নং ও তারিখঃ রাবিপ্রবি/সংস্থাপন/নিয়োগ-৬ (সনলাইন)/২০২০/২০৪; তারিখঃ ২৩/১২/২০২০) সময়সীমা আপাতী ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২০ তারিখ রাত ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হলো।

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রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

রাসমাটি বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
জিডি-২০৪৩

Summit Meghnaghat II Power Company Limited (SMIIPCL)

Summit Centre, 18 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215
www.summitpowerinternational.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

We are seeking an energetic, visionary and engaged expatriate individual to join with us as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer / Deputy to Deputy Chief Executive Officer for our Meghnaghat II Power Project, a 583 MW (Natural Gas / Regasified LNG) / 541 MW (HSD) based power plant at Meghnaghat, Narayanganj.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Job Description

- To check and review O&M contract and LTSA to which SMIIPCL is a party including re-signing, extension and change as appropriate.
- To check and review annual budget and monthly cash flow (income and expenditure) for O&M, construction, and implementation of unplanned repair including remodelling, replacement and improvement.
- To check and review O&M organization and system change.
- To check and advise existing plant operation method and review O&M manuals and procedures.
- To check and review the education and training plan regarding O&M and construction.
- To check and review the basic and root design of construction projects including budget, plant specification and schedule.
- To attend the executive meeting of SCL, SBPCL, SMPCL, SMIIPCL, and other company for a dual fuel (gas/fuel oil) fired combined cycle power plant at Meghnaghat, Bangladesh.
- Other reasonably necessary works for SMIIPCL as may be assigned by the chairman/directors of SMIIPCL from time to time.

Qualifications and Experience

- Graduate in any discipline of engineering from an internationally recognized university outside Bangladesh.
- Around 15 years of experience in related sector.

Deputy to Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Job Description

- To support Deputy Chief Executive Officer and the team at SMIIPCL.
- To analyse and evaluate troubles and unplanned outages.
- To check and review progress on construction plans and O&M plans.
- To support for technical issues regarding CCGT.
- Other necessary works for SMIIPCL.

Qualifications and Experience

- Graduate in any discipline of engineering from an internationally recognized university outside Bangladesh.
- Around 10 years of experience in related sector.

Remuneration and Benefits

Salary and other benefits will be commensurate with experience and negotiable for deserving candidate. Main workstation will be Summit Centre, our Head office; however, the management of SMIIPCL might assign in other sites/offices as and when required subject to mutual agreement.

Application Procedure

Interested candidates fulfilling the above requirements are requested to submit their applications mentioning expected salary to the following email address. Please mention the name of the post on email subject.

Human Resources Department
hr@summit-centre.com

Application Deadline: 3rd January 2021



IRRIGATION CANAL FILLED WITH SAND

Boro on 15,000 hectares in BADC project uncertain

MASUK HRIDOV, Brahmanbaria

Irrigation in 15,000 hectares of land in the upcoming Boro season seems uncertain as various parts of the canal under the Ashuganj-Palash Agro Irrigation Project have been filled with sand to upgrade the highway from Ashuganj river port to Akhaura land port into four lanes.

Around 34,000 farmers in 22 unions of four upazilas, including Ashuganj, will be deprived of irrigation facilities for IRRRI-Boro production as the flow of water in the canal is badly disrupted due to dumping of sand.

According to Brahmanbaria Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sources, the upgrading work of the highway has started in full swing from July this year. Since then, the canals of BADC have been filled with sand from Ashuganj to Sarail Bishwaroad. If the canal was not filled, they would start irrigation for Boro cultivation in the first week of January. But now it has become completely uncertain.

This special project, locally known as 'Sabuj Prokolpo' was launched in 1975. At that time, prominent social workers--Mahbubul Huda Bhuiyan and Khorshed Sikder -- took initiative to use the waste water from Ashuganj power plant for irrigation of paddy land. The government further expanded this irrigation facility through BADC in 1978-79 as the yield was better by cultivating IRRRI.

Since the launch of the project, a pond of the Power Development Board was being used as a cooling reservoir along the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Ashuganj upazila headquarters. It

is uncertain whether the irrigation project will continue as the pond was suddenly filled in June last year and work is underway to upgrade the highway into four lanes.

BADC officials said apart from Ashuganj, about 34,000 farmers of Sadar, Sarail and Nabinagar upazilas are the beneficiaries of the irrigation project. This irrigation is used to cultivate paddy on 15,000 hectares of land in 22 unions of the upazilas. The Baropit canal at Ashuganj adjacent to the Dhaka-Sylhet highway was being used as the main irrigation canal for the project. The canal has also been filled for expansion work of the highway.

They also said 56,250 tonnes of IRRRI paddy is being produced every year by utilizing this irrigation facility. Local farmers used to get this benefit by paying irrigation tax.

Abdul Hannan, a farmer from Ashuganj Bahadurpur village, said, "It is not possible for us to sink deep tube-well. Our land will remain barren. We have to stay starved if there is no alternative for water management."

Contacted, Mohammad Obayed Hossain, executive engineer of BADC Brahmanbaria region, said they have informed the higher authorities about the matter.

He added that a nine-member convening committee, led by Zakir Hossain, additional secretary (planning wing) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, to find a way to keep the irrigation project running. The members of the committee made a recommendation on October 29 after a field visit.

PHOTO: STAR

Various parts of the Baropit canal in Brahmanbaria's Ashuganj has been filled with sand to upgrade the highway. Thousands of farmers are suffering due to dumping of sand in the canal. Inset, the upgrading work of the highway goes on in full swing.



Illegal charcoal factory demolished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court in a drive demolished an illegal charcoal factory in Mirzapur upazila yesterday.

The court led by Mirzapur Assistant Commissioner (Land) Jubayer Hossain, executive magistrate, also fined factory owner Mosharaf Hossain Tk 50 thousand for running the factory defying laws. Mentionable, several charcoal factories have been producing charcoal by burning timber illegally in Mirzapur and its adjacent areas for long.

Homes turning into 'Pushti Bari' in Chilmari chars

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmoirhat

Women from around 11 thousand families with limited resources -- in chars or river islands of Kurigram's Chilmari upazila -- are learning to ensure balanced nutrition for their families by growing fruits and vegetables around their houses for their own consumption.

Under a project titled 'Sustained Opportunities for Nutrition Governance (SONGO)', funded by the European Union, non-governmental organisations RDRS Bangladesh and ICCO Cooperation are training the char residents on how to make best use of their available land for growing vegetables or fruits.

The houses, mostly built on four

to six decimals of land, are now being turned into miniature agricultural farms, dubbed "Pushti Bari".

Sabina Begum, from Char Karai Barishal on the Brahmaputra river in the upazila, said their house on four decimals land is now a "Pushti Bari", where they have grown different vegetables and fruits including bottle gourd, green bean, papaya, chilli and ginger.

After meeting nutritional needs of the family, they can even sell excess produce, she added.

Yasmin Begum, from the same area, said after training, they are now able to utilise every inch of their unused land around the house and all vegetables and fruits consumed by the family are produced at home.

They could not ensure nutrition

for the family due to high prices of different produce at markets, but the scenario has changed after training, said Nur Selima, from Char Bisarpara.

Ahasanul Kabir Bulu, project coordinator of SONGO in Chilmari, said women are provided free training on how to turn their houses into "Pushti Bari" by growing vegetables and fruits there.

They also provide seeds and technical support for free, he added.

Chilmari Upazila Agriculture Officer Kumar Pronoy Bisan Das said they also provide the same training and technical support free of cost to the char residents.

Pushti Bari can play a vital role in meeting nutritional needs of the ultra poor in the chars, he added.



PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

An elderly woman, trained in growing vegetables and fruits around the house, tends to vegetable plants that she grew around her house in Char Karai Barishal of Kurigram's Chilmari upazila.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ		Bangladesh Forest Department	
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ		Bana Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207	
No. 22.01.0000.101.029.20.728		Date: 21/12/2020	
Request for Expressions of Interest (Eol)			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Forest Department.	
3	Procuring entity name	Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (Finance, Budget and General Direction).	
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
5	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Panel Lawyer.	
6	Procurement sub-method	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC).	
7	Budget and source of funds	GoB.	
8	Place of Eol collection, submission and opening	Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (Finance, Budget and General Direction), Room No. 216, Bana Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka, Phone: 02-8181739.	
9	Eol closing date and time	Date: 14.01.2021	Time: 02:00pm
10	Eol opening date and time	Date: 17.01.2021	Time: 11:00am
11	Brief description of assignment	The assignment is to deal with the writ petitions, Forest cases, administrative cases and other legal issues of Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh judiciously and efficiently in order to dispose of the BFD related cases timely. Details Terms of Reference (ToR) is available in the above office address.	
12	Bangladesh Forest Department invites Expression of Interest (Eol) from experienced applicants under the following positions:		
Sl. No.	Name of position	No. of positions	Education, experience and other requirements
(i)	Panel Lawyer	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum LL.B (Hons) or pass Degree from UGC recognized any university. Minimum 10 (ten) years experiences as Advocate in Supreme Court/Bar Association of Bangladesh and at least 02 (two) years experiences as law officer with the government/semi-government/autonomous organization in Bangladesh. Applicants must have Bar Council Enrollment Certificate and permission for the High Court Division. Applicants having for the Appellate Division permission will get privilege. Applicants having experience in handling BFD cases in the High Court Division will get preference.
13	Other details (if applicable)	Interested Applicants are requested to submit their Expression of Interest. Application Forms (complete CV with other details as required as per the Application Forms) in accordance with Standard Request for Application (SRFA) which may be collected during normal office hours. Application shall be submitted in sealed envelope to Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (Finance, Budget and General Direction) and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of Panel Lawyer". Panel Lawyers will be selected using the selection of individual consultant sub-method in accordance with Public Procurement Rules-2008 and Standard Request for Application (SRFA). No application will be received after the deadline of submission. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all applications without causing any reason. The Authority also reserves the right to omit, increase or decrease in any or all Eols. The Applicants must abide by the decision of the appropriate Authority.	
Interested Lawyer may obtain further information by applying to the address above during normal office hours.			
Ajit Kumar Rudra Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (Finance, Budget and General Directions) Phone: 02-8181739			

GD-2037

Two killed in villagers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least two people were killed and 20 others injured in a clash between two groups of villagers in Habiganj's Baniachang upazila.

The deceased are Idris Ali, 73, and Nurul Haque, 50, of Balla Gazipur village.

Locals said the clash erupted between the men of Nurul and his neighbour Alai Mia over occupying a portion of a government land on Sunday that left at least 22 people injured.

Of them, Nurul and Idris died the same night.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh						
Department of Architecture Ministry of Housing and Public Works Shapatya Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 www.architecture.gov.bd Phone No-02-9555253						
Memo No-1. 154/2007(part-3)1277/Stha			Dated-20-12-2020			
2. KA-12/89/2017 (part-11)1278/Stha						
e-Tender Notice						
This is to notify for all concern that the following Tender have published through e-GP Portal.						
Sl.No	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of Works	Publishing Date & Time	Last selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
01.	528960	DOA-20-02	Procurement of Cleaning Goods	23 December, 2020 12:00	11 January 2021 12:30	11 January 2021 13:30
02.	529005	DOA-20-03	Computer & Computer Accessories Goods	23 December, 2020 12:00	11 January 2021 14:30	11 January 2021 15:30
The interested persons/firms/supplier may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get details of the e-Tender.						
This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (https://eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guideline are available at the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).						
 (Biswajit Barua) Superintending Architect Circle-Co-ordination Department of Architecture, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. Telephone-02-9555253.						

GD- 2042

6 lakh tonnes

FROM PAGE 12
make available 10 lakh tonnes of food grains on January 5, 1973 in response to a request by the Bangabandhu. The secretary general had earlier made an appeal for 7 lakh tonnes of food grains for Bangladesh, out of which the US has pledged to provide two lakh tonnes and Canada one lakh tonnes.

JSD WILL CONTEST IN ALL 300 SEATS
The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) has decided to contest in all the 300 seats in the ensuing general elections provided the polls are free and fair. The decision is taken at the first national conference of the party held today at Suhrawardy Udyan.

\$1010 MILLION FOREIGN AID
Bilateral and multilateral aid to Bangladesh totalled about 1010 million dollars between December 16 last year and October 31 this year, according to an official statement released by the Bangladesh government. Of the total foreign assistance, food relief comprised 32.31 percent, agriculture 10.52 percent, transport 17.77 percent, trade and industries 5.77 percent, energy 7.95 percent, the announcement adds.

SOURCES: December 24, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

'Yaba dealer'

FROM PAGE 12
from the spot.
Two Rab members were also hurt in the "gunfight", Rab-15 said in a text sent to reporters yesterday.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Shah Alam, of Rab-15, said a team found some people running away while patrolling Baharchhara area on Monday night. The team chased them.

The criminals opened fire. Rab members also fired back, forcing the criminals to flee the scene, he said.

After the "gunfight", the Rab members found the bullet-hit body of a man, the official said, adding that he was rushed to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead.

The body was kept at Teknaf Police Station.

Dr Zafrullah

FROM PAGE 12
by January 21 next year.
Dr Nasrin, Dr Shawkat Ali Arman, Dr Delowar Hossain and nurse Shangkari Rani Sarkar, who serve at the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital, were also accused in the case.

According to the case documents, Nasrin died while giving birth on September 24 at the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital due to the negligence of Dr Nasrin and Dr Delowar, and nurse Shangkari.

The hospital authorities admitted their negligence and said they would negotiate and settle the matter, but did not do so, the complainant claimed.

The victim's family went to Dhanmondi Police Station to file a case on December 17, but police suggested that they file it with the court, the complainant stated.

Train ignores

FROM PAGE 12
freight train sped towards platform-1 before he was given clearance to enter platform-2. The gateman at Swajanpur level crossing, around 300 metres away from the station, did not lower the barrier as the red light of the outer signal was on. He was waiting beside the barrier in case he was given any signal.

Suddenly, the freight train rammied the rice-laden truck on the level crossing. The Naogaon-bound truck flipped onto its side and fell on the gateman, leaving him dead on the spot.

Rescuers of fire service later recovered the body and sent it to Dinajpur M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

Train communications on Dhaka-Khulna and Khulna-northern districts routes remained suspended for about five hours after the accident, said railway officials.

Shahidul Islam, divisional railway manager in Pakshey, said a five-member committee, led by an assistant transportation officer of Bangladesh Railway in Pakshey, was formed to investigate the accident. The committee was asked to submit its report in three working days.

Meanwhile, Rupsha Express bound for Chilahati from Khulna derailed on the same level crossing at 4:20pm yesterday, said the stationmaster. The derailment halted road communications on Phulbari-Rangpur highway and rail communications on Khulna-Dhaka and Khulna-Rajshahi routes.

The railway authorities were conducting a salvage operation till filing of the report last night.

At least 12 bus passengers were killed and eight others injured as a train hit a bus on a level crossing near Joypurhat town on Friday morning.

The gateman had left the crossing's gate open, said police.



US President-elect Joe Biden receives a Covid-19 vaccination from Tabé Mase, Nurse Practitioner and Head of Employee Health Services, at the Christiana Care campus in Newark, Delaware, US on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

No need for major alarm

FROM PAGE 12
said they had no evidence that the variant made people sicker or was more deadly than existing strains of Covid-19, although it did seem to spread more easily.

Countries imposing travel curbs were acting out of an abundance of caution while they assess risks, Ryan said, adding: "That is prudent. But it is also important that everyone recognises that this happens, these variants occur."

WHO officials said coronavirus mutations had so far been much slower than with influenza and that even the new UK variant remained much less transmissible than other diseases like mumps.

They said vaccines developed to combat Covid-19 should handle the new variants as well, although checks were under way to ensure this was the case.

"So far, even though we have seen a number of changes, a number of mutations, none has made a significant impact on either the susceptibility of the virus to any of the currently used therapeutics, drugs or the vaccines under development and one hopes that will continue to be the case," WHO Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan told the briefing.

A US official advising the country's Operation Warp Speed vaccine program also stressed that more information was needed to establish

the risk of the UK variant.

"There is no hard evidence that this virus is actually more transmissible, (but) there is clear evidence that there is more of it in the population," said Moncef Slaoui, a vaccine scientist and former pharmaceutical executive.

Meanwhile, Europe was trying to forge a coordinated response to the threat of the new variant yesterday.

Its discovery has heightened fears that led more than two dozen countries around the world suspend flights from the UK out of precaution.

With the bans unleashing travel chaos during the holiday season, EU ambassadors were set to meet yesterday to try to nail down a unified approach and work out how to eventually lift the border restrictions with Britain -- possibly by imposing a requirement for tests on all arrivals.

The World Health Organization in Europe said it would also convene its members to discuss how to handle the outbreak and cautioned that "limiting travel to contain spread is prudent until we have better info."

WHO's regional director for Europe Hans Kluge said in a post to Twitter that the organisation would "discuss strategies for testing, reducing transmission & communicating risks."

Around the world, the death toll from the virus surpassed 1.7 million yesterday, according to an AFP count,

with the highest number of daily fatalities reported in the US, Germany and Russia.

VACCINE CAN ADAPT
Germany yesterday extended its ban on arrivals from the UK -- as well as South Africa, where a similar variant has been found -- until January 6.

Health Minister Jens Spahn said that "as long as it is possible", Germany aimed to prevent "potentially dangerous virus mutations from spreading in continental Europe".

The border closures come as the European Union prepares to start rolling out the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on Sunday, following similar vaccination campaigns in the UK and the US.

The EU's medicines regulator recommended the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for use in the bloc's 27 states.

In the US, the world's most-affected country, 78-year-old President-elect Joe Biden received a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine live on television to boost Americans' confidence in the shots.

And after a long delay, US lawmakers finally approved a \$900 billion relief package to help Americans struggling to stay afloat in the pandemic-hit economy.

The Indian state of Maharashtra has imposed a night curfew on cities including the country's financial hub Mumbai because of fears about the new strain from Britain.

1.2 lakh more households

FROM PAGE 12
double-burner stove consumes gas worth Tk 605 per month on average.

A household without a prepaid gas meter needs to pay Tk 975 to use a double-burner stove. Therefore, using prepaid meters can save Tk 370, or 38 percent.

She added that according to the survey, on average, a consumer used 78.12 cubic metres of natural gas every month, which came down to 48.06 cubic metres after setting up a prepaid meter.

She was talking to journalists after the Ecneec meeting yesterday, which approved the second extension of the project.

Primarily, the Tk 712 crore project was aimed at setting up prepaid gas meters at 1,70,000 households in 22 police precincts of the capital, and it was scheduled to complete the work between January 2015 and December 2018.

The project's first extension was till December this year, with a revised target of setting up prepaid meters at 30,000 more households in 12 more police precincts. In the first revision, the project cost had decreased to Tk 499 crore.

The second extension of the project is till December 2022 and the project cost has now increased to Tk 754 crore, Tk 651 crore of which will be financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

During this period, prepaid meters will be set up at 1,20,000 more households in seven additional police precincts of the capital.

Some 2,00,000 meters have already been set up in as many households,

Nasima Begum said, adding that the project time and cost increased as another 1,20,000 meters will be set up in more Dhaka city areas.

The Ecneec also approved a Tk 1,883 crore project to ensure safe drinking water supply and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) facilities for around 4.5 million people.

The project also has a component of installing 882 hand washing stations at schools and in places where people frequently gather, and provide the necessary tools to prevent Covid-19 transmission.

Planning Commission Member Mamun-Al-Rashid said the Department of Public Health Engineering will implement the project between January 2021 and December 2025, with Tk 1,832 crore as loan from the World Bank and AIB.

The project will be implemented in 98 upazilas of 30 districts.

In reply to a query about allotting Tk 26.89 crore for consultants, Mamun said it was seen that the monthly salary of qualified consultants -- like procurement specialists, financial management specialists -- is not less than Tk 2.5 lakh.

"We need qualified consultants for better work. We do not think there was too much expenditure on consultants."

He added that the project had allocated Tk 19 crore for feasibility tests, which was also not too much.

The Ecneec yesterday approved five other projects involving Tk 3,308.36 crore, of which Tk 2,042.08 crore will come from donors.

Of the five projects, two are new while three others are revised ones.

Ice Age wolf

FROM PAGE 12
details of muscle tissue and allow an insight into what life was like in Canada 2.6 million years ago. They also constitute the oldest ever recorded wolf and may help to shed light on the evolution of the animal.

A professor of anatomy at Des Moines University in Iowa, Julie Meachen, called the creature: "the most complete wolf mummy that's ever been found." Meachen added that the wolf was "basically 100 percent intact" saying that the only thing missing are her eyes.

The fact the remains are so complete has let scientists "basically reconstruct her life" said the professor.

Yukon Government palaeontologist, Dr Grant Zazula described the wolf as "beautiful" and "spectacular" and said it had: "cute little paws and tail and the curled upper lip showing its teeth."

BGB-BSF

FROM PAGE 12
The meeting will end on Friday with the signing of a Joint Record of Discussions (JRD).

The objective of the border talks is to discuss border-related issues, including killing of Bangladeshi nationals along the borders and enabling better coordination between the two border forces.

Contacted, BGB headquarters' Public Relations Officer Md Shariful Islam said the Bangladesh delegation entered India through Tamabil (Sylhet)-Dauki (Meghalaya) integrated check post (ICP).

IG Hardeep Singh of BSF Meghalaya Headquarters received the delegation.

Later, the Bangladesh delegation went to Guwahati by a BSF helicopter. The BSF DG welcomed the visiting team with flowers there.

Mutation-beating Covid

FROM PAGE 12
Nevertheless, he voiced confidence that the vaccine developed with Pfizer would be efficient because it "contains more than 1,000 amino acids, and only nine of them have changed, so that means 99 percent of the protein is still the same".

He said tests are being run on the variant, with results expected in two weeks.

"We have scientific confidence that the vaccine might protect but we will only know it if the experiment is done... we will publish the data as soon as possible," he added.

Meanwhile, Chinese vaccine maker Sinovac Biotech Ltd's Covid-19 vaccine has shown to be effective in late-stage trials in Brazil, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing people involved in the vaccine's development.

Sao Paulo state's Butantan Institute, which is organizing the

late-stage trials of Sinovac's vaccine CoronaVac in Brazil, said on Monday that any reports on the efficacy of the shot before today's announcement were "mere speculation."

Brazil is the first country to complete late-stage trials of CoronaVac, which is also being tested in Indonesia and Turkey, the Journal reported.

The results from the Brazil trials put CoronaVac above the 50% threshold that international scientists deem necessary to protect people, the report said.

Butantan is poised today to announce CoronaVac's efficacy rate, according to the Journal.

Sinovac did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

Sinovac and AstraZeneca Plc's vaccine candidates may be ready for use in Brazil by mid-February, the country's health minister said last week.

Israel set for snap election as budget deadline nears

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday was on course for a fourth national election in two years after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his main governing partner, Benny Gantz, failed to resolve a dispute over the budget.

Parliament voted late on Monday against an attempt by both men to delay a deadline of midnight on Tuesday for approval of the fiscal package.

Under law, failure to pass it by then would mean Israel going to the polls in March, and neither lawmakers nor the cabinet have passed it yet, a process near impossible to complete in a single day.

Netanyahu, who heads the right-wing Likud party and defence minister Gantz, head of the centrist Blue and White faction, established a unity government in May after three inconclusive elections held since April 2019.

Their pact involved Gantz taking over from Netanyahu as prime minister in November 2021, and passing a bi-annual budget for 2020 and 2021.

But even as that power-sharing pact was being inked, many analysts argued that Netanyahu, on trial for alleged corruption which he denies, would not relinquish his powerful

post, and Likud has since demanded to pass the budgets separately while Blue and White insisted Netanyahu stick to their deal.

Israel has so far this year managed its finances on the basis of a pro-rated version of the 2019 budget.


The current fiscal deadlock has plunged Israel into more economic uncertainty at the end of a year when a coronavirus-induced slump is expected to shrink gross domestic product by 4.5% with the jobless rate standing at 12.1%.

Israel, also preparing for a new U.S. administration led by President-elect Joe Biden, kicked off its vaccination campaign this week.


Analysts had seen Netanyahu pushing for an election in May or June next year, after the coronavirus crisis was expected to ease and the economy to begin to recover.

A March vote would be riskier for Israel's longest serving leader, who has been facing a wave of street protests against his alleged corruption, which he denies, and his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though polls show Netanyahu's party emerging as the largest faction in parliament, surveys also predict a strong showing for a bloc of factions from across the political spectrum seeking to unseat him.



Bangladesh Bank
Sustainable Finance Department
Head Office
Dhaka
Website: www.bb.org.bd



Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Hiring Consulting Firm (National)

1.	Name of procuring entity	: GCF RPSP Project Implementation Unit, Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank.
2.	Expression of Interest (EOI)	: Selection of Consulting Firm.
3.	EOI Ref. No. & date	: SFD/(GBMS)/1003/6/2/2020-2340 Date: December 22, 2020.
4.	Procurement sub-method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
5.	Budget and source of funds	: Foreign Grant.
6.	Project title	: Upscaling regulatory landscape of Green Banking for Shariah Based Banks and Financial Institutions in Bangladesh.
7.	Assignment title	: Hiring Consulting Firm (National) for Strengthening Environmental and Social Risk Management Framework for Financial System.
8.	EOI closing date and time	: January 10, 2021 at 5:00pm.
9.	Brief description of the assignment	: Bangladesh Bank (BB) has received financing from Green Climate Fund (GCF) to implement a policy framework or a white paper on Shariah based green financing. To carry out the project successfully, consultancy service is needed to strengthen Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) framework for financial system in Bangladesh.
10.	Qualifications and experience	: Consulting firm should be registered under relevant GoB rules and acts. The relevant firm should demonstrate thorough understanding of existing ESRM guideline. The firm should have established credible credentials, expertise, and track record in undertaking and conducting comprehensive consultancy in environment and social risk management for financial and business sector. The experts employed by the firm for the project should demonstrate experience and knowledge in relevant sector.
11.	Other details	: Expected term of the assignment is 12 (twelve) months. Consulting firm may not associate with other firm(s)/NGO(s) without prior notification and approval from PIU, SFD, BB. The prospective consulting firm shall submit all supporting documents in written form (in person, or by mail, or by email) to the address below or in BB website (https://e-tender.bb.org.bd). Interested candidates may obtain "Terms of Reference (ToR)" from the website of Bangladesh Bank (https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php). Application/proposal will not be accepted after EOI closing time.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

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

This Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) is in compliance with relevant government rules and regulations e.g. Public Procurement Rules-2008. By responding to this EOI, consultant firms are conforming to those rules and regulations. The procuring entity reserves all right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever. The details EOI and ToR are available at BB website (<https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php>).

ব্যাহকিঙ ও আৰ্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২০৬ নম্বরে কোন কলন।

DCP: 48/2020-3889
Date: 22-12-2020
GD-2047

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

NZ backpacker killer revealed as serial predator

AFP, Wellington

The New Zealand man who murdered British backpacker Grace Millane committed violent sex crimes against at least two other women, a court revealed yesterday, as police urged any more victims to come forward.

The Supreme Court overturned orders banning Jesse Shane Kempson being identified as the predator who strangled Millane in December 2018 after the pair met through the online dating app Tinder.

The murder shocked New Zealand, which is usually regarded

as a safe place to travel, prompting a tearful apology to Millane's family from Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern after the young traveller's body was found.

The suppression orders on reporting Kempson's name remained in place even after his murder conviction in November last year, with the court offering no explanation at the time for the highly unusual move.

But a judgement released yesterday revealed that he was still facing two trials for sexual offences when the Millane verdict came in, and the court feared naming him could prejudice those proceedings.

Cyberattack hit key US treasury systems

AFP, Washington

Hackers broke into systems used by top US Treasury officials during a massive cyberattack on government agencies and may have stolen essential encryption keys, a senior lawmaker said Monday.

Senator Ron Wyden, who sits on both the Senate Intelligence and Finance Committees, said after a closed-door briefing that the hack at the US Treasury Department "appears to be significant."

Dozens of email accounts were compromised, he said in a statement.

"Additionally the hackers broke into systems in the Departmental Offices division of Treasury, home to the department's highest-ranking officials," said Wyden.

"Treasury still does not know all of the actions taken by hackers, or precisely what information was stolen."

The US government admitted last week that computer systems in multiple departments were penetrated by attackers who hacked in through widely used security software made by the US company SolarWinds.

So far officials have said the hackers broke into computers at the State Department, Commerce Department, Treasury, Homeland Security Department, and the National Institutes of Health.

But experts have said they fear far more of the government could be affected, including US intelligence bodies, given the ubiquitousness of the SolarWinds security software.

Members of Congress briefed by US intelligence, as well as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Attorney General Bill Barr, have all said Russians were behind the hack. Trump has downplayed Russian role in the attack.

Republican US Senator Mitt Romney said a widespread data breach across the US government was "extraordinarily damaging" and that President Donald Trump has a "blind spot" when it comes to Russia.



Police cars patrol as freight lorries and goods vehicles queue on a closed section of the M20 motorway which leads to the Port of Dover, near Ashford in Kent, south east England yesterday, after a string of countries banned travel including accompanied freight arriving from the UK, due to the rapid spread of a more-infectious new coronavirus strain there.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

France rewards frontline Covid workers with citizenship

Hundreds of foreigners in France whose jobs expose them to high Covid-19 risks will be naturalised quickly for their commitment during the health crisis, the interior ministry said yesterday. The ministry had in September invited people who "actively contributed" to the fight against the novel coronavirus to apply for fast-track naturalisation. Of the nearly 3,000 people who responded, 74 had already obtained citizenship and 693 more were in the final stage of the process, the office of Marlene Schiappa, junior minister for citizenship, said in a statement. "Health professionals, cleaning ladies, childcare workers, checkout staff: They all proved their commitment to the nation, and it is now the turn of the republic to take a step towards them," it said. Additionally, immigration authorities have been ordered to reduce the residency period needed for citizenship to two years from the usual five in the case of "great services rendered."

Trump orders US gov't to only construct 'beautiful' buildings

President Donald Trump, with only a month left in office, issued an order Monday that future federal buildings must be "beautiful" and preferably built in the Greco-Roman classical style. The executive order stopped short of an earlier draft that drew the ire of some architects in seeking to ban construction not done in the neo-classical style, typified by the White House, Capitol and Lincoln Memorial in Washington. Trump's order takes aim at federal buildings built after the 1950s, saying that the capital Washington, now features a "discordant mixture" and that the government has "largely stopped building beautiful buildings."

Modi gets top US honour



US President Donald Trump on Monday presented the prestigious Legion of Merit to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership in elevating strategic partnership of the two countries and emergence of India as a global power. India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, accepted the award on behalf of the prime minister from the US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien at the White House. President Trump "presented the Legion of Merit to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership in elevating the US-India strategic partnership," O'Brien said in a tweet. O'Brien in another tweet said that Trump also presented the Legion of Merit to Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The awards were received by their respective ambassadors in Washington DC.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

We'll thrive without a deal

Says UK PM Johnson; EU reports progress on fishing rift

AGENCIES

Britain and the European Union narrowed the gap on access to fish stocks from 2021 but the politically sensitive matter was still in the way of a new trade pact, Brussels sources said yesterday ahead of a Brexit update by their chief negotiator.

As Brexit completes on Dec 31, Britain will leave the EU's single market and customs union, meaning its current free trade arrangements will expire. A Sunday deadline set by the European Parliament, which could refuse to approve the agreement, expired without an agreement being found, leaving no time for MEPs to ratify an eventual deal before January 1.

The two sides have for months been struggling to seal a new agreement on everything from trade to transport to energy, with the final stages of the talks coming as EU and other countries have also suspended most travel to and from Britain to try to curb a new

strain of the coronavirus.

The EU's Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, was due to update the bloc's 27 national envoys on Brexit at 1500 GMT yesterday, and then speak to the



European Parliament.

"It seems we are crossing the line," an EU diplomat said, adding that an agreement was getting closer.

His comment came after Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday that there were still problems in Brexit trade talks and that Britain would thrive without a deal.

"The position is unchanged:

there are problems," Johnson told reporters when asked if there would be a trade deal.

"It's vital that everybody understands that the UK has got to be able to control its own fisheries completely and also that we've got to be able to control our own fisheries."

"WTO terms would be more than satisfactory for the UK. And we can certainly cope with any difficulties that are thrown our way," he said.

While EU officials and diplomats said cutting the value of the bloc's catch in British waters by around 30% from 2021 would be too high, the EU was willing to go as far as 25%.

Britain, the world's sixth-biggest economy, left the EU, a trading bloc of 450 million consumers, last January. An estimated trillion dollars worth of annual trade is at stake if they fail to put in place a new accord by the end of the year.

A senior British minister yesterday ruled out prolonging Britain's transition out of the EU beyond Dec. 31.

Russia sanctions EU over Navalny poisoning

Says the Putin critic suffers from 'delusions'

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday said it was hitting EU officials with sanctions for their response to the poisoning of opposition figure Alexei Navalny, who the Kremlin said was suffering from "delusions of persecution."

The foreign ministry in Moscow summoned several senior EU diplomats before announcing the new travel bans.

In response to "confrontational" sanctions imposed by the bloc in October, Russia "decided to expand the list of representatives of EU member states and institutions who will be denied entry to Russia."

The announcement came a day after Navalny, 44, said in a report he had impersonated an official in the Kremlin's Security Council and extracted an admission of guilt from a toxins expert with the FSB security service.

In a video of the conversation published by Navalny, the alleged FSB agent says agents placed poison in Navalny's underwear this summer.

The anticorruption campaigner was flown for treatment to Germany in August where labs concluded he was poisoned with Novichok, a Soviet-designed nerve agent.

Navalny's video of his conversation with the man named Konstantin Kudryavtsev racked up more than 12 million views in less than 24 hours and social media were abuzz with memes about Navalny's underpants.

The Kremlin yesterday described Navalny as a "sick" man who was suffering from "delusions of persecution". The FSB described the phone call as "fake" and said it would not have been possible without "the support of foreign intelligence services."

Air pollution killed 1.67m Indians in 2019: report

REUTERS, New Delhi

Toxic air killed more people in India in 2019 than in 2017, The Lancet said in a report shared by the government yesterday, with 1.67 million deaths accounting for 18% of all fatalities.

India, whose cities top global pollution lists, faces a growing economic as well as human toll from bad air quality, which was linked to 1.24 million, or 12.5% of total deaths in the previous such study for 2017.

The analysis found pollution led to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, respiratory infections, lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, neonatal disorders and cataracts.

Land-locked New Delhi, the world's most polluted capital whose winter skies are often obscured by its filthy air, recorded the highest per-capita economic hit, the journal said.

The fatalities in 2019 led to a total loss of \$36.8 billion, or 1.36% of India's gross domestic product (GDP), with the poor and populous states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar experiencing the highest economic loss as a percentage of their GDP.

The government said in a statement that India would need to invest more in state-specific pollution control programmes if it were to meet its goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024, from around \$2.9 trillion now.

India's three main cities, New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai, were on the list of the world's 20 worst polluted cities, Swiss air quality technology company IQAir reported yesterday.



Municipal workers clean up debris at the site of a bomb attack in Kabul, Afghanistan yesterday. Four doctors who worked at an Afghan prison with hundreds of Taliban inmates were among five people killed when a bomb attached to their car exploded, police said. At least 20 people were injured in the attack.

PHOTO: AFP

'I feel sorry for them'

Vietnamese victim's father pities men convicted in UK over migrant deaths

AFP, Hanoi

The father of one of the 39 Vietnamese migrants who suffocated in a truck in Britain said Tuesday he felt sorry for the two men convicted of manslaughter over the deaths.

The bodies of the men and women were found inside a sealed container near London in October 2019, after they suffocated in sweltering temperatures.

Lorry driver Eamonn Harrison, 24, from Northern Ireland, and Romanian national Gheorghe Nica, 43, were found guilty of 39 counts of manslaughter, as well as people smuggling, by a London court on Monday.

They are expected to be sentenced early in January and could face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Nguyen Dinh Gia, father of victim Nguyen Dinh Luong, 20, expressed sympathy for the men.

"I think they only did it because they wanted to make ends meet. I



don't think it's appropriate to give them a harsh (punishment like) a life sentence," he told AFP from a small village in Vietnam's Ha Tinh province.

"I feel sorry for them." Le Minh Tuan, who lost his 30-year-old son Le Van Ha, however, hailed the court verdict.

"I think the decision of the UK court that convicted two men of manslaughter is right," he told AFP from his village in Nghe An province.

"If they had given the migrants inside some air, those people wouldn't have died."

The bodies were discovered at the

southeastern English port of Purfleet after being sealed inside the container for at least 12 hours.

A forensic expert calculated it would have taken about nine hours for the air to turn toxic in the trailer. The victims were aged between 15 and 44.

Prosecutors have said the trapped Vietnamese were unable to get a phone signal inside the container. Mobile phones recovered from the bodies of the 39 victims showed they had tried to raise the alarm and left messages for their families as they ran out of air.

The case highlighted the vast and unscrupulous people trafficking networks spanning the globe.

Many of the victims had come from poor parts of Vietnam and were plunged into thousands of dollars of debt to smugglers to pay for the dangerous journeys.

Monday's convictions brought the total number found guilty in connection with the case in the UK to eight.

Bangladesh Bank	
Sustainable Finance Department	
Head Office	
Dhaka	
Website: www.bb.org.bd	
Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Hiring Consulting Firm (National)	
1. Name of procuring entity	: GCF RPSP Project Implementation Unit, Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank.
2. Expression of Interest (EOI)	: Selection of Consulting Firm.
3. EOI Ref. No. & date	: SFD (GBMS)/1003/6/2/2020-2339 Date: December 22, 2020.
4. Procurement sub-method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
5. Budget and source of funds	: Foreign Grant.
6. Project title	: Upscaling regulatory landscape of Green Banking for Shariah Based Banks and Financial Institutions in Bangladesh.
7. Assignment title	: Hiring Consulting Firm for Developing Supervision Manual on Shariah Based Green Banking for Bangladesh Bank and arranging workshop for capacity building of related stakeholders.
8. EOI closing date and time	: January 10, 2021 at 5.00pm.
9. Brief description of the assignment	: Bangladesh Bank (BB) has received financing from Green Climate Fund (GCF) to implement a policy framework or a white paper on Shariah based green financing. To carry out the project successfully, consultancy service is needed for the preparation and commission of Supervision Manual on Shariah Based Green Banking.
10. Qualifications and experience	: Consulting firm should be registered under relevant GoB rules and acts. The firm should have established credible credentials, expertise, and track record in undertaking comprehensive technical assistance to the development of supervision for banking and financial sector. Relevant experience in green financing/climate funding operations will be regarded as advantage. The experts employed by the firm for the project should demonstrate experience and knowledge of Islamic finance and financial regulatory landscape of Bangladesh.
11. Other details	: Expected term of the assignment is 16 (sixteen) months. Consulting firm may not associate with other firm(s)/NGO(s) without prior notification to and approval from PIU, SFD, BB. The prospective consulting firm shall submit all supporting documents in written form (in person, or by mail, or by email) to the address below or in BB website (https://etender.bb.org.bd). Interested candidates may obtain "Terms of Reference (ToR)" from the website of Bangladesh Bank (https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php). Application/proposal will not be accepted after EOI closing time.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
12. Name of the official inviting EOI	: Khondkar Morshed Millat.
13. Designation of the official inviting EOI	: General Manager (Project Director).
14. Address of the official inviting EOI	: GCF RPSP Project Implementation Unit, Sustainable Finance Department, 19th Floor, 2nd Annex Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka-1000.
15. Contact details of the official inviting EOI	: Phone: 9530320, Fax: 9530327.
This Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) is in compliance with relevant government rules and regulations e.g. Public Procurement Rules 2008. By responding to this EOI, consultant firms are conforming to those rules and regulations. The procuring entity reserves all right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever. The details EOI and ToR are available at BB website (https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php).	
ব্যাবহিক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হারানির শিকার হলে কিভাবে কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।	
DCP: 48/2020-3884 Date: 22-12-2020 GD-2046	
Khondkar Morshed Millat General Manager (Project Director) Phone: 9530320 E-mail: gm.sfd@bb.org.bd	

Give the state mills a chance

Govt should resuscitate jute, sugar mills by eradicating corruption

It is generally held that poorly-run state enterprises are grist to the mill of corruption. Now a new study has found that corruption, mismanagement and absence of proper planning are indeed responsible for the losses incurred by state-owned jute and sugar mills, leading to the closures of many, while those that still operate are barely limping along. The study report, disclosed at a press conference on Monday, explains the reasons for the closure or poor performance of these state-owned enterprises and debunks the excuse for outsourcing production to the private sector. One may recall that after the closures of all 25 state-owned jute mills in June, the government had promised to train and recruit the laid-off workers by "modernising" and "reopening" the mills under public-private partnerships. Such promises are often hollow, the study shows, as of the 75 industries handed over to private owners from 1993 to 2010, 31 were later found to be closed. Clearly, privatisation was just another excuse for rent-seeking by corrupt businessmen and officials, and didn't lead to the promised expansion of the industries either.

The question is why these state enterprises—on which the lives of thousands of workers and their families depend—keep failing despite massive capital injections and bailouts, and at what cost. The loss in financial terms is often pushed forward to legitimise privatisation. What's conveniently ignored, however, is the cost paid in sufferings by the workers and the region in which the shuttered mills are located. After the closure of the 25 state-owned jute mills, over 25,000 workers became redundant overnight. The government has also shut down six out of the 15 state-run sugar mills, laying off another 3,000 workers. The closure of these mills, located in the northern and south-western parts of Bangladesh, also hugely impacted the local economy, threatening the livelihoods of those involved with nearby grocery stores, hotels, furniture and clothing shops and many other small businesses. The social costs of these closures are no less significant, showing how profound the impact of corruption can be.

Unfortunately, the trinity of corruption, mismanagement and absence of proper planning is a problem that has plagued all our state enterprises. If run properly, these jute and sugar mills have huge economic potential, especially given the rising global demand for eco-friendly industries as well as home-grown products. Increasing sugar production, for example, can reduce market prices and make Bangladesh self-sufficient in sugar. So the government must find a way out of the destructive policies and practices that have led to the closure and underperforming of state-run mills. It must take concrete measures to reduce losses by increasing their production capacity. Corruption and inefficiencies must not be tolerated at all. The government should also immediately reopen the closed mills through the modernisation of equipment and taking legal action against those responsible for their sorry state.

Dumping of plastic bottles in the Buriganga

This is hastening the death of the capital's lifeline

THERE are many ways that the Buriganga is being killed. For a long time, the effluent from the industries on the river bank saw to its gradual demise, particularly the discharge from the tanneries. But then it was also used to dump all kinds of waste. The worst of the pollutants is the large amounts of plastic waste, including sacksful of plastic bottles that have not only choked the river, but have helped kill the marine life as well.

The Buriganga river is one of the three major lifelines that encircle the capital, and the other two, the Shitalakshya and Turag, are in no better condition either. Hardly have we seen another instance where people are so grossly negligent about their own well-being. The fate of the Buriganga is a reflection of the fate of other major rivers that flow by or through many of our major conurbations.

When national resources are not looked after by the people, the administration must weigh in heavily. We have the National River Commission (NRC) but it is virtually a toothless tiger. It has little executive authority, much less the authority to punish. The local administration on which devolves the responsibility to protect the national resources, and which has the enforcement powers as well as the powers to punish, do not do their job with diligence. Had that been so, our rivers would not be in the moribund state they are in. In fact, all these are happening right under their noses. The administration and various agencies of the government have displayed a callous disregard towards the High Court directives of February 2, 2019, which asked for a holistic approach to protect rivers from grabbing and pollution. It declared the rivers as "living entities" and "living persons". The HC issued 14 directives to seven agencies of the government, including the local administration. And the continued grabbing and pollution of the rivers is in breach of the HC's directives. The government should waste no time to ensure that these directives are fulfilled, in letter and in spirit. Further, it should also accord the NRC more authority to carry out the task it is entrusted with.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Climate change conundrum

It is time to create serious climate change talks on the world stage. Volatile weather patterns and climate change impacts have started eating into the growth of the world. Intense tropical storms have become the order of the day. Just as on the American continent, Asian nations have been encountering plenty of storm systems. The international community should get ready to handle these climate challenges through mutual cooperation and strong green strategies.

P Senthil Saravana Durai, Mumbai, India

Breaking the inter-generational cycle of violence

There must be legal reforms and changes in social norms to end corporal punishment of children



LAILA KHONDKAR

ACCORDING to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, 89 percent of children (1-14 years) in Bangladesh experienced violent discipline in the month before the survey was conducted. The survey also reported that 35 percent of caregivers believe that a child needs to be physically punished. There is a circular (2011) by the Ministry of Education banning corporal punishment in educational settings in Bangladesh. However, children continue to be beaten and humiliated by teachers. In addition, children are subjected to corporal punishment in homes, institutions, workplaces etc.

Corporal punishment includes any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, as well as non-physical forms of punishment that are cruel and degrading.

The high levels of corporal punishment of children in Bangladesh reflect deeply embedded social attitudes that authorise and approve it. We repeatedly hear that beatings by parents and teachers have been going on in our society for long, and this is a common practice. Some even go on to claim that they would not have been able to be who they are if they were not punished! Nobody knows how they would have turned out if parents or teachers had never hit or humiliated them. Many people deny the hurt they experienced when the adults whom they trusted the most thought they could punish them using brute force.

Some argue that many parents are bringing up their children in challenging conditions, and teachers are often under stress from overcrowding and lack of resources, and thus, they often use corporal punishment as the "last resort." In reality, corporal punishment is often an outlet for adults' frustrations in their personal and professional lives rather

than an attempt to educate children. In many homes and institutions, adults need more resources and support. However, hitting children is never acceptable even when adults face difficulties.

A 2013 review conducted by the Global Initiative to End all Corporal Punishment of Children, which included more than 150 studies, showed associations between corporal punishment and a wide range of negative outcomes, and presented a convincing case that corporal punishment is harmful for children, adults and societies. This violates children's human dignity and physical integrity and is a blatant violation of children's rights. When adults hit their children in the

child and attitudes favourable to corporal punishment and domestic violence in adulthood. If societies continue to allow corporal punishment of children, then it will become impossible to break the inter-generational cycle of violence.

Despite its widespread use and proven detrimental effects on children, corporal punishment remains lawful in many countries, provided that this violence is inflicted in the name of so-called discipline. Till now, only 60 countries have banned corporal punishment of children in all settings including homes. Bangladesh is not yet on the list.

When we have a legal system which states that assaulting an adult

over time once it is fully prohibited. Sweden is a good example.

In 1979, Sweden became the first country in the world to prohibit all corporal punishment of children. The Ministry of Justice ran a large-scale public education campaign about the new law. Moreover, parents received support and information at children's and antenatal clinics. Since prohibition, there has been a consistent decline in adult approval and use of punishment. In the 1970s, around half of children were smacked regularly; this fell to around a third in the 1980s, and a few percent after 2000.

Ending corporal punishment is essential if we are to meet the Sustainable Development Goal's target 16.2 of ending violence against children by 2030. The following are some recommendations to end corporal punishment of children in Bangladesh.

The government circular on banning corporal punishment in educational settings must be implemented and monitored properly. A new law banning corporal punishment of children in all settings (homes, schools, workplaces, institutions including alternative care arrangements etc) should be enacted. In addition, initiatives should be taken to enforce and monitor the implementation of the legal ban through relevant policies and programmes, as well as public awareness raising campaigns.

Positive discipline in homes and schools should be promoted. This is about non-violent child-rearing and education, and giving parents, teachers and other caregivers a framework for responding constructively to conflicts with the children. The messages on positive discipline should be built into the training of all those who work with or for children and families, in health, education and social services.

Governments and other actors involved in combating corporal punishment should engage with children and respect their views in all aspects of preventing and responding to corporal punishment. Let us make corporal punishment of children socially unacceptable in addition to prohibiting this in all settings.

Laila Khondkar is an international development worker.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

name of discipline, children learn to "behave" only to avoid punishment, but they do not internalise why that behaviour should be avoided. So, it is very likely that they will repeat it. This means that punishment is ineffective as a disciplining technique.

There is overwhelming evidence that corporal punishment causes direct physical harm to children, and negatively impacts their psychological and physical health, education and cognitive development, in the short as well as the long run. This also increases aggression in children and is linked with violence in intimate relationships and inequitable gender attitudes. There are correlations between being physically punished as a

is an offence, but assaulting a child is acceptable, the law is discriminating against the child and there is no equality under the law. Laws that allow adults to inflict violence on children in the name of "discipline" represent a view of children as subordinate to adults. Reforming laws to ensure that children can no longer be lawfully subjected to violent punishment marks a turning-point in society's relationship with children, signaling the recognition of children as human beings and rights holders. In enhancing children's position in society, it advances all their other rights.

Research is showing that corporal punishment is no longer seen as acceptable and becomes less prevalent

Entering the Anthropocene era in a befitting manner



SALEEMUL HUQ

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been a pioneer in terms of developing the Human Development Index (HDI), which is a more balanced way of measuring

human development that goes beyond traditional, simple economic indicators of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). They have also been publishing an annual Human Development Report (HDR) which tracks every country's HDI each year. Each year's report also has a theme to it, and the 2015 HDR was on the theme of Climate Change and Human Development, which I had the privilege of contributing to.

The 2020 HDR has just been launched and the theme this year is Development in the age of the Anthropocene. I am sure that most readers will not know what this word means, as it comes from the realm of geology and environmental studies. For those of us working in the environment arena, it is a term that we have become familiar with, as we are entering a new geological era where human beings are affecting the planet at a scale that has never been possible before. This new era can be a force for good but unfortunately, it is more a force for bad than good at the moment. Hence, we need to develop a major paradigm shift in terms of how we value what really matters as we develop. The 2020 HDR has shown very convincingly that even for countries that have gone up the HDI in terms of enhanced development, they have done so at the expense of their own environment. The paradigm shift that is therefore needed is to make sure that HDI is combined with environmental considerations at the same time.

Therefore, business as usual is no longer good enough and going forward, we need to develop a new normal for decision-making where economic indicators are not the only ones to consider. We need to give equal value to equity and social capital, as well as environmental protection and climate change considerations.

How can we make this paradigm shift? At the global level, we need to make a paradigm shift for each and every individual on the planet to think of oneself as a citizen of planet Earth first and of our country second. This was never true before we entered the Anthropocene

era but is now necessary.

At the national level, in Bangladesh, we can indeed be proud that our Parliament was one of the first to declare a planetary emergency. This was not just a climate change emergency similar to what other Parliaments had done, but the recognition of climate change and biodiversity loss together to create a planetary emergency. While this is an excellent example, it does not mean anything if it doesn't lead to more substantive changes in the way we do things in the country in practice.

Another positive feature of Bangladesh is its excellent planning systems under the

southwestern region of the country with the capital, which will lead to significant development. But if we leave it to the business as usual practice, then we will see haphazard industrial and commercial development around the Sundarbans mangrove forest, which is a world heritage site that Bangladesh is responsible for conserving, not only for ourselves but for the whole world. We need to ensure that only nature-based solutions (NBS) are allowed to be invested in that region and prevent the way things are going now. If we fail to take action immediately, it will not be possible to reverse things later.

then we will have learned nothing from our mistakes. The most important point is that the Dhaka Plan is aware of this and we have laws against destroying our wetlands, but that does not stop dishonest developers from breaking the laws and getting away with it. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Finally, let me end on an optimistic note which is to do with the youth, especially the girls of our country. They are, in my opinion, by far the biggest assets in our country and we need to invest in them in a non "business as usual" manner. This will not require a



Haphazard urban planning and drainage congestion means Dhaka is prone to flooding after a heavy downpour. This photo was taken in Dhaka's Doyaganj area in July 2020.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

leadership of the Planning Commission, who have prepared the Delta Plan to 2100 and the 2041 Prospective Plan as well as the regular five year plans, of which the 8th Five Year Plan will start from next year. All these plans have actually taken environmental and social issues into consideration in a very thoughtful manner. However, the problem is again with not being able to implement the plans in a manner that actually delivers the promises made in the plans.

There are two very important opportunities for Bangladesh in the immediate future to make this paradigm shift. The first is to do with the soon to be opened Padma Bridge linking the

The second opportunity we need to make a very quick paradigm shift on is the development of Dhaka city towards the east. While expansion of the capital city to accommodate its rapidly growing population is essential, the way it is done matters a great deal. The whole of the Dhaka region sits on a very substantial series of connected wetlands of rivers, canals and big and small water bodies. The current part of Dhaka city is built over those water bodies and has meant that we have to suffer flooding due to drainage congestion whenever we have a heavy downpour. If the expansion towards the east takes the same path of building over the hundreds of existing water bodies,

single additional Taka or Dollar, but will in fact require a major paradigm shift in our approach to education. We need to turn away from the rote learning approach and make our young people citizens of planet Earth and problem-solvers, not just for our own country but for all of humanity. This may sound ambitious but it is entirely doable if we make the decision to do so.

Bangladesh thus has the opportunity to show the rest of the world what it means to enter the Anthropocene era in a befitting manner.

Dr Saleemul Huq is the director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University Bangladesh.

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চাকরির আবেদন ফরম

সম্পত্তি তোলা পাসপোর্ট
সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি
(তিন কপি)

১. পদের নাম :
২. বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর : তারিখ :
৩. প্রার্থীর নাম :
বাংলায় :
ইংরেজিতে (বড় অক্ষরে) :
৪. জাতীয় পরিচয়
পত্র নম্বর :
জন্ম নিবন্ধন
নম্বর : (যে কোনো
একটি)
৫. জন্ম তারিখ : ৬. জন্মস্থান (জেলা) :
৭. ০১-০৩-২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স : বছর মাস দিন
৮. মাতার নাম :
৯. পিতার নাম :
১০. ঠিকানা :
বর্তমান :
স্থায়ী :
বাসা ও সড়ক (নাম/নম্বর) :
গ্রাম/পাড়া/মহল্লা :
ইউনিয়ন/ওয়ার্ড :
ডাকঘর :
পোস্ট কোড নম্বর :
থানা/উপজেলা :
জেলা :
১১. যোগাযোগ : মোবাইল/টেলিফোন নম্বর : ই-মেইল (যদি থাকে)
১২. জাতীয়তা : ১৩. জেভার :
১৪. ধর্ম : ১৫. পেশা :
১৬. শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা :
পরীক্ষার নাম বিষয় শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান পাশের সন বোর্ড/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শ্রেণি/শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
১৭. অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা (যদি থাকে) :
১৮. অভিজ্ঞতার বিবরণ (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) :
১৯. কোটা (টিক দিন) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের পুত্র-কন্যা/পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যা এতিম/শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী
স্বল্প নৃ-গোষ্ঠী আনসার ও গ্রাম প্রতিরক্ষা সদস্য অন্যান্য উল্লেখ করুন
২০. চালান নম্বর : তারিখ :
ব্যাক ও শাখার নাম :
২১. বিভাগীয় প্রার্থী কি না (টিক দিন) : হ্যাঁ না প্রয়োজ্য নয়

আমি এ মর্মে স্বীকার করছি যে, উপরে বর্ণিত তথ্যগুলি সম্পূর্ণ সত্য। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় উল্লিখিত তথ্য প্রমাণের জন্য সকল মূল সার্টিফিকেট ও রেকর্ডপত্র উপস্থাপন করব। কোন তথ্য অসত্য প্রমাণিত হলে আইনানুগ শাস্তি ভোগ করতে বাধ্য থাকব।

তারিখ : _____ প্রার্থীর স্বাক্ষর _____

GD-2040

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা
পরিবহন বিভাগ
www.dscc.gov.bd
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন
প্রিয়জনকে বই উপহার দিন।
শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-৪৬.২০১৯.০০২.১৬.০৩.১৯৪.৩৭.২০২০

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন সায়েদাবাদ আন্তঃজেলা বাস টার্মিনাল এর বাৎসরিক ইজারা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তিবর্গের নিকট হতে সাদা কাগজে/প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১. মঞ্জুরালয়/বিভাগ	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।
২. সংস্থা	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
৩. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	পরিবহন বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, নগর ভবন, ঢাকা।
৪. ইজারার মেয়াদকাল	কার্যাদেশের তারিখ থেকে পরবর্তী ০১ (এক) বছর।
৫. দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	(১) ব্যক্তি/প্রোগ্রাইটারের ক্ষেত্রে পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি সত্যায়িত ছবি, (২) কাউন্সিলর/চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র, (৩) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, (৪) হালনাগাদ টি.আই.এন সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি, (৫) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত কপি ও (৬) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৬. জামানত	উদ্ধৃত দরের উপর ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) জামানতের অর্থ ঢাকাস্থ যেকোন তফসিল ব্যাংক হতে মাননীয় মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর অনুকূলে ইস্যুকৃত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট জমা দিতে হবে।
৭. সিডিউলের টাকা জমা দেয়ার খাত	সিডিউল মূল্য বাবদ নির্ধারিত অর্থ ব্যাংক চালানের মাধ্যমে মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, চলতি হিসাব নং ২০০০১৭৮৩৯ (বিবিধ), সোনালী ব্যাংক, নগর ভবন শাখায় জমাদানপূর্বক উল্লিখিত কার্যালয় হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
৮. দরপত্র বিক্রির স্থান	(ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, (খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা, (গ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের হিসাব বিভাগ, (ঘ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের পরিবহন বিভাগ ও (ঙ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।
৯. দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	(ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, (খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা, (গ) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের পরিবহন বিভাগ ও সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।
১০. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	স্মারক নং-৪৬.২০১৯.০০২.১৬.০৩.১৯৪.৩৬.২০২০ তারিখ ২০/১২/২০২০খ্রিঃ
১১. দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শুরু তারিখ	প্রতিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে।
১২. দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১১/০১/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১৩. দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১২/০১/২০২১খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ ৯.০০টা থেকে ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
১৪. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১২/০১/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ সময়ঃ ০১.০০ ঘটিকার সময় মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পরিবহন)-এ দপ্তরে (কক্ষ নং-৩২৪, ৩য় তলা, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা, দরপত্রাঙ্গণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে।
১৫. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তা ও যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পরিবহন), টেলিফোন নম্বরঃ ৯৫৬৫৫৭২।
১৬. দরদাতার প্রতি বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী (প্রাক-যোগ্যতা)	(ক) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত শর্তাবলী অনুসরণ বাধ্যতামূলক। (খ) প্রতি সেট সিডিউল মূল্য ১,৬১,৬০০/- (এক লক্ষ একষাট হাজার ছয়শত) টাকা কর্পোরেশনের তহবিলে চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান করে তা দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় হবে না। দরপত্র গ্রহণ করার দিন কোন কারণবশতঃ সরকারি ছুটি ঘোষিত হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে যথানিয়মে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। (গ) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কোন কারণ ছাড়া দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখে।

কাজের বিবরণঃ

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	আর্নেস্টম্যানি	প্রাক্কলিত দর	নিয়োগের মেয়াদ	দরপত্র বিক্রয় মূল্য
১।	সায়েদাবাদ আন্তঃজেলা বাস টার্মিনাল হতে টার্মিনাল ফি, টয়লেট, গোসলখানা ব্যবহার (৪টি) ও গাড়ি ধৌতকরণ ফি এবং কুলিমাঙ্গুরী আদায় কাজের ইজারাদার নিয়োগ	উদ্ধৃত দরের ৩০% (শতকরা ত্রিশ ভাগ)	বাৎসরিক ৮,০০,০০,০০০/- (আট কোটি) টাকা	কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ১ (এক) বৎসরের জন্য	১,৬১,৬০০/- (এক লক্ষ একষাট হাজার ছয়শত) টাকা

বিপুল চন্দ্র বিশ্বাস
(উপসচিব)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পরিবহন)
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা
ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৫৫৭২ (অফিস)

DSCC/PRD/54/2020-21
GD-2036

স্মারক নং-ন-২৬(অংশ-২)/১২৯২/স্মঃ তারিখ : ২২-১২-২০২০ খ্রিঃ

পুনর্নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২৬/১১/২০১৯ তারিখের ২৫.০০.০০০০.০১৪.১১.০০৫.১৯-৬৮৭ স্মারক এর মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্ত ছাড়পত্র অনুযায়ী স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তরের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদে সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	বেতন স্কেল ও গ্রেড (জা.বে.স্কেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	শিক্ষাগত ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা	মন্তব্য
০১।	৩ডি এনিমেটর	০৩(তিন)টি	১২৫০০-৩০২৩০/- (গ্রেড-১১)	(ক) বাংলাদেশ কারিগরী শিক্ষাবোর্ড হইতে ৪(চার) বৎসর মেয়াদী ডিপ্লোমা ইন-আর্কিটেকচার; (খ) কম্পিউটার এইডেড ড্রাফটিং এবং গ্রিডমিক নক্সা প্রণয়নে অনূন ২(দুই) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	
০২।	ড্রাফটসম্যান/নকশাকার (গ্রেড-২)	০২(দুই)টি	১১৩০০-২৭৩০০/- (গ্রেড-১২)	বাংলাদেশ কারিগরী শিক্ষাবোর্ড হইতে স্থাপত্যে অনূন ডিপ্লোমাসহ কম্পিউটার এইডেড ড্রাফটিং এ অনূন ২(দুই) বৎসরের কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা।	গাজীপুর, মানিকগঞ্জ, মুন্সিগঞ্জ, গোপালগঞ্জ, মাদারীপুর, রাজবাড়ী, শেরপুর, চাঁদপুর, ফেনী, লক্ষ্মীপুর, রাঙ্গামাটি, রাজশাহী, জয়পুরহাট, কুষ্টিয়া, পঞ্চগড়, খুলনা, ঝিনাইদহ, মাগুরা, নড়াইল, সাতক্ষীরা, চুয়াডাঙ্গা, মেহেরপুর, ভোলা, ঝালকাঠি, পিরোজপুর, বরগুনা এবং পটুয়াখালী জেলার বাসিন্দাদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
০৩।	সিটিমুদ্রাকরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর	০১(এক)টি	১০২০০-২৪৬৮০/- (গ্রেড-১৪)	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অনূন ২য় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএসহ স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; (খ) সিটিমুদ্রাকরিতে সর্বনিম্ন গতি বাংলায় ৪৫ শব্দ ও ইংরেজিতে ৭০ শব্দ (প্রতি মিনিটে) এবং কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাকরিতে সর্বনিম্ন গতি বাংলায় ২৫ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ৩০ শব্দ (প্রতি মিনিটে)।	
০৪।	কেয়ারটেকার	০১(এক)টি	১০২০০-২৪৬৮০/- (গ্রেড-১৪)	কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অনূন স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি।	
০৫।	ড্রাফটসম্যান/নকশাকার (গ্রেড-৪)	১৪(চৌদ্দ)টি	৯৭০০-২৩৪৯০/- (গ্রেড-১৫)	(ক) স্বীকৃত শিক্ষাবোর্ড হইতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট অথবা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ২য় বিভাগ বা সমমানের সিজিপিএসহ উত্তীর্ণসহ কোনো অনূমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে ২(দুই) বৎসর মেয়াদী সিজিপিএস/আর্কিটেকচার/বিজি ড্রাফটিং সার্টিফিকেটসহ কম্পিউটার এইডেড ড্রাফটিং এ ২(দুই) বৎসরের কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা; অথবা (খ) বাংলাদেশ কারিগরী শিক্ষাবোর্ড হইতে আর্কিটেকচার বিষয়ে অনূন ৪(চার) বৎসর মেয়াদী ডিপ্লোমা ডিগ্রি।	
০৬।	অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাকরিক	০৮(আট)টি	৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- (গ্রেড-১৬)	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অনূন ২য় বিভাগ বা সমমানের সিজিপিএসহ উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ এবং (খ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাকরিতে সর্বনিম্ন গতি বাংলায় ২০ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ২০ শব্দ (প্রতি মিনিটে)।	
০৭।	সহকারী মডেল মেকার	০৩(তিন) টি	৮৮০০-২১৩১০/- (গ্রেড-১৮)	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) ২(দুই) বৎসর মেয়াদী সিজিপিএস/আর্কিটেকচার/বিজি ড্রাফটিং সার্টিফিকেটসহ কম্পিউটার এইডেড ড্রাফটিং এবং মডেল তৈরির কাজে ১(এক) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।	মানিকগঞ্জ, মুন্সিগঞ্জ, নারায়নগঞ্জ, ফরিদপুর, গোপালগঞ্জ, মাদারীপুর, কিশোরগঞ্জ, জামালপুর, বান্দরবান, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া, খাগড়াছড়ি, ফেনী, লক্ষ্মীপুর, নোয়াখালী, রাঙ্গামাটি, সিরাজগঞ্জ, নাটোর, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ, দিনাজপুর, গাইবান্ধা, কুষ্টিয়া, মাগুরা, কুষ্টিয়া, বরিশাল, বরগুনা, পটুয়াখালী, সিলেট এবং সুমামগঞ্জ জেলার বাসিন্দাদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
০৮।	সহকারী ফিটর	০১(এক)টি	৮৫০০-২০৫৭০/- (গ্রেড-১৯)	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ এবং কোনো অনূমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে ২(দুই) বৎসর মেয়াদী সিজিপিএস/আর্কিটেকচার/বিজি ড্রাফটিং সার্টিফিকেটসহ সিজিপিএস অনূন ১(এক) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।	
০৯।	ইলেকট্রিশিয়ান	০২(দুই)টি	৮৫০০-২০৫৭০/- (গ্রেড-১৯)	বাংলাদেশ কারিগরী শিক্ষাবোর্ড হইতে ইলেকট্রিক্যাল বিষয়ে এসএসসি(সেকেন্ডার) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অনূন ১(এক) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	মানিকগঞ্জ, মুন্সিগঞ্জ, নারায়নগঞ্জ, ফরিদপুর, গোপালগঞ্জ, মাদারীপুর, কিশোরগঞ্জ, জামালপুর, বান্দরবান, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া, খাগড়াছড়ি, ফেনী, লক্ষ্মীপুর, নোয়াখালী, রাঙ্গামাটি, সিরাজগঞ্জ, নাটোর, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ, দিনাজপুর, গাইবান্ধা, কুষ্টিয়া, মাগুরা, কুষ্টিয়া, বরিশাল, বরগুনা, পটুয়াখালী, সিলেট এবং সুমামগঞ্জ জেলার বাসিন্দাদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
১০।	প্রাচীর	০১(এক)টি	৮৫০০-২০৫৭০/- (গ্রেড-১৯)	বাংলাদেশ কারিগরী শিক্ষাবোর্ড হইতে ট্রেড সার্টিফিকেটসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অনূন ২(দুই) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	
১১।	কার্পেন্টার	০১(এক)টি	৮৫০০-২০৫৭০/- (গ্রেড-১৯)	বাংলাদেশ কারিগরী শিক্ষাবোর্ড হইতে কার্পেন্টারি ট্রেড সার্টিফিকেটসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অনূন ২(দুই) বৎসরের চাকুরীর অভিজ্ঞতা।	
১২।	বুকবাইন্ডার	০১(এক)টি	৮২৫০-২০০১০/- (গ্রেড-২০)	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অনূন ২(দুই) বৎসরের বাস্তব কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা।	

শর্তাবলী

- আবেদনকারীকে ৩(তিন) কপি সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র অথবা জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদ, সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা/নাগরিকত্ব সনদ (নিজ নিজ এলাকার ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর/পৌর মেয়র/ইউপি চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত) ইত্যাদির সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি (অবশ্যই সত্যায়নকারী ১ম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তার নামমুখে সীলমোহর থাকতে হবে) এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদসহ (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) সংযুক্ত নির্ধারিত চাকরির ফরমে “প্রধান স্থপতি, স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তর, স্থাপত্য ভবন, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০” এর বরাবরে প্রার্থী কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত দরপত্র আগামী ১৪-০১-২০২১ খ্রিঃ (বৃহস্পতিবার) এর মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তরে পৌছাতে হবে। নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর সরাসরি বা ডাকযোগে কোনো আবেদন প্রত্যাখ্য করা হবে না।
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স আগামী ০১-০৩-২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখে ১৮ হতে ৩০ বৎসরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়স ৩২ বৎসর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।
- ক্রমিক নং-০১ থেকে ০৬ পর্যন্ত পদের প্রার্থীগণ ১০০/- (একশত) টাকার এবং ক্রমিক নং-০৭ ও ১২ পদের প্রার্থীগণ ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকার ট্রেজারী চালান কোড নং-“১-৩২৫২-০০০০-২০৩১” এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/সোনালী ব্যাংক জমা করে ট্রেজারী চালানের মূল কপি আবেদন পত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে পোস্টাল অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- চাকরির প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- সকল জেলার এতিমখানা নিবাসী ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা ও পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যাগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা অথবা মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যার ক্ষেত্রে সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ অথবা মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী কর্তৃক প্রতিশ্রুতিপূর্ণ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। এছাড়া মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা বা পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যা এই মর্মে সংশ্লিষ্ট ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর/পৌর মেয়র/ইউপি চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)।
- প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে উপ-পরিচালক, জেলা সমাজ সেবা অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- জেলা কোটা ব্যতীত আবেদনকারী যে কোটায় আবেদন করবেন তা আবেদনপত্রে উল্লেখ করতে হবে, যেমন-মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা/মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যা, আনসার ও ভিডিপি, প্রতিবন্ধী, এতিম, স্বল্প নৃ-গোষ্ঠী কোটা ইত্যাদি।
- এতিম প্রার্থীদের বেলায় রেজিস্টার এতিমখানার নিবাসী হতে হবে এবং এতিমখানার নিবাসী সনদ সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা প্রশাসক/উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার কর্তৃক প্রতিশ্রুতিপূর্ণ হতে হবে।
- যে কোনো ধরনের তদবির বা দরখাস্তের উপর সুপারিশ প্রার্থীর জন্য অযোগ্যতা বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
- পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস-বৃদ্ধি এবং অনিবার্য কারণে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- অসম্পূর্ণ এবং ত্রুটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- শ্রেণি পদ্ধতিতে প্রকাশিত ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২-০৬-২০০৯ ও ০২-০৬-২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞান নং-শিম/শাঃ/১১/৫-১(অংশ)/৫৮-২ এবং শিম/শাঃ/১১/১৯-১/২০০৭/১৭৪ অনুযায়ী বর্তমান প্রচলিত সিজিপিএ বা ক্ষেত্রমত সিজিপিএ এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম ও ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরেজি নির্ধারিত হবে। (ক) এসএসসি বা সমমান এবং এইচএসসি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রেঃ

সিজিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদূর্ধ্ব	প্রথম বিভাগ
সিজিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ

(খ) অনূমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সিজিপিএ এর ক্ষেত্রেঃ

অর্জিত সিজিপিএ	প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণি	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি	তৃতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি
৪.০০ পর্যন্ত স্কেলে	৩.০০ বা তদূর্ধ্ব	২.২৫ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম	২.০০ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.২৫ এর কম

১৪। বিজ্ঞপ্তি এবং আবেদন পত্রের ফরম স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েব সাইটে (www.architecture.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।
১৫। স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তরের স্মারক নং-ন-২৬(অংশ-২)/১১০/স্মঃ, তারিখ-১৮/০২/২০২০ অনুযায়ী গত ২৫/০২/২০২০ তারিখে “দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক” এবং “THE DAILY STAR” পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুসারে উল্লিখিত পদগুলোতে যে সকল প্রার্থী ইতোপূর্বে আবেদন করছেন তাদের পুরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

Md. Hossain
22/12/2020
(মোঃ জসিম হোসেন)
অতিরিক্ত প্রধান স্থপতি (চলতি দায়িত্ব)
ও
সভাপতি, বিভাগীয় বাছাইনির্বাহী কমিটি
স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।



Bashundhara Kings players celebrate Robson Da Silva's (2nd from R) goal against Rahmatganj MFS during their 3-0 victory in the opening match of the Walton Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

'WI may be on the back foot mentally'

SPORTS REPORTER



In the pre-pandemic era, all the talk ahead of an international series revolved around the pitches, the conditions and the opposition. But amid the Covid-19 pandemic, teams heading into a series are mostly thinking about life inside the bio-secure bubble, which has become an integral part of health protocols on tours.

Following in the footsteps of England, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Australia, Bangladesh is also set to return to hosting international cricket with the upcoming home series against West Indies in January, comprising three ODIs and two Tests.

The two-Test series, which will be part of the ICC Test Championship, will be a crucial series for Bangladesh Test skipper Mominul Haque, who has undergone surgery on his right thumb and is expected to return.

West Indies are among the first teams to experience the new health protocols and stay inside a bio-secure bubble when international cricket resumed amid the pandemic.

But Mominul thought that the visitors would be under more pressure than the hosts when it comes to experiencing life inside the bio-secure bubble.

The 29-year-old is aware that West Indies -- who had a terrible outing in New Zealand, losing both the two-match Test and three-match T20I series -- will be on the back foot

when they arrive in Bangladesh.

"They [West Indies] have played three-four series prior to this one and also stayed inside the bio-secure bubble. They might be on the back foot mentally, and since they are coming off the back of losing a Test series, that is certainly a positive for us. I think it's a completely mental thing [adjusting to the bio-secure bubble]."

"We are yet to play any international series while staying inside the bio-secure bubble. Until the vaccine arrives, we have to play like this and it's better not to think about this and stay positive," Mominul told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The Test skipper however does not want to take his position lightly and said it will be important for Bangladesh to play their best cricket.

"It does not mean that you will beat them easily because they lost a series. You have to play your best cricket to get the result in your favour and the only positive side is that they will be morally down. But that doesn't mean we can be relaxed. Yes, there may be a chance that the West Indies side will be so desperate to win here that they could take on extra pressure. They were inside the bio-secure bubble for the last three series and it's not easy," he added.

Bangladesh last played a Test match back in March this year against Zimbabwe. When asked whether Bangladesh are prepared for the longest format after such a long gap, Mominul said they had been prepared as they trained for the Sri Lanka tour, which was eventually postponed.

BAF put 8 past Police

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Air Force came from behind and handed a massive 8-2 defeat to Bangladesh Police in the Walton Victory Day Hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Arshad Hossain struck a brace while Rakibul Hasan, Shamim Mia, Debashish, Sajib Hossain, Mirazul Islam and Prosenjit Roy netted one apiece for Air Force, who suffered a 1-3 defeat to Bangladesh Navy in their previous match. Amirul Islam and Mohsin scored one each for Bangladesh Police.

In the day's other match, Sonali Bank held Bangladesh Army to a 1-1 draw with the former's Nayeem Uddin canceling out Monojobabu's strike.

Raina regrets arrest

AGENCIES, MUMBAI

Former India cricketer Suresh Raina, who was among those arrested and released on bail by Mumbai Police for violating COVID-19 social distancing norms at a club here, has regretted the "unintentional and unfortunate" incident.

A statement issued by Raina's management team said the 34-year old was not aware of the local timings and protocols at the time of the incident.

"He was not aware of the local timings and protocols," read the statement.



Lampard lauds Tammy's impact

AFP, LONDON

Tammy Abraham's double in the 3-0 win over West Ham on Monday will do wonders for his confidence said Chelsea manager Frank Lampard.

The 23-year-old's goals could not have come at a better time with German Timo Werner drawing a blank for the seventh successive match.

Werner's drought is his longest in club competition since September 2016, between spells at Stuttgart and RB Leipzig (nine). Lampard was also rewarded for opting to start Abraham -- for the first time in a month -- instead of the in-form France World Cup winner Olivier Giroud.

Abraham's goals, his first double since September 2019, and one from Brazilian veteran Thiago Silva saw Chelsea move into fifth place in the table, six points off leaders Liverpool.

Abraham -- whose tally of 25 goals since the start of last season is seven more than any other Blues player -- paid a nice tribute to man-of-the-match Silva, 36, who got Chelsea off the mark. Lampard said Werner is experiencing something all strikers go through.

"That's the period Timo is in," said Lampard. "It's unfortunate but he's getting in the positions -- when one goes in it will be a run for him. Tammy and Oli (Giroud) both bring different things. Tammy did his thing today and that's what we needed." "It is good for Tammy's confidence clearly," said Lampard. "You have to work for your goals and he did work for the goals today and put a lot of effort in. I wanted him to be a handful, I wanted to see movement and he did that."

Flying start for champions

SPORTS REPORTER



Reigning champions Bashundhara Kings made a flying start in season's curtain-raising Federation Cup with a 3-0 win against last edition's beaten finalists Rahmatganj MFS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Argentine forward Raul Becerra and Brazilian midfielder Robson Da Silva scored one goal apiece for Kings while Rahmatganj's Egyptian defender Alaeeddin Nasr Eissa scored an own goal to ensure an easy victory for the star-studded outfit.

Bashundhara Kings' last match was in March this year when they thrashed Maldivian outfit TC Sports 5-0 in the AFC Cup before the pandemic halted proceedings. The Bangladesh Premier League champions initially struggled to break Rahmatganj, who were playing with only one foreigner

against Kings' four.

Kings coach Oscar Bruzon claimed his team are in better shape than the last season, but they seemed to have lost the cutting edge upfront in absence of Costa Rican World Cupper Daniel Colindres.

Before the start of the season's first domestic match in front of an almost empty stadium, Kings' new recruits -- Becerra, Jonathan Fernandes and Robson were at the centre of attention regarding their debut in Bangladesh football.

Even though they could hardly show their individual skill and failed to capitalise on some scoring opportunities inside the box, it must be said that they were behind all the attacking moves with nice exchange of the ball among them. Unfortunately they failed to beat goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton from one-on-one situation on a few occasions.

Rahmatganj came into the match on the back of four weeks of reparation, so Kings might face a lot

of trouble against stiffer opposition.

From the word go, Kings, as expected, established their full control on the match and created some good chances in the first half, with Becerra squandering an opportunity in the second minute with only Liton to beat. Defender Yeasin Khan saw his header at rear

to be blocked by Kings goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico on the half-hour mark.

Kings finally broke the deadlock three minutes from the break when Becerra rose high to nod home a well-judged free-kick from Robson.

After resumption, Becerra was used as a Number 10 while Robson played in number nine position and the Brazilian doubled the margin availing a fumble from defender Mahmudul Hasan Kiran after his countryman Jonathan Fernandes had failed to beat goalkeeper Liton from a one-on-one situation.

Becerra and Robson narrowly missed the target on the hour-mark before Rahmatganj defender Alaeeddin Nsr headed into his own net when a clearance from Liton came his way in front of goal in the 65th minute.

Rahmatganj, who lost 2-1 against Kings in last edition's final, tried to press on Kings and denied them from extending the lead any further.

**Bashundhara Kings 3
Rahmatganj MFS 0
Becerra 42', Robson 53',
Nasr 65' (OG)**

post narrowly miss the target in the next minute.

Becerra was again denied by Liton in the 12th minute while Rahmatganj forward Sanoar Hossain danced past two Kings defenders inside the box to muster a shot from a difficult angle, only

Rizwan fends off T20 sweep

AFP, NAPIER



Mohammad Rizwan celebrated his elevation to the Pakistan Test captaincy in style Tuesday, smashing a career-best 89 to stop New Zealand claiming a series sweep in the third Twenty20 in Napier.

Pakistan reached New Zealand's target of 174 with two balls to spare, ending on 177 after Iftikhar Ahmed sealed the win with a six in the final over. But it was Rizwan's 89 from 59 balls, with support from 41-run Mohammad Hafeez, that inspired the victory.

It was a hard-fought win for the tourists, who suffered heavy defeats in the two opening matches after a rocky preparation that included Covid-19 quarantine in Christchurch with no training.

The win was particularly sweet for Rizwan, who was named on Monday as captain for the first Test against New Zealand starting December 26 after regular skipper Babar Azam was ruled out with a broken thumb. "I never thought I'd be made the captain of Pakistan and I can't explain my happiness," he said after his man-of-the-match T20 performance.

Rizwan said the T20 victory was an important morale booster ahead of the two-Test series against the Black Caps.

"We want to take momentum from this into the Test match, so this is very important for us," he said. After two losses when batting first, Pakistan changed tactics and opted to bowl when they won the toss, restricting New Zealand to 173 for seven, with Devon Conway top-scoring on 63.

'Let it go and move on'

PTI



Australian batting star Steve Smith has no time to think about how India might plot revenge in the second Test here this weekend but he does have a word of advice for the visitors jolted by the first game's battering -- "Let it go and move on".

The Australian trio of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood produced one of the finest fast bowling performances in recent times to dismiss India for their lowest Test score of 36 in the opening day-night Test here.

Australia won by eight wickets and the series will now move to Melbourne for the Boxing Day Test starting December 26.

"Look, the other day we just saw some pretty incredible fast bowling. It is probably the best I've seen our bowlers bowl collectively for about five years I think," Smith said in a virtual media conference facilitated by series' official broadcaster Sony Network.

"The lengths they were hitting were just

impeccable. Sometimes that happens, you get a good ball and you nick it...You got to let it go and move on and try and keep yourself in a positive mindset," the 31-year-old added.

Asked what he feels would be the Indian mindset after such a huge defeat, he said: "Again every individual is different, the way they take their dismissals, how they think about the game after it's finished.

"It's important to keep moving forward, look at yourself individually, what you could have done better."

On the next match, the star batsman said he gets shivers down the spine from the thrill of batting in a Boxing Day Test.

Since his first Boxing Day Test appearance in the Ashes 2010-11, the talismanic batsman has smashed four centuries -- three of them

unbeaten -- and three fifties in seven such games.

"I always remember watching the Boxing Day Tests at home and with the family after Christmas. It's sort of like a dream-come-true moment in a way. As a kid, I always wanted to play in a Boxing Day Test match," Smith, who averages an astonishing 113.50 at MCG, said.



Lionel Messi added to his glittering trophy cabinet with a record-breaking seventh Pichichi trophy and fourth on the trot after finishing as La Liga's top scorer last season with 25 goals. Meanwhile, after releasing some of the pressure of a packed December with two goals in a 7-0 win at Crystal Palace earlier this week, Liverpool star Mohamed Salah continued to relax as he took his daughter, Makka, out for breakfast in Wilmslow.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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PREPAID GAS METERS IN DHAKA 1.2 lakh more households to get them

Titas survey finds gas costs can be cut by 38pc

REJAUJ KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council yesterday extended a project to install prepaid gas meters in Dhaka households, which will see 1.2 lakh more prepaid connections by December 2022.

Residents of the capital can save 38 percent in costs if they are using prepaid gas meters, which also results in similarly reduced wastage of the utility, found a recent survey by Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited.

Titas is commissioning the meters at households in Dhaka to minimise wastage of the utility, and has set up 200,000 meters in the first two phases of the project that began in January 2015.

Planning Commission Member Nasima Begum yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while presiding over the weekly Ecne meeting yesterday, observed that prepaid gas meters should be set up at more households.

"If we can install prepaid gas meters in commercial and industrial zones, we will be able to save more gas," Nasima said, quoting the PM.

Nasima said Titas in a survey found that after commissioning prepaid meters, a household using a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



A large number of PVC banners, mostly of the ruling Awami League leaders, hanging at Shaheed Smriti Square in the capital's Basila area. Such banners decrease visibility and increase the chance of accidents at the spot. The signboard directing people to a police station is lost amid the bright banners. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Train ignores signal, rams truck in Dinajpur

Level crossing gateman killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A gateman was killed at a level crossing as a freight train hit a truck in Dinajpur's Phulbari upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Sushanto Kumar Das, 28, was an employee of Bangladesh Railway under Pakshey railway zone. He hailed from Ishwardi upazila of Pabna.

Israfil Sarkar, stationmaster of Phulbari Railway Station, said Chilahati-bound Rocket Mail train from Khulna was waiting at platform-1 for clearance around 1:00am. At that time, a freight train from Dinajpur's Parbatipur upazila was heading towards the station. The train was supposed to be given clearance for entering platform-2.

But the driver of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Mutation-beating Covid vaccine in six weeks

Says BioNTech; China's Sinovac vaccine proves effective in Brazil trials

AGENCIES

The co-founder of BioNTech said yesterday it was "highly likely" that its vaccine against the coronavirus works against the mutated strain detected in Britain, but it could also adapt the vaccine if necessary in six weeks.

"Scientifically, it is highly likely that the immune response by this vaccine also can deal with the new virus variant," said Ugur Sahin.

But if needed, "in principle the beauty of the messenger technology is that we can directly start to engineer a vaccine which completely mimics this new mutation -- we could be able to provide a new vaccine technically within six weeks."

Sahin said the variant detected in Britain has nine mutations, rather than just one as is usually common.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

6 lakh tonnes of grains will be purchased

December 23, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU GARLANDED

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is garlanded today by the members of Kalyani, Gandaria ladies organisation, on his being awarded the Juliet Curie medal for peace. Members of Khulna Music College also garland him.

DEALS FINALISED FOR PURCHASING FOODGRAINS

The Bangladesh government has finalised deals with a number of countries for the cash purchase of six lakh tonnes of food grains for next year, Minister for Food Phani Majumdar says today in Dhaka. The food grains will reach before March, 1973. The minister adds that the next year's food production is expected to be 9.5 million tonnes and the total food demand is 11.2 million tonnes leaving a deficit of 1.7 million tons.

It may be mentioned that the UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim will make his second appeal to the donor countries to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



WOMAN'S DEATH Dr Zafrullah, four others sued for 'negligence'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury and four others have been sued over the death of a pregnant woman.

SA Alam Sabuj, husband of victim Nasrin Akter, filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday, Zahir Uddin, bench assistant of the court concerned, told The Daily Star.

The magistrate took the case into cognisance and recorded the complainant's statement.

The court also directed the Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate and submit a probe report

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Ice Age wolf pup mummy found



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An ancient wolf pup, perfectly preserved in permafrost, has been discovered in Yukon, scientists have revealed.

The creature dates from the Ice Age and its remains were discovered by a gold miner in 2011 near to Dawson City in Yukon, Canada. It has been given the name Zhur which means wolf in the local indigenous Han language.

It appears that the animal, confirmed as female, died suddenly when the den she was in collapsed.

The remains contain particularly exceptional

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

'Yaba dealer' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An alleged yaba dealer was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila on Monday night.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Rab claimed to have seized 10,000 yaba tablets, a homemade firearm, a sharp weapon and three bullets

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 23

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:25 12:45 3:45 5:24 7:00
JAMAAT 6:00 1:15 4:00 5:27 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Two men leave Kadamtoli Central Bus Terminal in Sylhet after failing to get a bus to their destination yesterday. Transport owners and workers associations of Sylhet suddenly called for a three-day strike demanding the district's stone quarries be opened again. All sorts of transportations between Sylhet and the rest of the country remained disrupted due to the strike.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

BGB-BSF border meet begins in Guwahati

UNB, Dhaka

A four-day director general-level border conference between Border Guard Bangladesh and Indian Border Security Force began yesterday in Guwahati, the capital of Assam state.

BGB Director General Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam is leading the 11-member Bangladesh delegation to the meeting while his counterpart Rakesh Asthana is leading the 12-member Indian team.

For the first time in four decades, the border conference between the two forces is being held outside the Indian capital, New Delhi.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

No need for major alarm

Says WHO over new Covid strain as EU approves first vaccine; US official says 'no hard evidence' new variant more contagious

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization cautioned against major alarm over a new, highly infectious variant of the coronavirus that has emerged in Britain, saying this was a normal part of pandemic's evolution.

WHO officials even put a positive light on the discovery of the new strains that prompted a slew of alarmed countries to impose travel restrictions on Britain and South Africa, saying new tools to track the virus were working.

"We have to find a balance. It's very

important to have transparency, it's very important to tell the public the way it is, but it's also important to get across that this is a normal part of virus evolution," WHO emergencies chief Mike Ryan told an online briefing.

"Being able to track a virus this closely, this carefully, this scientifically in real time is a real positive development for global public health, and the countries doing this type of surveillance should be commended."

Citing data from Britain, WHO officials

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ
ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ
নগর ভবন ১৪-১৫তলা (পূর্ব ব্লক)
৫, ফনিব্র রোড, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা-১০০০
ওয়েবসাইট: www.dtca.gov.bd
স্মারক নং-৩৫.০২.০০০০.০১২.৯৯.০০২.২০৩ তারিখঃ ২১/১২/২০২০ খ্রিঃ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বৃহত্তর ঢাকায় বহুতল ভবন ও আবাসিক প্রকল্পের ছাড়পত্র অনলাইনে গ্রহণ প্রসংগে

ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষের (ডিটিসিএ) উদ্ভাবনী উদ্যোগ হিসেবে বহুতল ভবন ও আবাসিক প্রকল্পের ট্রাফিক সার্কুলেশন ছাড়পত্রের সেবা অনলাইন করা হয়েছে। ডিটিসিএ'র ওয়েবসাইট (www.dtca.gov.bd) এর "সেবাসমূহ" বক্সের "অনলাইনে ট্রাফিক সার্কুলেশন সংক্রান্ত ছাড়পত্রের জন্য আবেদন" অপশনে ক্লিক করে আবেদনকারীগণ এখন থেকে অনলাইনে ট্রাফিক সার্কুলেশন ছাড়পত্রের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন। অনলাইন ব্যতীত কোনও আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

উল্লেখ্য যে, ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ আইন ২০১২ এর ৯ (চ) উপধারা অনুযায়ী বৃহত্তর ঢাকায় বহুতল ভবন এবং আবাসিক প্রকল্পের ক্ষেত্রে ডিটিসিএ হতে যানবাহন প্রবেশ-নির্গমন ও চলাচল (Traffic Circulation) সংক্রান্ত নজর অনুমোদন গ্রহণের বিধান রয়েছে।

বহুতল ভবন নির্মাণকারী ও বেসরকারি আবাসন প্রকল্প গ্রহণকারীগণকে ডিটিসিএ'র ওয়েবসাইটে গিয়ে অনলাইনে আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

বিস্তারিত যোগাযোগঃ
ফোন নং - ০২-৪৭১২০৮৪৩, ইমেইল - sadiac707@gmail.com,
সহকারী আরবান প্ল্যানার, আরবান প্ল্যানিং অণুবিভাগ, ডিটিসিএ।

নির্বাহী পরিচালক
ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ (ডিটিসিএ)
ফোন: ০২-৯৫৬২৬৮৬