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# 24.2m underfed in Bangladesh

Reports UN; says more people undernourished than decade ago

One in every six person in Bangladesh is undernourished and does not have access to sufficient food, according to a new UN report.

The findings come at a time when the country is said to have made commendable improvement in its food security status since 1990.

Worryingly, over the last decade the number of undernourished people has risen by almost a million -- from 23.85 million between 2004-06 to 24.2 million in 2018 -- says the report titled "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019".

The report was prepared by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the UN Children's Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization.

It said globally more than 820 million people, or nearly 11% of the world population, were still undernourished in 2018.

Of this, Asia had 513.9 million and Africa had 256.1 million people.

Experts say food availability does not mean food access for all. At the same time, while the production of food has risen, the multidimensional risks -- climate change and urbanisation, among others -- have increased at the same time.

"Yes, rice production has increased. But what about our dietary habits and food safety issues? We are talking about rice but what about other diets. So, we have to take a holistic approach and a sustainable food approach to

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Police place rickshaws vertically on Mirpur Road near the city's Science Laboratory area for not using their designated lane yesterday. Those were later returned to the rickshaw pullers.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## 'Ten years of my life lost in prison'

Ajmat Ali released from jail; wants justice

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Ajmat Ali, who spent the last decade in jail despite being given a presidential amnesty in 1991, was released from jail yesterday.

The first thing the former teacher from Jamalpur's Sharishabari upazila did after he stepped out of prison was look up towards the blue sky.

Ajmat was freed a day after the Supreme Court (SC) directed the government to release him immediately.

"We released Ajmat from jail around 11:30am after we received the Supreme Court order this morning [yesterday]," said Mokhlesur Rahman, superintendent of Jamalpur Jail.

Since news of his release broke, family members of the schoolteacher and reporters began arriving at the jail from around 9:00am. As soon as Ajmat came out, his daughter

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## INDIA STANDOFF

# Pak reopens airspace to traffic

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan yesterday fully reopened its airspace for all civilian traffic, ending months of restrictions affecting major international routes including from India after clashes between the nuclear-armed rivals brought them to the brink of war.

"With immediate effect Pakistan airspace is open for all type of civil traffic," the state-run Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said.

A CAA spokesman confirmed to AFP that the eastern airspace along the border with India had been reopened.

Pakistan closed its airspace completely after aerial dogfights in February ratcheted up tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi. It removed some restrictions a month later but kept constraints in place along its eastern border with India.

The closure disrupted Indian flights headed west, forced Pakistan International Airlines to suspend some of its flights, and effectively closed off major international routes in and out of Islamabad and Lahore, such as the Thai Airways route from Islamabad to Bangkok.

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## JAHA ALAM'S PLIGHT

# What steps taken against them?

HC asks ACC, banks about officials responsible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know about the actions taken against the officials of Anti-Corruption Commission and banks responsible for wrongly implicating jute mill worker Jaha Alam in corruption cases.

Earlier, the commission placed a probe report before the court where it mentioned that ACC's investigation officials were responsible for erroneously incriminating Jaha Alam in corruption cases, which resulted in him languishing in jail for three years.

"It seems that the mistake of identifying Jaha Alam as Abu Salek happened because of the investigation officials," said the report prepared by ACC Director (legal wing) Abul Hasnat Md Abdul Wadud.

Describing the extent of the officials' carelessness, the report said 12 ACC officials investigated the cases, but none of them visited Jaha Alam's house.

Some bank officials and introducers of Salek's bank accounts misled the investigation officials, it also mentioned.

"But it is the duty of the investigation officials to unearth the truth and present it before the court. There is no scope for shifting this duty to bank officials or someone else," the report further said.

Yesterday, the HC directed the ACC, Sonali Bank and BRAC Bank to submit separate reports before it by August 21 on the steps taken against the officials responsible for the suffering of Jaha Alam and to keep surveillance on them so that they cannot leave the country.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader came up with the order during hearing a suomoto (voluntary) rule over compensating Jaha Alam.

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## Ershad laid to rest in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Ershad was laid to rest at his hometown in Rangpur yesterday following a fourth funeral prayer.

He was buried at his home in Darshana area of Rangpur city after local Jatiya Party leaders and activists demanded that he be buried in his hometown.

The demand came after the fourth namaz-e-janaza held at the Central Eidgah Moydan in Rangpur town where hundreds of people from Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Dinajpur gathered.

JP leader Titas Mostafa said after the prayers that ended around 2:30pm, Ershad's brother GM Quader told the gathering that Ershad would be buried at Banani military graveyard as per the decision of JP central leaders.

But the crowd

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## WORLD'S LARGEST ELECTRIC VEHICLE eDumper chugging away in Switz quarry



CNN ONLINE

While a single computer used to take up a whole room, now they comfortably fit inside your backpack to be easily carried around.

From computers to mobile phones, developments in modern technology mean everything has got smaller.

But the "eDumper" is a very different type of beast -- 110 tonnes heavy when fully loaded and powered by a 4.5-tonne all-electric battery, this

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## HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK Two accused identified by witness

JNU CORRESPONDENT

A 16-year-old prosecution witness yesterday identified two accused in the Holey Artisan attack case before a Dhaka tribunal.

The two are Jahangir Alam alias Rajib Gandhi,

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## PRAYER TIMING JULY 17

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:15	12:45	5:00	6:54	8:15
JAMAAT 4:50	1:15	5:15	6:58	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Don't take Trump's bait

US congresswomen hit back after 'racist' tirade

AFP, Washington

Democratic congresswomen targeted in a xenophobic tirade by President Donald Trump hit back Monday, saying he was trying to distract attention away from his policies with his "blatantly racist attack."

The president first attacked the four lawmakers -- all but one of whom were born in America -- with a series of tweets on Sunday, saying they should "go back" to their countries of origin.

The four -- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Ilhan

Omar of Minnesota and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts -- struck back at a news conference Monday and urged people not to "take the bait."

Trump was simply trying to distract with his "blatantly racist attack" on the four women of colour, Omar said.

"This is the agenda of white nationalists," she said.

Pressley also urged the American people "to not take the bait."

"This is simply a disruption and a distraction from the callous chaotic and

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Trucks parked along Sylhet-Companiganj road have narrowed it down in Sylhet's Dhobagul. Such illegal parking of trucks, which carry stone from nearby stone crushing mills, disrupts traffic. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR