

## 5 high-ups

FROM PAGE 16  
Hasan, Addl IG at PHQ Shahabuddin Qureshi and Addl IG Iqbal Bahar.

All five officials joined the police cadre in eight BCS, 1989.

Police sources said the prime minister might make the selection for the post after Home Minister Asaduzzaman returns from his three-day tour of India.

Al Mamun, who earlier served as the deputy inspector general of Dhaka range, was recently transferred to the PHQ as an Addl IG. Mamun's name is the most discussed as the next commissioner in the force. He hails from Sunamganj district.

Sources said Mamun was in the "good books" of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Javed Patwary as he had a "clean image". The IGP wants to see him as the next DMP commissioner, sources added.

Since Javed Patwary took charge on January 25 last year, the PM has prioritised his opinions on bringing changes to the police force.

Additional IG Shafiqul is another one touted for the post, but sources said since he was appointed as the CID chief on May 16, he might not be transferred.

Hailing from Chuadanga district, Shafiqul, has been known as the "clean image" officer in the police force.

Meanwhile, officials said if the prime minister chose any of the juniors, then DMP Addl Commissioner Monirul Islam might be picked.

In the last couple of months, changes were brought to police super posts in different districts across the country and well-reputed officers got priority for the postings, sources said.

## Three students

FROM PAGE 16  
The three, aged between 13 and 15, were arrested on Monday.

According to police, the three students told the court that they strangled Abir to death over personal rivalry and then raped him.

After recording the statements, the accused were sent to jail. They were expected to be transferred to juvenile correction centre in Kushtia.

The beheaded body of Abir, a grade-II student of Koiradanga Nurani Hafizia Madrasa and Orphanage in the district's Alamdanga upazila, was found in a brick kiln on July 24.

The victim's mother filed a case with Alamdanga Police Station on the same day.

Earlier, police arrested the madrasa's principal Abu Hanif and assistant teacher Tamim Bin Yusuf in connection with the murder.

The duo was sent to jail on July 31.

Meanwhile, Mahbubur Rahman, superintendent of Chuadanga police, said the case had taken a new turn after the juveniles confessed their involvement in the murder.

"We want to further investigate the case to identify the real culprits," he said.

## NAZI PROPERTY THEFTS

## US senators want Poland to pay Jews

AFP, Washington

US senators are urging Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to encourage Poland to pay victims of Nazi property thefts, a move that earned praise from Jewish groups but risked antagonizing Poland's pro-American administration.

Eighty-eight out of the chamber's 100 lawmakers asked the top American diplomat in a letter Monday to "act boldly" to help Poland resolve the issue that has lingered for decades.

"In the decades since the fall of the Iron Curtain, Jewish Holocaust survivors of Polish origin and their families as well as others have found it nearly impossible to reclaim or seek compensation for the property that was nationalized by the Polish Communist regime" after being confiscated by war-era Nazis, they wrote.

"Now is the time, while the last Holocaust survivors are still alive, to back up our words with meaningful action," the senators added, referring to Pompeo's February speech in Warsaw where he called on Poland to take meaningful steps to restitute the property.

"We encourage you to pursue bold initiatives to help Poland to resolve this issue as quickly as possible."

Among the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis, three million were from Poland -- about 90 percent of the country's Jewish population.

A joint statement by Republican Senator Marco Rubio and Democratic Senator Tammy Baldwin that highlighted the letter quoted rights groups as well as Holocaust survivors who applauded the message.

Warsaw and Washington have cooperated closely on security issues, but the longstanding allies remain at odds over restitution.

Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki was condemned by Jewish groups in May when he said that holding Poland liable for the restitution would hand a "posthumous victory" to Adolf Hitler.



Communist Party of India (CPI) activists draw graffiti on the ground during a protest in New Delhi yesterday, in reaction to the Indian government scrapping Article 370 that granted a special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

PHOTO: AFP

## Sporadic protests flare up in Kashmir

FROM PAGE 16

A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that in one incident a youth being chased by police "jumped into the Jhelum river and died".

The incident happened in Srinagar's old town which has become a hotbed of anti-India protests during the three-decade insurgency in Kashmir that has left tens of thousands dead.

A source told AFP that at least six people have been admitted to hospital in Srinagar with gunshot wounds and other injuries from protests.

More than 100 people, including political leaders and activists, have been arrested as part of the lockdown for being a threat to the peace in the Himalayan valley, officials told the Press Trust of India.

Meanwhile, eight Muslims MPs from UK Labour Party have written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson urging the British government to condemn the recent transgression by India in

occupied Kashmir.

The letter spearheaded by the Shadow Justice Minister Yasmin Qureshi, was signed by MPs Rushanara Ali, Rosena Allin-Khan, Shabana Mahmood, Afzal Khan, Khalid Mahmood, Faisal Rashid, Mohammed Yasin, as well as Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Shas Sheehan.

PAK DOWNGRADES TIES  
Pakistan said yesterday it will "downgrade" diplomatic relations and suspend bilateral trade with arch-rival India.

"We will call back our ambassador from Delhi and send back their" envoy, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi announced in televised comments, while a government statement declared that Pakistan will suspend trade in a downgrading of diplomatic ties between the arch rivals.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Pakistan's National Security Committee led by Prime Minister

Imran Khan and attended by the heads of the armed forces and senior government officials.

Pakistan's prime minister Imran Khan vowed on Tuesday to fight the issue "on every forum" and demanded the international community take action, accusing Modi of an anti-Muslim agenda.

The Pakistani military has also said it "firmly stands" with Kashmiris.

A spokesman for India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

MEDICAL SERVICES  
All telephone, television, and internet connections stayed severed in Kashmir. By night, police vans had patrolled the streets, with loudspeakers warning residents to stay indoors.

South Kashmir, the epicentre of the insurgency in recent years, was completely locked down, said a state government official who visited the area.

"The highway was deserted, except for some trucks and buses carrying

labourers out of the valley," added the official, who asked not to be named.

Local authorities have not declared a curfew, but instead clamped down on non-essential travel and gatherings of four or more, effectively keeping restive people in their homes, reported Reuters.

Officials of emergency services, such as hospitals and the fire department, said their staff were also frequently stopped at checkpoints, with access sometimes blocked.

The principal of Srinagar's Government Medical College, which runs the state's largest hospital network, comprising about 3,500 beds, has to personally visit district officials to coordinate services or seek approvals, a hospital official said.

"The principal doesn't have any means of communication," added the official, who asked not to be identified. "Police stations have been given satellite phones but not him. That shows their (government's) priority."

## 3 killed in 'gunfights'

FROM PAGE 16

After receiving the body, the family members went in front of Jashore Press Club where they spoke to journalists.

Denying the family's allegations, Md Moniruzzaman, OC of Kotwali Police Station, said Shishir was a listed criminal and there are at least 17 cases against him on charges including murder, possession of arms and explosives, and extortion, he added.

Police claimed that a DB team detained Shishir around 10:00pm on Tuesday from the town's Chicken Farm area. It recovered four crude bombs from his possessions and then filed a case under the explosives act against him, the OC claimed.

Shishir allegedly admitted

possessing firearms during primary interrogation.

Later, Kotwali police and DB took Shishir to Mahidia area near a Brick Kiln to recover the firearms.

"Sensing the presence of law enforcers, his associates opened fire. Policemen then retaliated, triggering a gunfight," the OC claimed.

Shishir was later found on the spot with bullet wounds and was taken to Jashore General Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Police claimed to have recovered a pistol and two bullets from the spot.

Shishir's uncle Sunil said there were 10 to 12 cases filed against Shishir, but he was on bail in all of them and that there was no arrest warrant against him.

"Earlier in 2017, police picked him

up and shot him on his leg. But this time, they shot him on the head," Sunil said.

Meanwhile in Bogura, two suspected robbers were killed in what police described as a turf war between two criminal gangs in Sherpur upazila.

Officer-in-charge of Sherpur Police Station Humayun Kabir claimed the dead, Dhanesh alias Sukumar, 38, and Afzal Hossain, 55, belonged to two different robbery gangs who got into a gunfight on the eastern side of the Bhabanipur bridge area around 1:30am.

"As we reached the scene, we found the two men on the ground with bullet wounds. They were declared dead after being taken to the Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College," said

Sonaton Chakraborty, additional superintendent of police in Bogura.

Their identities were later confirmed through police's Crime Data Management System, he added.

Police claimed to have recovered two firearms and ammunition from the scene.

According to police, both Dhanesh, from Gaibandha, and Afzal, from Natore, were wanted in several cases over robbery and extortion. Afzal was charged with murder as well.

Despite concerns from human rights defenders, deaths in alleged gunfights have been going on unabated as at least 198 people were killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers between just January and June this year, according to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra.

## Sir Abed to guide future strategy of Brac

FROM PAGE 16

About his decision to retire from the top post, Abed said, "Over the past year, a process has been underway to develop BRAC's global strategy. I would like to invest time in ensuring that the leadership succession and governance structures are in place to strengthen our ability to progress as a unified, 'One BRAC' team globally."

About the future plan of BRAC, Abed wrote, a "sustainable and cohesive global operating structure" was much needed as the organisation aimed to expand in the next 10 years.

"While remaining as Chair Emeritus of BRAC, I will also work closely with respective leadership teams to ensure a smooth and successful transition."

He said for the past few years,

he had put a lot of thought and preparation into his succession plans.

"As you know, I handed over my management responsibilities as the Executive Director of BRAC at the age of 65 in 2001 and remained on the Board as Founder and Chairperson. Transitioning from the governance role of BRAC and BRAC International Boards has also been on my mind for quite some time."

Before sharing his decision, Abed in the letter described how BRAC became his story.

"I started BRAC when I was 36. Growing up, starting an NGO and working in the remote villages of Bangladesh were never in my plans. With my privileged upbringing, 14 years in London, first as a student, then as a Chartered Management Accountant, having a comfortable lifestyle as a multinational company's

executive -- my life was on an entirely different trajectory."

He said the devastating Bhola cyclone of 1970 was a turning point in his life. He also wrote that the liberation war, which began soon after the cyclone incident, completely transformed him.

"I sold my flat in London for 16,000 pounds and returned home in January 1972. With that money and some funds from a few close friends, I set up a relief and rehabilitation project in the remote area of Sulla. The Sulla project covered three unions in the Sunamganj and Habiganj districts in northeastern Bangladesh. That is how BRAC was born."

Abed also had a few words of encouragement for those coming after him -- Dr Muhammad Musa, who joined as the executive director of BRAC International in May 2019,

and Asif Saleh, who was appointed as the executive director of BRAC Bangladesh.

"I am confident in their ability to lead BRAC. Together, they will ensure that we continue to build an equal world."

"I have spent my life watching optimism triumph over despair when the light of self-belief is sparked in people. As a team, I want us to keep lighting these sparks. Our work should always reflect our faith in human spirit and our respect for their inherent power."

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, renowned academic, economist and policymaker will join BRAC as chairperson. Ameerah Haq, former UN undersecretary general for the Department of Field Support, has been elected as the chairperson of the BRAC International.

## Eid rush

FROM PAGE 16

battered roads on Dhaka-Rajshahi and Dhaka-Bogura highways might cause sufferings to people.

Although Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader on Monday directed the authorities to complete the repair works of all dilapidated roads three days before Eid, many of the regional and district roads could not be repaired within the deadline.

A total of 565km roads and highways under the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) have been damaged by recent floods across the country. Of them, 107km are national highways, 51km regional highways and 405km district roads, according to data compiled by the RHD central control room till July 31.

SHIMULIA-KATHALBARI FERRY ROUTE

Operation of vessels on Shimulia-Kathalbari ferry route remained suspended since 10:00am yesterday due to rough waves and strong currents in the Padma, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded at the Shimulia terminal.

Over 700 light and heavy vehicles, including around 50 buses, had been stranded at the Shimulia end of the ferry route since morning.

Kamal Hossain, employee of a private bank, along with his wife reached Shimulia around 9:00am on way to Gopalganj.

"We could not catch the last ferry that left the terminal around 10:00am as the ferry was occupied with people who reached there before us. We waited there for around nine hours as operations of launches and speedboats have also been suspended since morning," Kamal said.

Talking to this newspaper over the phone at 6:25pm, he said they were returning to Dhaka.

Ferry services at the terminal remained suspended till filling of this report at 7:30pm.

WAIT AT TRAIN STATION  
Thousands of people thronged the Kamalapur Railway Station since morning yesterday. The rush got bigger in the afternoon. Those who bought advance train tickets on July 29 (the first day of sale of advance tickets) left Dhaka yesterday.

People going to the northern and western districts had to suffer delays as at least five trains ran behind schedule by 1-3 hours. Two other trains bound for Mymensingh and Kishoreganj were also delayed.

The other trains ran on schedule. A total of 52 trains were scheduled to leave the station yesterday.

Monir Hossain, a private university student, said, "I had collected a ticket of Silkcity Express after waiting at the counter for about 11 hours. The delay in train schedule now is causing suffering to me."

Asked about the reason for the delays, Aminul Hoque, station manager at Kamalapur Railway Station, said holidaymakers usually take a long time to embark and disembark trains at their respective stations, resulting in such delays.

Besides, damage to a coach caused delay of Kishoreganj Express, he added.

ROAD TRAFFIC SMOOTH  
Although the conditions of Dhaka-Chattogram and Dhaka-Sylhet Highways are better, vehicles bound for northern districts slowed down after crossing the Bangabandhu Bridge.

Mosharref Hossain, general manager of Hanif Paribahan, said the authorities should deploy additional law enforcers to keep the traffic situation under control when the home rush reach its pick.

He demanded all repair works be stopped for now.

Meanwhile, Alamgir Kabir, joint director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority at Dhaka Sadarghat, said rush of passengers will start from today after office hour. Our Munshiganj correspondent Farhana Mirza contributed to this report.

## No-deal Brexit to cause food shortages: lobby

AFP, London

Britain will experience shortages of certain foods in the event of a "disastrous" no-deal Brexit, with "serious disruption" expected for months, the country's food and drink lobby warned yesterday.

"The food sector is absolutely clear that a no-deal exit is a disastrous outcome for us, but we've never said that the country is going to starve," Tim Rycroft, corporate affairs director at the Food and Drink Federation, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"There will be selective shortages and they will be to some extent random because it depends on which trucks get through," he added.

Britain is due to leave the European Union on October 31, but there appears to be little prospect at the moment of a deal being reached to ensure the free-flow of goods after that date.

New Prime Minister Boris Johnson has vowed to take the country out, deal or no deal, which would mean trading with the EU according to World Trade Organization rules.

## Fossils of giant parrot found in NZ

FROM PAGE 16

stood about one metre (39 inches) tall and weighed up to seven kilograms (15.5 pounds), according to a report by an international team of palaeontologists published in the latest edition of Biology Letters.

"It could have flown but we're putting our money on it being flightless," Paul Scofield, the senior curator of natural history at Canterbury Museum, told AFP yesterday.

When the bones were found in 2008 no one was certain what they were, and they spent 11 years gathering

dust on a shelf until the team looked at them again earlier this year.

"The thought they were from a giant parrot did not enter our minds. We thought it could be some type of eagle until we went back and looked at it again," Scofield said.

The parrot has been named *Heracles inexpectatus* to reflect its Herculean size and strength -- and the unexpected nature of the discovery.

"Heracles, as the largest parrot ever, no doubt with a massive parrot beak that could crack wide open anything it fancied, may well have dined on more than conventional parrot foods,

perhaps even other parrots," Mike Archer, from the University of NSW Palaeontology research centre, said.

The bird was approximately the size of the giant "dodo" pigeon and twice the size of the critically endangered flightless New Zealand kakapo, previously the largest known parrot.

Evidence of the parrot was unearthed in fossils near St Bathans in southern New Zealand, an area that has proved a rich source of fossils from the Miocene period which extends from about five million to 23 million years ago.

New Zealand, home to the now-extinct flightless bird moa which was up to 3.6 metres tall with neck outstretched, is well known for its giant birds.

"But until now, no-one has ever found an extinct giant parrot -- anywhere," associate professor Trevor Worthy from Flinders University said.

"We have been excavating these fossil deposits for 20 years, and each year reveals new birds and other animals... no doubt there are many more unexpected species yet to be discovered in this most interesting deposit."