



# The Daily Star

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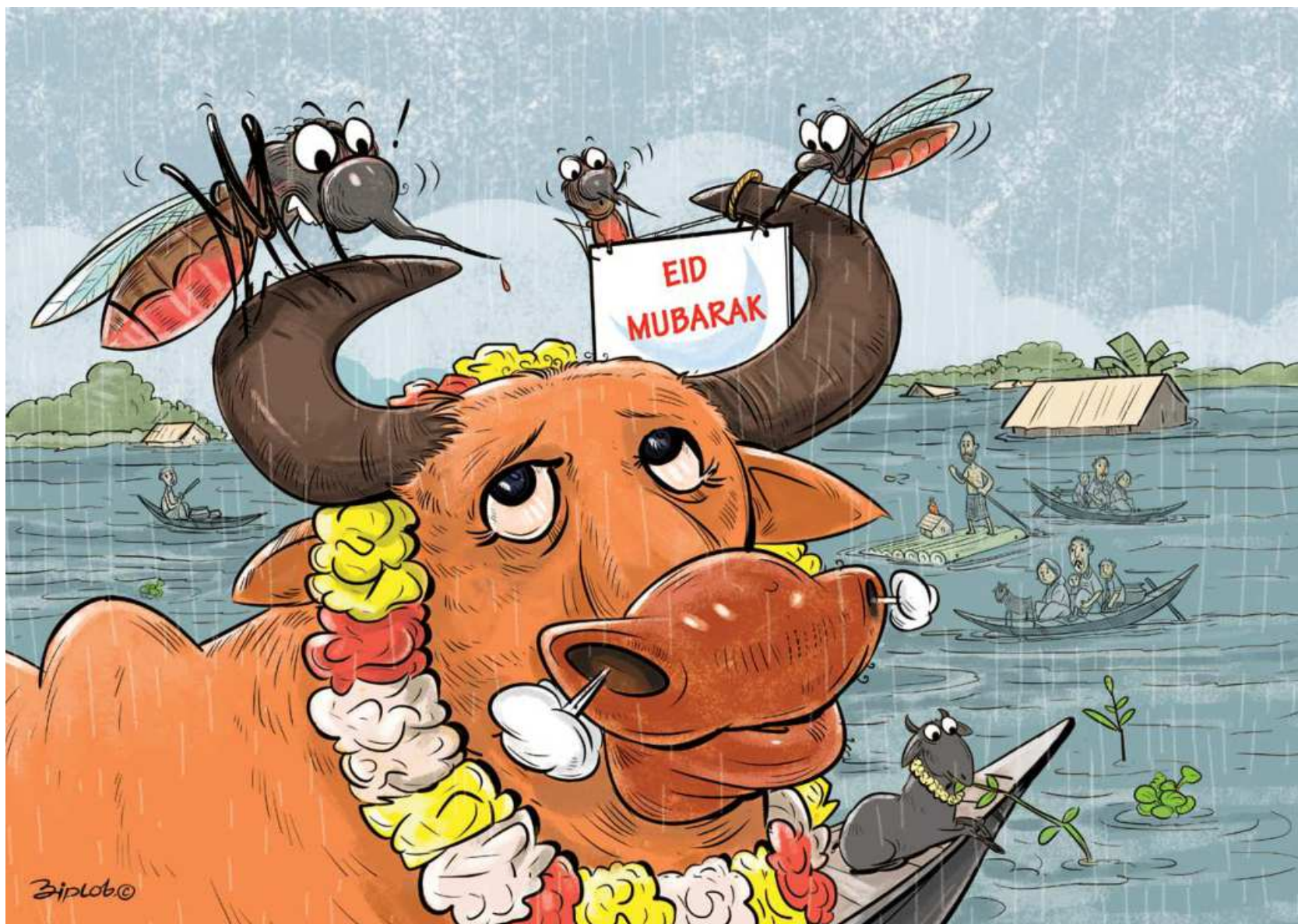


## EID MUBARAK

The Daily Star wishes its readers, patrons, advertisers and well-wishers a very happy Eid

### Holiday notice

The Daily Star offices will remain closed from Aug 11 to 13 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha and so there will be no issues of the paper on Aug 12-14. Our three weekly publications -- SHOUT, Star Weekend and Star Showbiz -- will also not come out. However, our online team will work round the clock to serve both our Bangla and English readers. Please visit our website (www.thedailystar.net) for the latest on national and international developments.



## ENSLAVED in Oman

3 women share their horrific experience on return home; 20-25 women still trapped

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Shaheen Alam heard his mother's voice crack on the other end of the phone, as she pleaded with him to rescue her from the torture by a trafficking network in Oman. She had gone there in May after being promised a decent job as a hospital cleaner. It was a trap.

"I cannot take it anymore. I will die if you don't get me out of here fast," said Fahima Akter, 45, during a recent call she secretly made using a social media platform.

Utterly disturbed and worried, Shaheen approached the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), on August 5 with a record of the conversation for immediate action. An official of Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Programme (OKUP), a migrant rights organisation, accompanied him.

This was the second attempt to bring Fahima back home. More than a month ago, her sister filed a complaint with the District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO) in Shariatpur, from where Fahima is.

Shaheen came to the capital after another victim of the network, Shafia, returned

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Homegoers' plight just won't let up

Trains run late for up to 15 hours; gridlock worst on Dhaka-Tangail highway

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY with MIRZA SHAKIL

To spend Eid back home in Dinajpur, Sultan Mahmud and his family members started from the capital's Gabtoli around 10:00pm on Friday.

Their bus was already an hour behind schedule and then it got stuck in severe traffic jam on the Dhaka-Tangail highway. It could make it to Bogura, just over halfway into the journey, 15 hours later at 1:00pm yesterday.

The vehicle finally reached the northern district around 6:30pm, Sultan said over phone.

The journey usually takes eight to 10 hours.

"I'm diabetic. I hardly found any washroom anywhere. You can understand what I went through," said Sultan, a 50-year-old service holder.

Like Sultan and his family, tens of thousands of holidaymakers suffered immensely yesterday on their way home to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow. They remained stuck in seemingly never-ending agonising tailback on highways and near ferry terminals.

Like on Friday, the schedule of trains to the north-western and southern districts

collapsed again yesterday.

Passengers spent hours at different terminals in the capital as buses arrived late getting stuck on the highways. Annoyed at a huge tailback on the Dhaka-Tangail highway, some passengers demonstrated on the road and vandalised two minibuses.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Railway rescheduled train timing after Friday's derailment of a Khulna-bound train, but many people, unaware of the new schedule, thronged the Kamalapur and other railway stations much earlier.

People, heading for the south-western districts through Paturia-Daulatdia ferry route, also suffered due to a three-kilometre tailback near the terminal, amid a huge presence of vehicles.

**SUFFERINGS ON HIGHWAY**  
 Like the previous day, holidaymakers had to spend hours on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Tangail and from the western end of Bangabandhu Bridge to Hatikumrul in Sirajganj.

At one point, some angry passengers started demonstration placing logs at different points on the Dhaka-bound lane of the highway and vandalised two

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Quader sees no tailbacks

Says traffic slow on highways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said there were no long tailbacks on the highways during the rush of holidaymakers.

Vehicles are moving slowly, he said.

"Today [Saturday] I didn't get any information about suffering on roads," Quader told reporters while visiting Mohakhali Bus Terminal in the capital around 11:00am.

"Vehicles are moving slowly near Tangail, but there is no information about long tailbacks anywhere. We are monitoring the situation from a control room at the BRTA.

"We have no information from anywhere that traffic congestion occurred due to poor condition of roads."

He said vehicular movement on Dhaka-Chattogram and Dhaka-Sylhet highways was smooth while the situation

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## EID FESTIVITIES

## Dampened by dengue

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Emon Hossain, a seventh grader, will be missing out on Eid celebrations with his family in his grandfather's Shariatpur house. This year, his festivities will be restricted to the hospital where he has been admitted since being diagnosed with dengue on Wednesday.

Though the child's condition is improving, doctors are not ready to release him as his condition is still risky.

Meanwhile, Emon's mother too has been diagnosed with the disease.

"I was diagnosed with dengue along with my son, but I was not admitted as my condition is a little better," said Hasina Begum, mother of Emon.

She said her husband was also suffering from high fever for the last few days.

With almost his whole family suffering from illnesses, Emon knows this won't be an Eid holiday to relish.

"I had hoped to enjoy Eid this year, but I have lost that chance due to dengue," said a frustrated Emon, who now has no other choice but to lie on his bed in Mugda Medical College and Hospital in the capital and reminisce about past Eids.

Emon and his mother, however, are not the only ones whose celebrations have been cut short due to the mosquito-borne virus.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at least 2,176 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours since 8:00am Friday, taking the total number of dengue patients to 38,844 this year.

Around the country, 9,420 patients are still undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, two people died yesterday after being diagnosed with dengue yesterday. One was in Mugda Medical College and Hospital and the other in Barishal, taking the unofficial death toll to 79. The number of official deaths is now 29.

A doctor at the medicine ward of Mugda Medical College and Hospital said though they were releasing some patients who were risk free,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## BEFORE LEAVING FOR EID VACATION

Keep water storage containers and kitchen utensils upside down

Cover both low and high commodes

Drain water from empty flower pots and turn those upside down

Clean water from air conditioner pipes and other places

Clear and dry the refrigerator tray

Cover rooftop water tanks



Two smiling siblings wait for their train to Rajshahi at Airport Railway Station in the capital yesterday. Ignoring heavy traffic, congestion, overcrowded trains and launches, people are leaving Dhaka to spend Eid holidays with their loved ones. *Inset*, passengers stuck in the huge traffic jam on Dhaka-Tangail highway demonstrate in Rubna Bypass area around 11:00am. West-bound Eid holidaymakers were stuck in the 40km long tailback since morning.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/MIRZA SHAKIL



### Advertisement

#### Fridge Market Scenario: Best Quality and Facilities

## Customers prefer Walton

Tomorrow is Eid-ul-Azha. On the occasion, consumers purchase best quality products. In purchasing, they prefer the brand that provides most facilities. Walton fridges are best in all aspects of affordable prices, international standard, extra facilities in purchase and after sales service. For which the Bangladeshi brand Walton is posting booming sales of refrigerators and freezers just in the eleventh hour of Eid. Traders and sales executives say, this year they are having bumper sales.

Cows and fridges are prime attractions for consumers on Eid-ul-Azha or Qurbani Eid. People purchase cows to sacrifice and refrigerators or freezers to preserve the meat of those sacrificial animals. That's why customers are thronging Walton showrooms across the country. The local brand Walton is enjoying bumper sales. Another local brand Marcel is also having remarkable sales of refrigerators and freezers.

Visiting various markets of electronic products, it was seen; while hardly any customer is found in showrooms of other brands but huge number of customers throng Walton and Marcel showrooms. The sales executives of those two brands

serving customers happily in a festive mood. Many customers came to buy fridge with their family. They are seen to burst in enjoyment with their chosen product. Walton everyday gives at least one customer Tk. 10 lakh under the campaign



'Who will be Millionaire today'. Besides, there are scopes of getting Tk. 1 lakh, other free products including fridge, TV or sure cash voucher. A vast number of customers have already got Tk. 10 lakh each and Tk. 1 lakh each. Walton has over two hundred models of refrigerators and freezers. Meanwhile, another local brand, Marcel also providing its customers with the scope of getting Tk. 1 lakh everyday

which have been already received by a vast number of people. Marcel customers may also get other free products or sure cash voucher. This brand has more than one hundred and fifty models of refrigerators and freezers.

Sales representatives and businessmen all over the country including Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal, said, this year they are having bumper sales of fridge. According to them they haven't seen such kind of booming sales on previous years. Small and middle size refrigerators of 163 to 312 liters are being sold widely while the demand for 145 to 205 liters freezers is high.

According to experts, Walton has created revolution in the technology products manufacturing industry of the country. The Bangladeshi multinational brand is producing and marketing products maintaining all kinds of international standards. Walton has received various certificates from home and abroad for quality control.

World-class Walton products are widely exported to different countries of the world. Besides saving foreign currency, Walton is creating employment, increasing export earnings along with branding the industrial developed Bangladesh.

### 3 More customers become Millionaire buying Walton fridge



Md. Sayem Molla gets Tk. 10 lakh buying Walton fridge from MS Tamin Electronics, Saliba Bazar, Faridpur

MA. Shakib gets Tk. 10 lakh buying Walton fridge from M.R Electronics, Paba, Rajshahi

Mrs. Shilpi Akter gets Tk. 10 lakh buying Walton fridge from Udayan Electronics and Social Marketing, Rajpur, Kishoreganj

# Ensure hassle-free journey home

Hasina asks Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader to ensure hassle-free journey of home-bound people.

The prime minister came up with the directive during a meeting with different ministers, advisers and party leaders at the Gono Bhaban, said PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim.

During the meeting, the prime minister also discussed various aspects of law and order ahead of Eid-ul-Azha with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan.

She gave directives to the home minister so that Eid prayers are held smoothly.

Besides, Health Minister Zahid Maleque briefed the prime minister about the latest situation of dengue in

the country.

During the time, Sheikh Hasina gave various instructions to the health minister about overall treatment of dengue fever.

Meanwhile, the prime minister held meetings with Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzak, Finance Minister AHM Mustfa Kamal, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud, her Adviser HT Imam, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatunnesa Indira, State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid and Deputy Minister for Education Barrister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel.

Besides, she held meetings with Awami League Presidium Member Advocate Sahara Khatun, Joint Secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Cultural Affairs Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil.

# Enslaved in Oman

FROM PAGE 1

from Omani capital Muscat on August 1 and described the gravity of the situation to him and relatives of some other women migrants.

About 20-25 more Bangladeshi women are still confined to an office of the agency in Oman, Shafia said.

"They are sold sometimes for five days, sometimes for a week. They are forced to do all kinds of work," she said, explaining how women had to toil all day and then get raped.

On return to the agency office form their temporary "workplaces", the women would be sold to someone else and the physical and sexual abuse would continue.

"If they refused to go, the traffickers would beat them, with their hands tied to the back," Shafia said.

Fatema Akter Pakhi, 23, is one of them. Before her return on August 5, she had been beaten so badly one day that she passed out and lay unconscious for a long time. "We thought she died. We sat beside her and prayed throughout that night," Shafia said.

With her health condition fast deteriorating, Pakhi was sent back. As she landed in Dhaka, she was taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for a medical check-up.

"Doctors suggested a number of tests before going for treatment," said Supriya Shahnewaj, project manager of OKUP.

As Shafia was recounting her experience on Wednesday at The Daily Star office, Pakhi felt sick and rushed to the washroom to throw up.

Shafia said she had also been allowed to fly back home after her family struck a deal with the agency in Oman over the phone. They had to pay the agency Tk 10,000 for her release from captivity.

On hearing the treatment of Fahima and other women at the hands of the traffickers, the BMET summoned her recruiting agency, M/S Masud Jamil Overseas, to its office on Monday. Hours later, an official showed up to say that the agency had already contacted its manpower recruiting partner in Oman.

"He [the staffer of the agency] presented an audio clip before us where Fahima is heard saying she was fine," said Amena Akter, a trainer and counsellor at the OKUP, who was present at the BMET office at the time.

"I didn't know then what to say," Amena said.

Shafia said she was one of the witnesses to the recording, and it was done under duress.

Such treatments by the traffickers fall under the UN definition of modern-day slavery. It refers to

situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power.

FALSE PROMISE

Fahima went to Oman on May 15. A manpower broker in Shariatpur had assured her that she would get Tk 40,000 a month as a hospital cleaner.

All the arrangements were completed by the broker for Tk 1.5 lakh. Fahima spent a big chunk of her income from her previous job in Saudi Arabia to go to Oman.

Another broker Baten facilitated the process, said Fahima's son Shaheen. Before boarding the flight to Oman, Baten met Fahima at Jatrabari by the roadside.

In a similar fashion, Baten was involved in the migration process of at least three others, including Pakhi. He sent them to Oman through different agencies.

Pakhi, Shafia and Fahima had all the legal documents before flying out but the documents say they were hired for the job of a domestic worker. They got the documents before their flight and were unaware of the fraudulence.

Both Pakhi and Shafia said they had not received any training and undergone any medical check-up compulsory before joining work overseas but the broker had managed to get clearance from the BMET in both cases.

Meanwhile, the OKUP wrote a letter to Director General of BMET Salim Reza requesting prompt actions to rescue the rest of the women from the Oman agency's office and immediate arrangement to bring them back. There is a Bangladeshi woman called Maya who is in-charge of that office, according to the letter.

Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star could not reach Salim Reza for comments.

Labour Counsellor at Bangladesh Embassy in Oman Humayun Kabir said on Friday that he had just landed there and was yet to join office.

As soon as he gets the list of the women migrants, he would look into the situation they were in and find out the agencies involved and take action, he said.

For Shaheen, the past one month has been full of a frantic search for people who could help him get his mother back safe. He went to local broker Mosharraf and Baten several times but to no avail.

The BMET instructed the recruiting agency to bring her back by August 13. Shaheen now waits to receive his mother, clinging to the hope that his wait will not get any longer.

# Dampened by dengue

FROM PAGE 1

they had to be cautious about some dengue patients, as the illness could take a turn for the worse even after partial recovery.

"Around 500 patients, 460 with dengue, are now undergoing treatment at the hospital's medicine ward, which has a 60-bed capacity," said the doctor.

The hospital itself has 500 beds.

He said 20 medical officers, senior doctors and 26 nurses were working round-the-clock in phases to handle the huge number of patients.

In addition, 15 doctors of the hospital's medical college were helping the doctors for the past two weeks.

Director of the hospital Amin Ahmed Khan said 779 patients were undergoing treatment there, of which 553 were dengue patients.

Earlier, the number of patients had decreased to around 250 just before Eid but had since doubled, he said.

In the DMCH, 2,993 patients, of which 875 have dengue, are now undergoing treatment, hospital sources said. Most of the non-dengue patients were discharged, they said.

In Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, 450 patients have

been undergoing treatment for dengue. The number was around 1,200 last week.

CHILD DIES OF DENGUE

Rusha, a fourth grader of YWCA of Mohammadpur in Dhaka, came to Jhakathi's Rajapur town with her parents on Thursday to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha.

None of them, however, knew that the child would never see another Eid, let alone this one.

On Friday morning, Rusha was taken to Rajapur Health complex when she began to feel unwell.

She was referred to Barishal for some tests and treatment as her condition was critical, said Kazi Jashim Uddin, Rusha's uncle.

At first, she was taken to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, but she couldn't be admitted due to the excessive number of patients.

Rusha was then admitted to a private hospital in Barishal city on Friday morning and shifted to the intensive care unit of Sher-E-Bangla Medical College and Hospital. She breathed her last yesterday morning.

(Our Jhalakath, Tangail and Barishal correspondents also contributed to the report.)



An overcrowded launch is seen on its way to Hatia from Sadarghat Launch Terminal in Dhaka yesterday, a day before the Eid holidays begin. The photo was taken from a bridge at Postagola.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Homegoers' plight just won't let up

FROM PAGE 1

microbuses in Rabna bypass area in Tangail Sadar upazila around 10:45am.

On the last day of home rush for Eid-ul-Fitr earlier this year, passengers staged a similar demonstration on the highway.

Thousands of passengers, including women and children, suffered since yesterday morning as vehicular movement came to a halt on 40km of the road from Mirzapur to the approach road of the Bangabandhu bridge.

After 11:00am, the vehicles started moving at a snail's pace on Mirzapur-Bangabandhu bridge approach road, police said.

The tailback had appeared when the bridge authorities suspended toll collection for one-and-a-half-hours from 7:10am, said Shafiqul Islam, additional superintendent of police in Tangail.

The authorities suspended the toll collection as a huge number of vehicles got stuck from the western side of the bridge to Hatikumrul point in Sirajganj mainly because of excessive pressure of vehicles and a narrow bridge at Nokla, Shafiqul said.

Toll collection remained suspended for another two hours since 6:00pm, causing a 30km tailback again.

Shamim Rahman, a private service holder, started at 11:00pm on Friday from the capital's Mazar Road area to go to his Thakurgaon home and could reach till Sherpur of Bogura at 7:15pm yesterday. It might take at least another five hours to reach Thakurgaon.

"I already passed 20 hours with some dry food. It's a nightmare," he said over the phone, adding that he had faced a similar situation last year.

Sanjit Kumar Roy, superintendent of police in Tangail, told journalists that operation of heavy and rundown

trucks on the highway was banned for three days before Eid, but still the pressure of vehicles was high.

Md Shahidul Islam, deputy commissioner in Tangail, said at least 35,000 vehicles were plying on the highway everyday due to Eid rush.

TRAIN

Around 8:30pm on Friday, garment worker Moyna Akter went to Gazipur's Joydevpur Rail Station to go to her village in Bagerhat.

But the crowd was so intense that she could not board a train. She was at the station till yesterday noon and came to Dhaka's Kamalapur station in Sundarban Express.

"I had no other option than to come to Dhaka this way and take the same train to go to Khulna. I need to get home to my children who live with my mother," she told The Daily Star.

Sundarban Express left the station around 2:15pm, although it was originally scheduled to do so at 6:20am.

Like Moyna, several thousand other passengers spent hours at the station waiting for their trains. Some were sleeping on platform while many were busy feeding their children.

Till 2:15pm, only two trains -- Sundarban and Panchagarh-bound Ekata Express -- left Kamalapur with many on roofs.

Most of the trains heading for north-western and southern districts have been running behind schedule since the beginning of the Eid journey on August 7.

But the schedule totally collapsed on Friday after a coach of Sundarban Express derailed near Bangabandhu Bridge halting train movement for three hours.

As per the rescheduled timing, Dhumketu Express, Nilsagar Express,

Rangpur Express, Lalmonirhat Eid Special and Silkcity Express were running nine to 15 hours late.

Meanwhile, the railways ministry said passengers could take refunds for tickets if they chose not to travel in line with the new timing.

FERRY TERMINALS

Mohna Azam, a student of Eden Mohila College, and her family members were supposed to start for Satkhira home from Shyamoli at 3:00pm on Friday. However, the bus authorities called her at the last moment and said the vehicle will arrive at 6:00pm.

The bus came at 9:30pm and left the counter there half-an-hour later.

They crossed the Padma through Paturia-Dauladia ferry terminal at 8:00am yesterday after remaining stuck in an agonising jam for hours near the ghat.

The bus finally arrived in Kolaroa in Satkhira at 1:00pm, she said over phone.

On Friday, huge pressure of vehicles led to a 20-km long queue on Dhaka-Aricha highway ahead of the Paturia-Dauladia ferry terminal, causing people to suffer badly.

However, the situation improved a little yesterday morning and the tailback reduced to around three kilometres in the afternoon.

Zillur Rahman, assistant general manager of BIWTC at Aricha Ghat, said they were trying to handle the situation with 20 ferries, but strong currents of the Padma and huge pressure of vehicles were causing trouble.

The situation at Shimulia and Kathalbari ferry terminals were comparatively better, said sources there.

[Our Manikganj and Munshiganj correspondents contributed to the report]

# Quader sees no tailbacks

FROM PAGE 1

on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, especially between Tongi and Gazipur Chowrastha, was better than expected.

On Friday, vehicles remained stuck in a 64km tailback stretching from Chandra intersection in Gazipur to the approach road of the Bangabandhu bridge.

Vehicles were also stuck for hours in a 25km stretch of road from Bangabandhu bridge to Sirajganj's Hatikumrul.

Besides, a 20km queue of vehicles formed from Paturia ferry terminal on Dhaka-Aricha highway on Friday.

There was a 40km tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday morning.

But Quader yesterday said Dhaka-Tangail highway had faced serious pressure of vehicles on Friday due to Thursday's bad weather and a huge

number of cattle-laden trucks.

He also said that some issues at the toll plaza near Bangabandhu bridge were causing the vehicles to slow down.

"As vehicles are moving slowly, many vehicles are failing to reach the terminals on time. This is the reality.

"So many passengers have been waiting here for a long time. Many of them asked me about the delayed arrival of buses as they have been waiting with their children at the terminal."

When a reporter asked him whether he would say the holidaymakers' journey yesterday was smooth, the minister said, "People's departure [from Dhaka] have been by and large comfortable. Vehicles are reaching [their destinations] late. I mentioned this earlier."

# Trump defends immigration raids as 'good deterrent'

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump on Friday defended controversial mass raids that led to the arrest of 680 undocumented migrants in the southeastern United States, saying they were an effective way to thwart illegal entry into the country.

The raids, which took place at seven chicken processing plants scattered across six Mississippi cities, were the largest in a single state in US history.

"I want people to know if they're coming into the US illegally, they're getting out," Trump told reporters.

"And this serves as a very good deterrent."

He added that when "people see what they saw (Wednesday), like they will see for a long time, they know that they're not staying here."

Local media showed images of confused children crying after coming home from school and finding themselves with nowhere to go and nothing to eat after their parents had been detained.

Mississippi Attorney General Mike Hurst, who was in charge of the operation, has also defended the raids, assuring that officers had been

concerned about the children's ability to reconnect with their parents.

"We are unaware of any child presently w/o (without) a parent as a result of this operation," he wrote Thursday on Twitter.

Meanwhile, area chicken processing plants found themselves with drastically reduced staffs.

Koch Foods, a \$3.2 billion business, posted on Facebook that it would hold a job fair Monday, while another plant belonging to PH Food had closed its doors on Thursday after 70 to 80 of its 100 workers were arrested, according to local media.

# Iran unveils 'overhauled' air defence system

AFP, Tehran

Iran unveiled a new air defence system on Saturday it says is capable of detecting missiles and drones at a range of 400 kilometres (250 miles), ISNA news agency reported.

The "Falagh" is a locally overhauled version of the imported "Gamma" surveillance radar, the semi-official news agency said, in an apparent reference to a Russian-made system of that name.

It had been inoperable due to "sanctions, lack of spare parts and the inability of foreign engineers to carry out repairs", it added.

The unveiling comes at a time of rising tensions with the United States, which have escalated ever since US President Donald Trump withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and reimposed sanctions.

Iran shot down a US Global Hawk drone with a surface-to-air missile in June for allegedly violating its airspace, which the United States denies.

"This radar is capable of identifying and finding all types of cruise missiles, stealth aircraft, drone systems and also ballistic missiles within a 400-kilometre range," ISNA quoted army air defence force chief Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard as saying during the unveiling ceremony.

The Falagh was also capable of connecting to the Islamic republic's air defence network and completing the coverage of the S-300 missile system it acquired from Russia, the news agency said.

Iran installed the S-300 system in March 2016 following several years of delay after a nuclear agreement reached with world powers allowed the lifting of international sanctions.

# Libya govt ready for conditional Eid truce

AFP, Tripoli

Libya's government has said it is willing to accept a truce in fighting around Tripoli for the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha that starts Sunday but on four conditions.

The United Nations had called on the UN-recognised Government of National Accord and Forces of strongman Khalifa Haftar to commit to a humanitarian truce by midnight on Friday.

Late Friday, the GNA said it was keen to "ease the suffering of the citizens and allow rescue workers to accomplish their mission".

Therefore it said it "accepted a humanitarian truce for Eid al-Adha," which will be celebrated in Libya on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

But it listed "four conditions". It said the ceasefire must be observed "in all combat zones, with a cessation of direct and indirect fire and movement of troops".

It said the truce must include "a ban on flights and reconnaissance overflights across the entire (Libyan) airspace as well as a halt to flights from airbases".

Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army launched an offensive against Tripoli - seat of the GNA - in early April.

Over the past four months, 1,093 people have been killed in the fighting and 5,752 wounded, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), while more than 120,000 people have been displaced.

## President, PM to greet countrymen on Eid day

BSS, Dhaka

President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will exchange greetings with people from all walks of life at Bangabhaban and Gono Bhaban on the day of holy Eid-ul-Azha (August 12), the second biggest religious festival of the Muslims.

"The programme will begin at 10:30 am at Bangabhaban. The President will also deliver a short speech on the occasion," President's press secretary Mohammad Joyanal Abedin told BSS yesterday.

The head of the state is also scheduled to exchange Eid greetings with people of all walks of society.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



**A man pulls a bull, after purchasing it for Tk 1.05 lakh at Kamalapur cattle market yesterday. With Eid-ul-Azha just a day away, traders from across the country are bringing sacrificial animals to the capital hoping to make good profits. The photo of this livestock carrier on the Buriganga, inset, was taken from Postogola bridge in Jurain.**

## Capital's cattle markets still gaining momentum

*Sellers apprehensive of losses; buyers cautious*

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

As Eid-ul-Azha draws nearer, city dwellers have begun rushing to cattle markets to buy sacrificial animals of their choice.

Traders and buyers yesterday had mixed reactions over the price of cattle. Some buyers claimed traders were demanding high prices, while some traders said they are not getting just value for their cattle.

Yesterday, the correspondents visited five makeshift cattle markets -- Kochukhet, Bhashantek, Kauartek, Dhupkhola and Kamalapur -- and the permanent cattle market in Gabtoli.

Trader Al-Amin, who had brought 24 cows from Kustia to the Kamalapur haat, had already sold 22 till 4pm yesterday.

"If I calculate transportation, cattle feed and labour cost, we've so far incurred loss of about Tk 35,000," he said.

Pointing to one of his unsold red ox, he said, "I bought this big one at Tk 1.35 lakh last year and spent another Tk 40,000, but people are not bidding more than Tk 1.5 lakh."

Last year, he sold 13 cows and went home with a loss of Tk 55,000, said Al-Amin.

However, trader Sanwar Mandal made profit last year. He brought 15 cows this year at Kauartek cattle market.

He bought a red Sindhi breed bull weighing about 15-maund, for which his asking price is Tk 5 lakh. "So far, the highest bid was Tk 3.5 lakh," he added.

Accompanied by his uncle and cousin, Jinnat Ali brought 12 mid-sized cattle from Chuadanga on Tuesday. Till yesterday afternoon, he could only sell about four of them.

"We've made some profit from the selling of four cows, but if we could not sell all of them we'll make a huge loss," he said, adding, buyers were yet to show up in full scale.

This newspaper also talked to several buyers at the haats.

Fearing price hike, some were buying cattle whereas some were still waiting for further drop in prices.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Fraudsters arrested with equipment, fake stamps worth Tk 1cr

*DB nabs members of mugging gang*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police in a special drive yesterday arrested two people from the capital's Paltan area, allegedly for selling fake revenue stamps.

The arrestees were identified as Rasel Ahmed Shanto and Md Nayem Islam.

A team of DB (series crime investigation department) also recovered fake revenue stamps, plates and others equipment worth Tk 1.02 crore from their possession, said Abdul Baten, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

In primary interrogation, the arrestees admitted that they used to prepare fake stamps and used to sell those at different districts of the country, said Baten, while addressing a press briefing at DMP media centre.

At the same press where these used to be printed, supporters of Hizb-ut Tahrir also used to print their posters, leaflets and books.

The DB team also recovered huge stash of leaflets and books.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## KILLING AEDES MOSQUITOES

## City corporations start using new insecticide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both city corporations of Dhaka have started using newly tested insecticides to kill Aedes mosquitoes, responsible for the recent outbreak of dengue.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) is using deltamethrin insecticide while Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) is using malathion. DSCC began spraying the insecticide yesterday and DNCC since Thursday, according to official sources of the city corporations.

In July, a meeting was held in Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission organised by the two city corporations, where four new insecticides were recommended for killing Aedes mosquitoes.

Based on the decision, the samples of insecticides were brought from abroad. Three different tests were conducted on insecticides -- field test using fogging machine directly on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## DENGUE OUTBREAK

## Hospitals ready to deal with patients during Eid: Maleque

BSS, Dhaka

Hospitals across the country are prepared to serve patients with dengue fever during the Eid holidays, Health Minister Zahid Maleque has said.

"We have trained 2,000 doctors. Our medicine specialists helped us with that. We have prepared a protocol, which has been distributed everywhere, including at private hospitals. Trained doctors have been sent to districts and upazilas," he told the news agency on Thursday in an interview at his Secretariat office.

The minister said they have already allocated Tk 10 lakh for each district hospital and Tk 2 lakh for each upazila hospital to buy anything they need in order to locally manage

patients.

"We hope there will be no problem. Even then, any problem they (district and upazila hospitals) face, they will be able to directly contact us. We'll always be in office, even on Eid day," he said.

The mosquito-borne viral disease could spread in districts and upazilas with people leaving Dhaka to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with their dear and near ones.

"We have ordered upazila hospital authorities to make a separate dengue corner. I have visited some district hospitals and found that about 90 percent patients in those hospitals travelled back from Dhaka," the health minister said.

"We have also prepared four

hospitals in Dhaka for any sudden spike: Sheikh Hasina Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, Sheikh Russell Digestive Unit, new expanded site of Nitor (National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation) and Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital," he said.

"The burn unit opens on Friday, while the other three will be functional from Saturday. I hope those will not be needed but still we are prepared."

"We have also opened a hotline -- 16263," the minister added.

This year, mosquitoes are breeding 12 times more than before, Zahid Maleque claimed.

"Our mandate is to ensure medical

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Homebound passengers being overcharged

*Says Jatri Kalyan Samity, makes 12-point recommendation*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity yesterday alleged that additional fares are being charged from Eid holidaymakers bound for different districts by road, water and airways.

Fares are illegally being charged two or three times higher than usual, in routes including Feni, Cumilla, Noakhali and in northern parts of the country, claimed the passengers' welfare platform.

From a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, the platform also made a 12-point recommendation to ensure safe journey for passengers for Eid-ul-Azha, to be observed tomorrow.

In a written statement there, the platform's secretary General Mozammel Hoque alleged that homegoers are paying extra fares on one hand, and remaining stuck for hours in jam on highways, as well as at rail stations due to schedule collapse.

Quieting statistics of the Roads and Highways Department, he said 4,247km of roads and highways and 300km of railways in the country are in poor condition due to un-repaired roads and risky bridges.

Waterways have become extremely risky due to unfavorable weather and the burden of carrying about three to four times extra passengers beyond capacity, he said.

Mozammel demanded that the government repair highways affected by flood, and introduce long-term measures to deal with the crisis of public transport.

Mozammel recommended imposing a ban on vehicles without fitness like "nosimon-korimon" (locally-produced three-wheelers), easy-bikes, auto-rickshaws, battery and pedal-run rickshaws, and restricting motorcycles on major highways.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## 'An atrocious act of extortion'

*TIB says about higher fare of domestic flights*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed shock and disappointment over the three to four-time hike in fare by domestic airlines, taking advantage of the higher demand on Eid holidays.

In a statement yesterday, the anti-graft watchdog termed the hike an "atrocious act of extortion" and demanded justice and accountability in public interest and for corporate integrity.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, said, "We are deeply shocked and disappointed to see in media reports that some airlines of Bangladesh have brazenly involved themselves in an unprecedented atrocious act of extortion through taking advantage of the higher demand for travels during the Eid holidays".

This, he said, is a shameful example of non-compliance of national and international standards, which is unthinkable for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## PHOTO OF THE DAY

SK ENAMUL HAQ



**DON'T WORRY LITTLE ONE, YOU'LL BE BETTER SOON... three-year-old Subarna lies next to her mother at Mugdha Medical College Hospital yesterday. She was admitted to the hospital with dengue fever on Wednesday.**

## An unshakeable duo

*Father, son operate Biman flight together*

RASHIDUL HASAN

From the day Eric Reja Khondker took his first flying lessons, was a dream for him: to fly an aircraft sitting next to his father.

That dream came true for him on Thursday, as chance brought the duo together in the same cockpit -- of a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight.

Captain Khondker Nazmul Islam and his son, first officer Eric together flew a Boeing 737-800 aircraft to Bangkok and back, said Tasnim Akhtar, public relations manager of Biman.

"A lifelong wish fulfilled, a day I'll never forget!" Eric said in a Facebook post, terming the experience "unreal".

Tasnim said though they fly for different airlines -- Nazmul for Regent Airways and Eric for Biman -- the opportunity presented itself when Biman leased cockpit crews from Regent.

"This must have been a proud moment and a career highlight for both of them,



and Biman would like to congratulate them on this epic flight," Tasnim said.

"This marks the second time in Bangladesh a father and son were in the same cockpit crew," Tasnim added, quoting a senior pilot of the national flag carrier.

The first such incident was in 2016, when Capt Sarker Kamal Sayeed and his son Wazid Sayeed flew an airplane on the London-Sylhet and Dhaka route.

## Five-tier security for nat'l mosque, eidgah

*Says DMP chief on Eid preparations*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken five-tier security arrangements for National Eidgah ground and national mosque Baitul Mukarram ahead of Eid-ul-Azha prayers.

DMP commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia disclosed the arrangements yesterday after inspecting security measures at the national Eidgah.

The arrangements include in-uniform and plainclothed law enforcers, SWAT and bomb disposal unit, watch tower, metal detector archways and real-time CCTV monitoring.

People coming to National Eidgah ground for Eid prayers can only bring prayer mats and umbrellas with them, said the DMP boss.

Everyone will have to undergo three-tier screening before entering the venue, he said, adding that similar security arrangement is in place for National Mosque.

"Devotees will be allowed to enter after being screened through archways and metal detectors," said Asaduzzaman.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

হামদর্দ বাংলাদেশ-এর অর্জনসমূহ		হামদর্দ বাংলাদেশের অধ্যয়ন আশ্রমের অংশগ্রহণ ও সহযোগিতা আমাদের অনুপ্রেরণা	
হামদর্দ ফাউন্ডেশন বাংলাদেশ রূপায়ন ট্রেড সেন্টার, সেভেল-১২ ১১৪ কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, বাণেশ্বর, ঢাকা-১০০০	হামদর্দ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বাংলাদেশ পজারিয়া, মুন্সীগঞ্জ	হামদর্দ পাবলিক কলেজ ৯৯ বীর উত্তম সি আর দত্ত সড়ক, ঢাকা	হামদর্দ ইউনাইটেড মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল বনানী, বস্তা
হামদর্দ ইন্ডাস্ট্রি মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল দলপাড়া, লক্ষ্মীপুর	হাকীম সাঈদ ইন্ডাস্ট্রি মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল নিমন্তলী, ঢাকা	হামদর্দ হালিস্টিক ক্লিনিক ২৭০টি ডিস্কাল্পা কেন্দ্র, সমগ্র বাংলাদেশ	কাজী গোলাম রহমান চেয়ারম্যান বোর্ড অব ট্রাস্টিজ
ড. হাকীম মোঃ ইউনুস হাক্কান ভূঁইয়া চিফ মোহাওয়াফী ও বাহ্যস্থাপনা পরিচালক			

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হামদর্দ  
বিশ্বস্ততা, পরিচিতি ও বিশ্বাস

**হামদর্দ ল্যাবরেটরিজ (ওয়াফক) বাংলাদেশ**

১৯০৬ সাল হতে মানব সেবায় নিবেদিত অনন্য প্রতিভা

হামদর্দ  
বিশ্বস্ততা, পরিচিতি ও বিশ্বাস





Golam Sarwar's first death anniv on Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first death anniversary of veteran journalist and freedom fighter Golam Sarwar is on Tuesday. Sarwar died of old-age complications at a Singapore hospital last year at the age of 75.

He was the editor of the Bangla daily Samakal and president of Editors Council of Bangladesh at the time of his death.

Marking the day, Samakal, Golam Sarwar Foundation, and different organisations have chalked out various programmes, said a press release yesterday, signed by Samakal's chief reporter Loton Ekram.

Besides, milad mahfils will also be held in his residences at Dhaka's Uttara and in Barishal.

Born on April 1, 1943 in Banaripara of Barisal, Sarwar began his journalism career in 1962 as the university correspondent of daily Azadi, published from Chittagong.

His career in journalism spanned over five decades, with multiple professional accomplishments.

Sarwar served as news editor of Bangla daily Ittefaq for 27 years.

He was the founding editor of the Jugantor which began its journey in 1999 and Samakal, which launched in 2005.

A book of rhymes written by him, titled Rongin Belun, was published from Shishu Academy.

Sompadoker Jobanbondi, Aumio Gorol, Amar Joto Kotha, and Swapna Beche Thak are among his notable works.

He was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2014 for his contribution to journalism.



Unable to find room inside carriages, people travel on the roof of a train as it leaves Airport Railway Station in the capital yesterday. Like every year, many make such risky trips ignoring scorching heat or rain to celebrate Eid with their loved ones back home.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BARISHAL LAUNCH TERMINAL

Pontoon shortage causes sufferings to passengers

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, from Barishal

There has been a shortage of pontoon at Barishal launch terminal for a long time, causing sufferings to passengers in boarding vessels.

The situation worsens during Eid rush when passengers, in many cases, fall in water while getting on and off launches.

All Dhaka-bound launches cannot anchor to pontoon due to small space, according to sources at Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Many are forced to anchor behind other vessels. As a result, passengers have to go through a docked launch to get on their desired ones. In such cases, they have to jump from one launch to another, putting themselves at risk of falling into the river.

Sometimes, passengers do not find their launches as those are very far from the berthing point.

Such a situation is very common during Eid when many passengers are in a hurry amid rush, said Shahin Hossain, a labourer at the terminal, adding that they often get

injured. Women, children and aged persons are the worst sufferers, he added.

Sabiha Sultana failed to board launch two weeks ago. "I along with my little son was not able to get on my desired vessel from another one. Eventually, I missed it," she said.

"The authorities seem to be silent although there is a possibility of fatal accidents," said Sadia Akter, a student of a private university in Dhaka who travels during Eid.

From overcrowded pontoons, passengers are often seen using small boats to get onto their vessels.

An elderly man died during last Eid while he was trying to squeeze a huge crowd, according to police.

All 26 luxury vessels plying Dhaka-Barishal route have to anchor at the launch terminal, according to BIWTA in Barishal.

Sometimes, those have to wait for a long time to get space to be docked at pontoon, said BIWTA officials.

Only six pontoons -- three for local and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Demolition or renovation?

Rajshahi prison authorities' dismantling of pre-colonial building for restoration raises questions

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Rajshahi prison authorities have partially dismantled a pre-colonial era building inside the jail complex in the city's Sreerampur area in name of renovation.

But the move was undertaken without involving any archaeologist, who said the building bore a cultural heritage of Bengal region, and it is crucial to engage someone with adequate knowledge for its proper conservation.

According to authorities, the building -- which has become dilapidated and unusable for over five years -- was being used as the bungalow of deputy inspector general (prisons) since 19th century, and they are renovating it keeping the original design intact.

But this correspondent saw a complete different picture upon visiting the area on Thursday. Without consulting an archaeologist, the authorities engaged Public Works Department (PWD) to do the job.

PWD, also without any expert's recommendations, recruited a contractor whose workers started the "renovation" work around four days back and they have already damaged the building's century-old traditional lime terracing roof.

"The structure has a complex blending of European and the then Bengal's vernacular designs," Muhammad Nurul Kabir Bhuiyan, assistant professor of Department of Archaeology at Jahangirnagar University, told this correspondent.

"This [blending of architectures] was later shaped into a unique Bengal heritage, which got popularity worldwide as bungalow," said Nurul Kabir, who is also researching on colonial architecture and cultural heritage management.

Meanwhile, while talking to The Daily Star, Rajshahi Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Altab Hossain said they took up the renovation work, worth Tk 70 lakh, as the building's roof has worn out. It leaked rainwater

and its brick tiles were coming apart, he added.

He said, "We are not changing the original design. We took photographs of the building beforehand for its proper conservation."

"Once renovated, it will look like the original one," he assured. "We also told PWD to complete the renovation keeping that in mind."

"We finally managed funds for renovation as a proposal for constructing separate residence for the DIG prisons remained shelved for a long time due to various constraints. Meanwhile, DIG prisons had to live in tin-shed house," he added.

Contacted, Masud Rana, executive engineer of Rajshahi PWD, said, "It's not mandatory for us to consult an archaeologist as the building is not listed as archaeologically-protected."

"We have our own expertise and experience of conserving such buildings," he claimed.

Prof Md Mozammel Hoque

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

CATTLE MARKET IN SAVAR

An eyewash lease, and failed mobile court drives

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

An unapproved cattle market set up next to Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Savar continued to operate till yesterday despite mobile court drives, while an officially leased space for cattle market -- allotted hurriedly by local administration -- remains only on paper. Meanwhile, homebound passengers are suffering from traffic backlogs due to the illegal haat, allegedly run by ruling party men.

After a report was published in The Daily Star on the unapproved market Ulail Balur Matth in the municipality, local administration has visited the market several times, said Abdullah Al Mahfuz, assistant commissioner (land) in Savar and an executive magistrate. He said he conducted drives at the market along with police

but could not find those who were operating it. "We also hanged notices at several points of market area to close it down," said Mahfuz.

Several residents of the area, preferring not to be named, said the market was set up by influential locals backed by the ruling party and was being operated by one Saifur Rahman Sumon.

The Daily Star received a photo in which Atikur Rahman Atik, Savar upzaila unit president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), was seen with the magistrate during a mobile court drive at the cattle market.

When executive magistrate Abdullah Al Mahfuz was asked about an allegation of Atik controlling the market, and him being seen next to the magistrate, he said, "I do not know

who Atik is."

Atik had spoken to this correspondent inside the market on Monday and said he was an associate of Saifur Rahman Sumon, the operator of the market.

He rejected phone calls from this correspondent multiple times on Friday.

Contacted, Savar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Parvezur Rahman said, "Our team is conducting drives, but could not find anyone [who were in charge of the market]."

"If the mayor help us, it would be easy to take action," he added.

Municipality Mayor Abdul Goni, meanwhile, said the upazila administration were overseeing the matter.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Workers dismantle roof of this colonial era building as part of a renovation project. Experts say conserving the building's heritage such way is not possible.

PHOTO: STAR



A myriad of cattle being showcased for sale at Kazirbazar cattle market in Sylhet city.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Cattle sale peaks in Sylhet

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

With Eid-ul-Azha only a day away, sale of sacrificial animals at cattle markets in Sylhet has finally picked up pace.

Traders said sales were not satisfactory almost the entire week, but the vibe at the market has turned festive since Friday. Taking opportunity of the weekly holiday, people are thronging the haats (markets) to purchase cattle.

Yesterday saw an impressive turnout with people inspecting the animals carefully, selecting one for the festival, bargaining with traders, purchasing the cattle and finally, proudly yelling the price to others while taking the cattle home.

Traders said the supply of cattle is good this year and price is also reasonable. But the number of illegal markets in the city and surrounding areas remain a reason for concern.

Excluding the permanent cattle markets at Kazirbazar, there are only two permitted temporary cattle markets at Tilagarh and Chowkidekhi. Two more markets are permitted by the district administration near the city at Tukurbazar and Pirebazar.

But there are at least 20 more markets selling sacrificial animals.

While visiting some permitted and illegal cattle markets yesterday, this correspondent saw that the supply was satisfactory compared to the number of buyers.

Many visited the markets with their family or friends to either purchase or check out prices.

This correspondent met Salah Uddin Ahmed, a businessman, at Kazirbazar haat who brought along his family members. "The price seems reasonable this year. I will drop by tomorrow [today] as the price may drop a bit," he added.

Shahadat Hossain, manager of the market, alleged, "Those behind the illegal cattle markets on way to Kazirbazar force traders not to sell here or showcase their bests."

"The number of cattle in our haat is satisfactory so far, but it may not meet the demand at the end and price may go up," he feared.

At the markets, a bull is ranging from Tk 50,000 to Tk 5 lakh while goat from Tk 5,000 to Tk 50,000. In Kazirbazar, some bulls even have a price tag of Tk 10 lakh. Traders said demand for local varieties was high this year as cattle import was less, and more breeders brought theirs to the markets.

Dr Atiar Rahman, district livestock officer, said, "Last year, 97,000 cattle were sold leaving a surplus of around 10,000 in Sylhet. This year, the number would be around 1 lakh while farmers are supplying 107,000."

"We have formed medical teams for all haats in Sylhet to monitor health of sacrificial animals. As many illegal cattle haats have been set up, we have instructed medical teams to visit them to stop selling of cattle with diseases," he said.

Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed in road accidents on Friday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Gopalganj, two people were killed as an unidentified vehicle hit a three-wheeler on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Sonakuri area of Sadar upazila.

The deceased were identified as Shohidul Munshi, 35, and Babu Munshi, 30, from Bhatiapura village in the upazila. Shohidul was the three-wheeler driver, said police.

In Kurigram, a man was killed as a bus hit him on Kurigram-Rangpur highway in Khalilganj area of Sadar upazila, said police.

The deceased -- Hossain Ali, 63 -- was from Palashbari (Majhipara) village in the upazila.

## Heed UNCAT committee's recommendations

Secret detention, torture and enforced disappearance must stop

THE recommendations that the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) committee has come up with recently in regard to Bangladesh are well overdue. The committee has expressed concerns about allegations of torture against law enforcers, and secret detention and enforced disappearance of citizens. Despite the fact that Bangladesh is a signatory to the UNCAT Charter, it took the country 20 long years to submit its first-ever report, which the committee noted with regret.

On the other hand, the committee has commended the government for taking some laudable steps—and rightfully so—such as amending eight laws, including the Custodial Torture and Death (Prevention) Act 2013 and the Prevention of Cruelty against Women and Children Act 2000.

The committee expects a progress report from the government in exactly a year from now, with due priority on three things which should receive serious attention: i) HC directives on custodial torture and death have to be followed; ii) independent bodies must be allowed to inspect the places of detention and carry out investigations on allegations made by detained individuals; and iii) NGOs assisting the UNCAT committee must be protected.

The UNCAT committee pointed out the prevalence of torture, arbitrary arrest, secret detention, enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings in the custody of Rab—a law enforcing body that has proven to be above the law. Numerous accounts of family members of victims have revealed instances of plainclothes men picking up people from their homes without showing a warrant and illegally detaining them without producing them before the courts, in clear violation of the law. In many cases, those arrested remain in custody for weeks or months before being shown formally arrested or released while some remain “disappeared”. Between 2009 and 2018, at least 507 people have become victims of enforced disappearance, according to the International Federation for Human Rights.

The UNCAT committee has put forward 77 recommendations which the government should take into account. The committee has also urged the government to take steps to ensure that law enforcers stop these illegal practices and publish a list of all acknowledged detention centres. An independent probe commission dedicated to investigating allegations of torture, enforced disappearance, etc., must also be formed—and this, we believe, ought to be considered as a priority by the government if it wants to strengthen its image in the international arena.

## Celebrating Eid-ul-Azha

May altruism reign supreme

AS we get ready to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha, the second most important festival in the Islamic calendar, we hope that it will go beyond simply observing ritualistic practices and that we put more emphasis on the spiritual side of the day.

This day is meant to symbolise the supreme sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) who gave up his beloved son to honour the wishes of his Creator. It was a test of faith and the act itself an expression of great sacrifice. The true message of Eid-ul-Azha is the act of surrendering oneself to the divine will, a message that has sadly gotten diluted in our modern-day observation of Eid.

This year we are observing Eid at a time of floods and an unprecedented outbreak of the dengue fever that has spread to nearly the whole country and many families are not going to be able to celebrate Eid in the manner they would like to. We should show restraint in our display of extravagance, keeping in mind the hardship thousands of people are going through due to circumstances beyond their control. Let us break from the past and not indulge in a show of our worldly riches; rather focus on how we may help those in need.

Our prayers are with all our fellow Muslims who are not able to partake in the sacrifice, especially as the rich-poor divide widens in our society. We pray that the injustices suffered by fellow Muslims lessen with time and the fundamental inequality that divides our society is forgotten on this special day as we lend our hand to help those less fortunate than us. Eid Mubarak to all our readers!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Raise awareness to reduce tobacco consumption

Everyone is well aware of the detrimental health effects of smoking. According to a study conducted this year, 1.4 percent of Bangladesh's GDP gets wasted due to tobacco consumption, while it also contributes to 13.5 percent of fatalities. Growing accustomed to smoking is also usually the first step towards acquiring the habit of consuming drugs. The government, time and again, has tried to discourage smokers by imposing high tax on tobacco and is now aiming to make the country tobacco-free by 2040.

Taxation on tobacco could potentially reduce the demand for tobacco products and increase the production cost which could eventually limit the supply as well. But it has been found that cigarettes and raw tobacco product sales have, in fact, increased. The tobacco market in Bangladesh is the eighth largest globally and considering its market potential, Japan Tobacco acquired Akij Group Tobacco last year which could prove to be in conflict with the government's 2040 goal.

Thus, taxing tobacco should not be the only way to control smoking. Other awareness campaigns should be implemented to curb tobacco consumption. The government should consider launching programmes through the mass media as well as targeted marketing campaigns to try and discourage people from smoking.

Md Zillur Rahaman, by email

## MUNICIPAL FINANCING

# Revenue base has to be improved to overcome emerging issues



NAWSHAD AHMED

CITY corporations and Paurashavas constitute the municipalities in Bangladesh. There are 331 municipalities comprising of 11 city corporations and 320 Paurashavas in the country. The

recent demand by municipal employees for payment of their arrear salaries and benefits laid bare the inherent weaknesses of the urban local bodies. As reported by *The Daily Star* quoting government sources, a total amount of Tk 692 crore has piled up as arrear salaries of the municipal employees. Over 35,000 employees of 260 municipalities did not receive their salaries for up to seven years. Of them, 6,000 staff did not receive salaries for five years, about 12,000 for two years and around 5,000 for a year, as per the Bangladesh Association of Paurashava Services (BAPS).

Sound financial management of local government bodies is essential for the long-term health and sustainable development of urban areas in any country. Local governments around the world are playing an increasingly important role in the delivery of basic public services. But local authorities also face great challenges in funding infrastructure development and maintenance and ensuring a decent level of service delivery. Most urban local bodies in Bangladesh are increasingly facing complex financial challenges as a result of rapid urbanisation. It is widely believed that adequacy of its own revenues is key to a local government's improved ability to deliver public services, thereby leading to increased accountability of local officials to their constituents.

Local government strengthening should receive high priority in line with the government policies. The “Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021” duly recognises the critical role of local government institutions (LGIs) for establishing good governance and promoting local development, and envisions devolution of power, functions, and fiscal authority to



Municipality employees demonstrate in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club to press home their demands, including regular payment.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

LGIs over the long term.

Bangladesh experienced sustained urbanisation for the last three decades fuelled by strong economic growth. The country has achieved respectable economic growth over the last two decades with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate averaging 6-7 percent per annum that reached 8.1 percent in 2018-19. The country aims to reach “middle-income” status by 2021 from its current status as lower middle-income. Accordingly, its Sixth Five-Year Plan (2011-15) and Seventh Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) envisage: i) GDP growth of more than 8 percent per annum from fiscal year 2020 by mobilising higher domestic and foreign investment and harnessing the labour force by making the most of the demographic dividend. In addition, the plans strive to raise the productivity of capital and labour by adopting new technologies and stimulating the widespread application of digital technology to meet the objectives of the Perspective Plan (2010-2021) and

Vision 2021; ii) accelerated growth of employment to absorb the new entrants to the labour force; and iii) moving people from low-productive agriculture to more productive manufacturing sector.

The economic growth has been accompanied by structural transformation. The contribution of agriculture to GDP reduced from 30 percent in 1990 to 16.11 percent in 2016, while the contribution of the urban sector to GDP increased from 37 percent to 66 percent over the same period. As a result, the percentage of people below the poverty line declined from 56.6 percent in 1992 to 22.7 percent in 2016.

Bangladesh is rapidly urbanising and great pressure is exerted on basic urban services, particularly in the Paurashavas. The percentage of population in urban areas rose from 15 percent in 1980 to 37.5 percent in 2016. The urban centres are characterised by poor infrastructure and low level of urban services. For example: i) road space is inadequate and not well maintained, and traffic congestion is severe; ii) drainage systems are not well planned, the drains are not cleaned regularly and do not function satisfactorily; iii) water supply is inadequate and unsafe; iv) solid waste management practices are weak; v) street lighting is unsatisfactory; and vi) pollution levels of water, air, soil, and noise have increased.

The municipalities lack adequate own-source revenues to finance new investments and operations and maintenance. The current sources of revenue for municipalities are: i) central government fiscal transfers from the GoB's Annual Development Programme (ADP); and ii) own-source revenues, e.g. holding

tax and rates, fees and income from leasing and renting of Paurashava assets. Collection performance for the major source of revenue, the holding tax, ranges around 30 percent to 40 percent. The municipalities will continue to depend on the financial transfers from GoB to meet investment and recurrent expenditures for the foreseeable future. However, government resources and municipalities' own income are not adequate to finance necessary infrastructure and services such as roads, drains, water treatment plants, street lights, solid waste collection and disposal, and regular salaries of municipal staff.

The revenue base of the Paurashavas in general is weak and revenue potential has not been fully exploited. However, the revenue performance of the local bodies varies from one Paurashava to the other. Table 1 provides an idea about the actual annual own-source revenue collection of five Paurashavas but their names have intentionally not been mentioned here.

Inadequate infrastructure and services are a perennial issue for urban local governments. Without proper infrastructure facilities, the urban environment rapidly deteriorates, risking the health of the people. The municipalities depend heavily on intergovernmental fiscal transfers for preparing their revenue and development budgets. This situation is not desirable. For delivering improved services and infrastructure, own-source revenue generation should be given high priority by the local bodies.

Dr Nawshad Ahmed is an economist and urban planner. He has worked previously as a UN official in Bangladesh and abroad.

Table 1: Comparative Actual Own Revenue Income Analysis for 5 years (In '000 Taka)

Paurashava	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	Average annual own revenue income – 5 years	Average annual per capita own revenue – 5 years
Paurashava-1	69,219	54,706	73,830	94,270	181,263	94,658	879
Paurashava-2	65,639	67,999	74,333	101,795	151,262	92,206	895
Paurashava-3	53,805	51,591	51,013	93,123	78,482	65,603	1,381
Paurashava-4	39,277	47,353	44,492	55,066	51,055	47,449	682
Paurashava-5	8,489	17,460	22,719	17,852	18,220	16,948	979

# Transforming education, transforming youth

## The importance of introducing life skills in Technical and Vocational Education and Training

EIKO NARITA

AROUND the world, August 12 is celebrated as the International Youth Day. This year's theme, “Transforming Education”, highlights efforts to make education more relevant, equitable and inclusive for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves.

Without a doubt education and training have the power to change a life and a country. As a country transitioning into middle-income status, Bangladesh anticipates to reap its demographic dividend, given its large youth population. But a demographic dividend is not a given, it requires good health, education and decent work as a requisite. The government has therefore rightly put an emphasis on education and skills development, with the specific emphasis of improving the quality of education in relation to employment and economic

development.

Reforming Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), to ensure Bangladesh's competitiveness in the global market and reduce poverty, has resulted in an increase in the number of students enrolling in TVET programmes where students are equipped with technical skills and knowledge of trades. But in an era of changing contexts, such as technological innovation, demographic changes and globalisation, technical skills are no longer enough. Young people need to possess “abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour, that enable them to deal effectively with the demands and challenges in everyday life.” These abilities we speak of are referred to in numerous ways by different sectors: life skills, transferable skills, soft skills.

Just as a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, these “life skills”, regardless of how they are referred to,

enhance young people's abilities and help them achieve their full potential. WHO has identified a set of skills that is regarded as core: creative-thinking, critical-thinking, communication, interpersonal relationship-skills, decision-making, problem-solving, self-awareness, empathy, coping with emotions and coping with stress. Unlike technical and vocational skills, life skills are applicable to all contexts and stages of life. Whether at the workplace or in personal life, life skills are critical from interactions with others to decision-making.

Why should life skills play a central part of a technical and vocational curriculum? Life skills help youth to further apply the technical and vocational skills they achieve in their lives, to become more responsive, creative and confident as they build life competencies. Life skills are also highly sought after by employers. In addition to the technical

expertise required for the job, employers often look to hire those with ability to work in teams, communicate effectively and solve problems. In fact, with a constantly evolving labour market, life skills are sometimes even seen as more important than technical skills. Life skills make youth more employable.

At UNFPA we are aware that Life Skills Education is not prioritised in Bangladesh's TVET programmes. Its application is neither systematic nor standardised, and there is little policy guidance and quality control. As a result, topics and content of life skills modules in existing vocational programmes differ markedly between organisations and providers, and are often not delivered effectively. This is why UNFPA, as the UN agency responsible for ensuring all young people meet their full potential, works closely with the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) to establish minimum standards for Life Skills Education and ensure that it becomes a standard component in all TVET programmes. Transforming education by foregrounding life skills and ensuring youth have opportunities to develop these skills is also aligned with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Programme of Action (PoA). The importance of investing in young people and equipping them with life skills, highlighted 25 years ago at the ICPD, is just as valid today for Bangladesh.

On this International Youth Day, where we commit to making education more relevant, equitable and inclusive, UNFPA wants to transform education to not only meet the targets of SDG 4 but also to meet the full spectrum of demands of the labour market and unleash the potential of the young in Bangladesh. Together with NSDA and other key partners in the skills development arena, UNFPA aims to help equip Bangladeshi youth with life skills, so that they can live to their fullest potentials.

Eiko Narita is Officer-in-Charge, UN Population Fund.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

# Narendra Modi's new-model India



SHASHI THAROOR

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi likes to practise what American generals call “shock and awe.” The last time Modi stunned the country—and was initially applauded for his decisiveness and bold vision—was when he announced, on a few hours’ notice, the demonetisation of 96 percent (in value) of India’s currency. The Indian economy is still dealing with the consequences.

On August 5, Modi shocked India with another announcement that may turn out to be the political equivalent of the demonetisation debacle. After seven decades in which both the people of Jammu and Kashmir—India’s only Muslim-majority state—and the international community had been assured that the state would maintain its special status under the Indian constitution, the government unilaterally divided it. Modi’s administration has carved out a union territory in the high plateaux and hills of Ladakh in the eastern half of the state, and reduced the status of the remainder—still named Jammu and Kashmir—from that of a state to a union territory (a union territory is directly administered by the federal government, though it may have an elected legislature and cabinet, with limited powers).

Many in India worry that, as with demonetisation, the short- and medium-term damage caused by Modi’s decision will greatly outweigh the theoretical long-term benefits. First and foremost is the breathtaking betrayal of Indian democracy: the government has changed the constitutional relationship of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to the Republic of India without consulting them or

their elected representatives.

The government claimed that the concurrence of the state of Jammu and Kashmir was obtained (as the Indian constitution requires). But this was based on shameless legal legerdemain. Jammu and Kashmir is under direct federal rule, so “state” was translated to mean the governor appointed by New Delhi. In effect, the government received its own consent to amend the constitution!

Worse, the decision was submitted to Parliament, where the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)’s majority guaranteed its prompt passage, without consulting the local political parties. The state’s democratically elected political leaders were placed under arrest for “preventive” purposes. Educational institutions were closed, and communications—television networks, mobile phones, landlines, and the Internet—were shut down. Even if the government can convince sceptics that it is adhering to the letter of the law, its decision betrays the spirit of Indian democracy.

The damage is already becoming apparent. Tourism, the lifeline of Kashmir, has been devastated; decades of effort by Indian governments to reverse foreign governments’ warnings against travel to Kashmir by portraying the region as safe have been undone. The irony is that Modi, on a visit to Kashmir in 2017, had called on the youth of the state (where unemployment is well above the Indian average) to choose between tourism and terrorism. Tourism could have absorbed many of these unemployed youth. But now foreign governments are again issuing advisories, the *shikaras* (houseboats) are out of business, and handicraft makers and carpet-weavers, the great artisans of Kashmir, are broke. The Amarnath Yatra—a revered symbol of Indian secularism—which annually takes thousands of Hindu pilgrims



An Indian security officer stops a motorist during a curfew on August 8 in Srinagar, Kashmir.

PHOTO: TAUSEEF MUSTAFA/AFP

to a shrine in the snowy north of the state, has been rudely interrupted.

Indians are proud to say Kashmiris are our fellow citizens. But their living conditions today are appalling: stores and gas stations are closed; fuel and other essential supplies are beginning to run out; no communications are available; and people cannot even watch television unless they have a satellite link, which very few do. The vast majority of our Kashmiri fellow citizens are living in a near-total blackout.

Worse, by locking up democratic leaders, the government is creating space for undemocratic forces. The government had claimed that it was winning the battle against terrorism, but now it has given a new lease on life to the terrorists. It has made the state’s

mainstream pro-India parties (whose leaders are locked up) irrelevant and powerless to stop the extremists. More misguided young Kashmiris than ever may join them and place more of India’s soldiers in harm’s way. When the US eventually withdraws from Afghanistan and the Taliban’s victory is complete, a large number of idle jihadis will be ready to reinforce Pakistan’s three-decade-long effort to send “militants” to terrorise India. Modi’s government has given them an additional *casus belli*.

The international consequences are both embarrassing and worrying. In one fell swoop, the government has not only cast aside seven decades of assurances to the international community and the United Nations, but has also angered Pakistan, a

hostile neighbour with its own claims upon Kashmir. Pakistan has already downgraded diplomatic relations with India, expelled the Indian high commissioner, stopped all bilateral trade, predictably taken the issue to the UN, and spoken to its foreign friends.

While some governments have expressed understanding for India’s action, it is too early to predict what might happen when the clampdown is eased or lifted (as it must be for the upcoming Muslim festival of Eid-ul-Azha). Internal disturbances, aided by externally supplied resources, fighters and weapons, will inevitably increase.

The Modi government has also signalled to the world its abandonment of its previous emphasis on economic growth and foreign investment. Investors, who were already trickling out of India, don’t like war zones; they may now flee in droves. Having initially won power by pledging to put development first, Modi then sought re-election by campaigning as the national security candidate and doubling down on the BJP’s traditional Hindu chauvinism. With his action in Kashmir, Modi is remaking India in the BJP’s image—a far cry from the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, who had preached non-violence, religious co-existence, and the acceptance of difference.

Those of us who have long seen India’s democratic diversity as its greatest strength are now confronted by a government that is determined to erase all signs of it and shows scant respect for the constitution. It is an ominous time for India’s minorities and dissenters.

Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under-secretary-general and former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Human Resource Development, is currently Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and an MP for the Indian National Congress.

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(Exclusive to The Daily Star)

# Transboundary cooperation key to enforcing rivers’ legal rights in Bangladesh



GAURI NOOLKAR-OAK

IN June 2019, the Bangladesh High Court granted its rivers the status and rights of a living entity, becoming the fourth country after New Zealand, India and Colombia to do so, and the first to extend the declaration to every river within its territory. The decision was welcomed by river rights groups, environmentalists, experts and the National River Conservation Commission of Bangladesh as an important move against the widespread encroachment and pollution, choking hundreds of rivers crisscrossing Bangladesh.

Environmentalists and river activists in India, the upstream riparian to 54 out of 57 transboundary rivers of Bangladesh, took notice. Two years ago, in 2017, the high court of Uttarakhand had declared Ganges and Yamuna rivers as living human entities and conferred upon them the same legal status and rights as people. However, the declaration was challenged by the state government of Uttarakhand and the central government of India in the Supreme Court on the grounds that it was too impractical to implement and could cause numerous legal complications. Months later, the Supreme Court of India scrapped the declaration. Today, as crisis after crisis hits India’s rivers, the need to declare them as living entities and grant them legal rights is increasingly felt, but no such move is in sight. In this context, the decision of Bangladesh, a smaller, less powerful and downstream neighbour to India, is both bold and progressive.

However, legal rights are only as impactful as their enforcement. The Bangladesh High Court has been more elaborate in its declaration, outlining specific instructions and punitive measures for dealing with river encroachment. For example, river



PHOTO: AFP

A man walks along a bank of the Ganges (Padma) River in Dohar, an area on the outskirts of Dhaka where hundreds of families lost their homes due to erosion, Aug 12, 2016.

encroachers would not be allowed to contest elections and borrow bank loans; their action against the river would be considered criminal and they would be shamed in public. Unlike the hesitant governments in India, Bangladeshi government has been largely supportive—in the past six months, it has cleared 4,000 illegal structures along riverbanks in and around Dhaka alone, recovering 77 ha of land in the process. Unlike Indians, Bangladeshis are bound together by the one Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) river basin, and Bangladeshis have been acutely aware of the centrality of rivers to their economy and society for long now, hence their motivation towards restoring and protecting their rivers is also comparatively higher. All these factors indicate that Bangladesh is off to a more

promising start than India in enforcing the legal rights of its rivers.

And yet, challenges remain. While most of them are domestic—those of legal scope and legislation, political and social consensus, stakeholder involvement, economic policies, administrative reforms, and adequate funding, to begin with—the transboundary ones have not been fully considered. This is especially important because 91.4 percent of Bangladesh’s total renewable water resources originate outside its borders, mostly from India. India is not only upstream, but it is also more populated, industrialised and powerful than Bangladesh. As a result, India’s actions upstream on the GBM basin directly affect the flow, quality and overall health of rivers in Bangladesh. By extension, India’s

actions also promise to play an important role in determining how effective the recent declaration would be.

As of now, the impact of India’s actions on the declaration does not promise to be helpful. Take for instance the Ganges, the second largest river shared by India and Bangladesh. The Ganges is declared a living entity in Bangladesh, but not in India. However, almost 90 percent of Ganges’ course lies in Indian territory, effectively rendering only 10 percent of the river as “living”. Upstream in India, the Ganges endures the entry of 500 million litres of industrial waste and 1.5 billion litres of untreated sewage each day. Just before the Ganges enters Bangladesh, the Farakka Barrage diverts an average discharge of 1,046 cumecs (9 percent of the total annual average discharge) to the Hooghly river, which flushes the port of Kolkata and keeps it from silting. The annual flow of the Ganges is highly variable, and western Bangladesh feels the pinch of the diversion at Farakka particularly during the lean season when the flow diminishes by as much as 90 percent. Factor in river pollution, encroachment, high rate of abstraction and effects of climate change within Bangladesh itself, and it seems unlikely that Bangladesh would be able to enforce its declaration and uphold Ganges’ legal rights effectively. There is still a possibility that this could change; India and Bangladesh are bound by the Ganges Treaty of 1996 which is due to be revised in the year 2026, and with the requisite scientific studies, civil society pressure and political will, the treaty can be revised to create, on both sides of the border, conditions that are conducive to enforcing legal rights of not just the Bangladeshi portion, but the entire course of the Ganges river.

This would not be the case with other transboundary rivers. While they (and the Ganges) are technically under the purview of the Indo-Bangladeshi Joint Rivers Commission, experience over decades has

proven the limited functioning, impact and foresight of the institution. Ganges is the only river on which a treaty has been signed—the draft Teesta agreement has been gathering dust for almost eight years now, and there is no treaty, draft or otherwise, proposing any arrangement to share the Brahmaputra, Meghna and the rest. Thus, enforcing legal rights of the remaining 56 transboundary rivers seems even more difficult for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh will face a number of political, administrative, social, economic and environmental hurdles while implementing the decision at the domestic level as well. Despite being daunting, they are well within Bangladesh’s control. However, it can do little about the challenges posed by a stronger upper riparian like India who is not as motivated to jointly conserve and protect transboundary rivers, despite its beneficial relationship with the downstream riparian.

The only way Bangladesh can mitigate the impact on its forward-looking decision is by engaging India assertively and steadfastly in meaningful transboundary cooperation. For this, it must push for comprehensive treaties promoting joint efforts for all-round and sustainable development of the basin, stimulate and bolster multi-track diplomacy, and leverage the geopolitical realities of South Asia and beyond to strengthen its bargaining power. It is only with India on board, and a fair, efficient and sustainable framework of joint river basin governance in place, that Bangladesh has a realistic chance of effectively enforcing the legal rights it has granted to its rivers. The sooner Bangladesh acts on this reality, the more effective the implementation of its decision will be.

The Marathi version of this article was first published in Observer Research Foundation (ORF) Marathi.

Gauri Noolkar-Oak is a transboundary water conflicts researcher who has studied river basins in the Middle East, Southeast Asia and South Asia.  
Her Twitter handle is @curiousiparian.

## ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



AUGUST 11, 2003

CHARLES TAYLOR, PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA, FLIES INTO EXILE AFTER CEDING POWER TO HIS VICE PRESIDENT MOSES BLAH

An indicted war crimes suspect and onetime warlord resigned as Liberia’s president and went into exile, raising hopes for an end to the West African nation’s violent rebellion

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

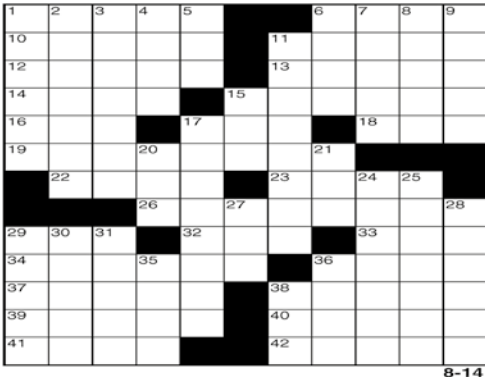
### ACROSS

- 1 Got up
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- 10 Hint of color
- 11 “Tiny Bubbles” singer
- 12 Tuscany setting
- 13 Contact, in away
- 14 Quite uncommon
- 15 Kingdom
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- 18 Stop signal
- 19 Manning the cockpit
- 22 Artery problem
- 23 Walrus feature
- 26 Taking turns
- 29 Kipling book
- 32 Road goo

### DOWN

- 1 Agitate
- 2 Ship in 1912 headlines
- 3 Doing well
- 4 Lusty look
- 5 Susan of “L.A. Law”
- 6 Pageantry
- 7 Studio sign
- 8 English county
- 9 Drilled
- 11 Azkaban guard
- 15 Yale rooter
- 17 Bearing
- 20 Alley --
- 21 Stomach
- 24 “My Way” singer
- 25 Like a bow
- 27 Brewery sight
- 28 Luminaries
- 29 Flaws in plans
- 30 Counting everything
- 31 1950s First Lady
- 35 Tear asunder
- 36 Company symbol
- 38 Rent out

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinoin@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinoin@gmail.com).



## YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

S	E	P	A	L		B	A	S	T	O	N
A	R	O	S	E		U	P	T	A	L	L
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## BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



## BABY BLUES

by Kirkman & Scott



# The toll of childhood cancer

Globally, more than 11 million years of healthy life lost due to childhood cancer in 2017

STAR HEALTH DESK

While the number of new cancer cases in children and adolescents (aged 0-19 years) is relatively low at around 416,500 globally in 2017, treatment-related ill-health and disability and fatal cancer are estimated to cause around 11.5 million years of healthy life lost globally every year, according to the first Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) to assess childhood and adolescent cancer burden in 195 countries in 2017, published in The Lancet Oncology journal.

Children in the poorest countries face a disproportionately high cancer burden – contributing over 82% of the global childhood cancer burden – equivalent to almost 9.5 million years of healthy life lost in 2017. Most (97%) of this global burden is related to premature death, with around 3% due to impaired quality of life.

The study estimates the number of years of healthy life that children and adolescents with cancer have lost due to illness, disability, and premature death – a measurement known as disability-adjusted life years (DALYs). One DALY is equivalent to one year of healthy life lost.

Children with cancer who live in high-income countries tend to have good survival, with around 80% surviving 5 years after diagnosis. But



these improvements have not translated to most low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where survival is approximately 35-40%, but some estimates suggest it could be as low as 20%. Around 90% of children at risk of developing cancer live in LMICs.

The study reveals striking inequities in childhood cancer burden between high and low socio-demographic Index (SDI) countries. High and high-middle SDI countries accounted for about 35% (147,300) of new cases of childhood cancer in 2017, but only 18% of DALYs

(around 2 million years of healthy life lost), whereas low-middle and low SDI countries with 38% of global incidence (159,600 new cases) accounted for 60% of DALYs (almost 7 million years of healthy life lost).

Moreover, the research finds that childhood cancers are a major cause of global disease burden compared with both adult cancers and other childhood diseases. In 2017, childhood cancers were the sixth leading cause of years of healthy life lost out of all cancers globally (11.5 million), only lower than the burden from adult cancers

of the lung (41 million), liver (21 million), stomach (19 million), colon (19 million), and breast (18 million). In low and middle SDI countries, childhood cancers were the leading cause of DALYs, higher than the burden attributable to any single adult cancer type.

The study puts the annual toll of childhood cancer at over 11.5 million years of healthy life lost in 2017. This compares with around 37 million years of healthy life lost globally due to malaria, and 7.6 million from tuberculosis. In 2017, childhood cancer was among the top four

biggest contributors to the burden of general diseases of childhood in middle and high-middle SDI countries, ranking higher than malaria and HIV/AIDS.

Cancers of the blood (leukaemias) were the main contributors to overall DALYs, accounting for 34% of the total childhood cancer burden worldwide, followed by brain and nervous system cancers (18%). In 2017, the proportion of both leukaemia and brain cancer burden differed by almost 3 times between regions. The proportional burden of leukaemias was highest in central and Andean Latin America (49% of all childhood cancers) and the greatest absolute burden was in south Asia (954,000 DALYs).

The authors highlight the fact that mechanisms for addressing cancer burden in adults, which focus on risk-reduction strategies and screening interventions, are not as relevant to childhood cancers given that childhood cancers generally progress rapidly, are not amenable to screening programmes which aim to identify pre-cancerous growths, and are fatal without swift diagnosis and treatment. This emphasises the crucial role early diagnosis and treatment will play in order to reduce the global burden of childhood cancer.

## HEALTH bulletin



### Automatically chlorinating water cuts child diarrhoea by almost a quarter in urban Bangladesh

A novel water treatment device that delivers chlorine automatically via public taps without the need for electricity, reduced child diarrhoea by 23% compared with controls (156 cases out of 2,073 child measurements [7.5%] vs 216/2,145 [10%]) over 14 months in two urban neighbourhoods of Bangladesh, according to a randomised trial following more than 1,000 children published in The Lancet Global Health journal.

Clean water is still a major problem in poor urban communities in low-income countries, where contamination by bacteria can lead to high rates of diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera and typhoid, harming children's health and growth. Worldwide, an estimated one billion people who have access to piped water are drinking water that does not meet international safety standards.

"Chlorination is one of the cheapest and most widely available methods to make drinking water safe, but poor taste and bad smell of chlorinated water are major barriers to adoption," explains co-author Dr Sonia Sultana from International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

## More breast cancer being diagnosed in young women

STAR HEALTH REPORT

Dr Benita Tan is a general surgeon specialised in elective breast surgery. She is a senior consultant at the Singapore General Hospital and an adjunct Associate Professor at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School of Singapore. She talked to Star Health about various aspects of breast cancer and surgery during her recent visit to Bangladesh. **Is there any particular type of cancer more prevalent in Bangladesh and Asia?**

Contrary to the belief that breast cancer occurs only in older women, we now see a lot of younger women (some as young as in their 30s) being diagnosed with breast cancer in Asian region (including Bangladesh) comparing to the West where majority of the cases occur in their late 60s or 70s. **Is breast cancer increasing more than before?**

The incidence of breast cancer is increasing globally including Asia. It has increased three-folds in Singapore in the past couple of decades. Invasive breast cancer is being diagnosed in young women. In the West, the rate of breast cancer is comparatively plateauing down but overall it is increasing. A large portion of the cases are due to environmental exposure. Genetic predisposition accounts to only 5-10% of the total number of breast cancer but rest of the cases do not have any family history. The developing or recently



Dr Benita Tan, Senior Consultant at SingHealth Duke-NUS Breast Centre, Singapore

developed countries are seeing a lot of breast cancer cases, particularly in the urban areas. Lifestyle and environmental exposure are believed to be the risk factors involved in most of these cases. **What are the non-malignant cases of breast cancer?**

We do treat benign or non-cancerous cases of breast cancer. A lot of patients undergo health checkups with the fear of having breast cancer and get detected with fibroadenoma, cyclical pain and fibrocystic change etc. There is increased awareness about breast cancer but many women are still not aware about it. Whereas the detection of breast cancer has

improved, but at least 70% of women from Bangladesh come to us at an advanced stage of cancer.

**What should women do?**

The treatment of breast cancer largely depends on the particular situation. The treatment modality is individualised and tailored to best suit the patient. A lot of women do not seek treatment since they think a painless lump in the breast cannot be cancer, until the lump becomes huge and progressed to the advanced stage. Women should be advised to seek treatment early rather than waiting until it gets out of control. Women should step forward for problems like presence of lump in the breast which still maybe at an early stage and effective treatment can be started. Screening early for breast cancer can be very effective.

**What is the fate of treatment of breast cancer?**

Breast cancer has evolved quite a lot over the past decades. It has now become a very treatable condition and the survival rate has increased significantly over the years because of the improvement in the treatment. Newer and advanced medications for chemotherapy are now available and the appropriate use of these medications are giving promising results. With positive mindset, proper education and lifestyle modification, a breast cancer survivor can lead a perfectly normal life for a very long time. It is important to get the treatment early to have the best outcome.

### DID YOU KNOW?



### 1 in 10 children miss out on lifesaving vaccines

20 million children worldwide – more than 1 in 10 – missed out on lifesaving vaccines such as measles, diphtheria and tetanus in 2018, according to new data from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Globally, since 2010, vaccination coverage with three doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3) and one dose of the measles vaccine has stalled at around 86%. While high, this is not sufficient. 95% coverage is needed – globally, across countries, and communities – to protect against outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Most unvaccinated children live in the poorest countries, and are disproportionately in fragile or conflict-affected states. If these children do get sick, they are at risk of the severest health consequences, and least likely to access lifesaving treatment and care.

Since 2000, WHO and UNICEF jointly produce national immunisation coverage estimates for Member States on an annual basis. In addition to producing the immunisation coverage estimates for 2018, the WHO and UNICEF estimation process revises the entire historical series of immunisation data with the latest available information.

### World Breastfeeding Week



### Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding

Becoming the parent of a new baby is both a life-altering gift and an immense responsibility. Last week, as countries around the world celebrated *World Breastfeeding Week*, UNICEF and WHO called on governments and all employers to adopt family-friendly policies that support breastfeeding.

The theme of this year's World Breastfeeding Week was "*Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding*."


Family-friendly policies – such as paid parental leave – enable breastfeeding and help parents nurture and bond with their children in early life, when it matters most. The evidence is clear that during early childhood, the optimal nutrition provided by breastfeeding, along with nurturing care and stimulation, can strengthen children's brain development with impacts that endure over a lifetime.

Family-friendly policies are particularly important for working parents. Mothers need time off from work to recover from birth and get breastfeeding off to a successful start. Time off work is also important for fathers.

Returning to work too soon is a barrier to the early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months and continued breastfeeding until age 2 or longer – practices that can boost children's immune systems, shield them from disease, and provide protection from noncommunicable diseases later in life. Breastfeeding also protects maternal health -- women who breastfeed reduce their risk of breast and ovarian cancers.

Together, with the support of governments, employers and communities, we have the power to enable breastfeeding and support families in fostering a nurturing environment where all children thrive.

f b /StarHealthBD



জাতীয় শোক দিবস

১৫ আগস্ট জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ও তার পরিবারের সকল শহীদের প্রতি আমাদের গভীর শোকাহত

ORION Pharma Ltd.  
In Search of Excellence

WHAT'S ON



**Exhibition**  
Title: Tribute to Mad Cartoon  
Exhibition  
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi 15A (New)  
Date: August 23 – 25  
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm



**Exhibition**  
Title: Reverie  
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Date: August 18 – 20  
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm



**Photography & Poetry Exhibition**  
Title: ProjectDebi: Revolutionary Photography And Poetry Exhibition  
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi  
Date: August 26 - 28  
Time: 10 am – 7 pm



**Rock Concert**  
Title: Legacy of Rock N Roll  
Venue: ICCB, Hall 04 (Naboratri), Bashundhara  
Date: September 13  
Time: 3 pm – 10 pm  
Hotline: +8801707975206



**Art Exhibition**  
Title: Muhurrama solo art exhibition by Shamset Tabreej  
Venue: Dwip Gallery, Lalmatia  
Date: July 27 – August 22 (except Mondays)  
Time: 5 pm – 9 pm



# Exciting Eid ul Azha specials on television

With multiple channels airing exciting programmes throughout the festive season of Eid ul Azha, The Daily Star highlights on a compilation of some of the most delightful upcoming shows on TV. Similar to a feature that was published yesterday, this too follows up on some of the best our channels have to offer that the audience can look forward to.

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

*Behind the Puppy*, a seven-episode TV serial, directed by Redoan Rony, is scheduled to air on NTV from the first day of Eid, at 6:15 pm with a repeat telecast at 1:30 am. The cast comprises of Mosharraf Karim, Faruk Ahmed, Aparna Ghosh and Moushumi Hamid among others.

Veteran actor Afsana Mimi will host the show *Celebrity Adda* on Asain TV. Prominent celebrity couple, Alamgir and Runa Laila will feature as guests in the first part of the show. *Celebrity Adda* will air on Asian TV on the second day of Eid ul Adha at 7:10 pm.

A seven-episode TV serial titled *Alal Dulal* is scheduled to broadcast

on BanglaVision from the first day of Eid at 8:40 pm. Scripted by Muntaha Britta and directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud, the TV serial will feature actors Zahid Hasan, Salauddin Lavlu, Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Sabnam Faria, Tania Ahmed and others.

Tauquir Ahmed's critically acclaimed film *Fagun Hawaii*, based on the 1952 Language Movement, will be telecast on Channel i on the second day of Eid ul Adha at 10:15 am. The stellar cast includes the likes of Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Siam Ahmed, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Abul Hayat and Yashpal Sharma among others.

The gorgeous Sharmin Lucky will be hosting the celebrity cooking show titled, *Beef Fusion*. The week-long programme is set to begin

from the first day of Eid ul Adha, and will feature different celebrities. *Beef Fusion* will be aired on Ekushey Television at 12:30 pm. Bijori Barkatullah will be the guest on the fourth day of the show.

Nagorik TV will broadcast the seven-episode drama serial titled *Bakir Naam Faki*. It will air at 6:40 pm every day throughout the week. Written and directed by Shohag Kazi, the TV serial will feature Mir Sabbir, Ahona, Oliul Haque Rumi among others.

Maasranga Television will telecast the celebrity talk show *Chemistry* at 8 pm on the fifth day of Eid ul Adha. Hosted by Toya, the programme will feature renowned actors Mehzabien and Apurba.



## Special online VIP screening of 'Rising Silence'

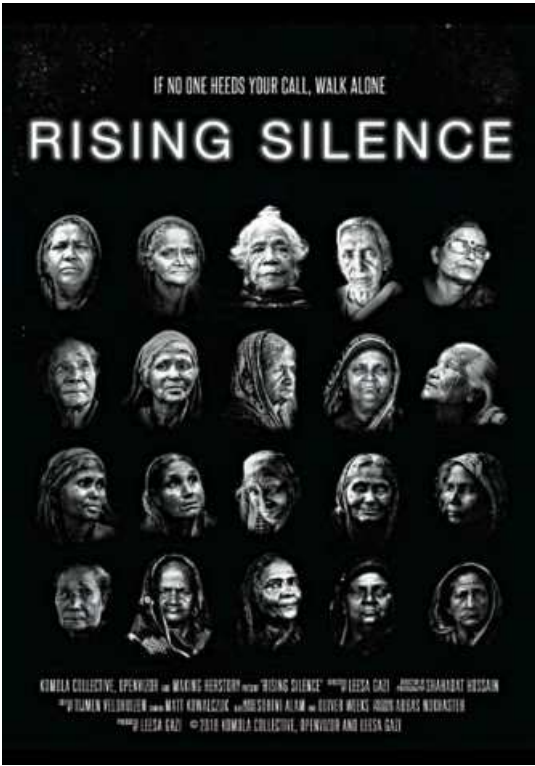


PHOTO: COURTESY



Recently, the Mukwege Foundation announced their partnership with the film *Rising Silence* and director Leesa Gazi. A special online VIP screening of the film has been extended until today.

*Rising Silence* tells the story of the *Birangona* women, survivors of rape and sexual slavery in the Liberation War of Bangladesh of 1971. Many of the women have passed away, but through this film their stories live on. This film is an important look at a forgotten struggle that is echoed on today.

Leesa Gazi, a British Bangladeshi actor, playwright and founding member of a London-based arts company Komola Collective, met with 21 *Birangona* women in Bangladesh. "Their existence, in spite of being ignored and shut out for so long, is a testament to their resilience and their refusal to be diminished," said Leesa Gazi. "They accepted me with no judgment and with an unconditional love that comes so naturally to them. They celebrate experiencing the wonder and beauty of friendship, nature, and music because they never gave up on life."

The film is produced by Komola Collective, Openvizor and Making Herstory, with the kind support of Manusher Jonno Foundation and The Osiris Group, cinematography by Shahadat Hossain, editing by Tijmen Veldhuizen, music direction by Sohini Tajmen and Oliver Weeks with Hasan Arif as the research advisor.

SOURCE: THE MUKWEGE FOUNDATION



## Rejoicing Eid fiesta at Fantasy Kingdom

Who doesn't want to come out from a monotonous life? Fantasy Kingdom Complex is the dream place full of unlimited scope for entertainment. Concord Entertainment Co Ltd, one of the country's largest entertainment service providers, built a world class park; Fantasy Kingdom, Water Kingdom, X-treme Racing Go-kart and Motel Atlantis.



PHOTO: COURTESY

**FANTASY KINGDOM**  
Fantasy Kingdom has always initiated all sorts of recreational activities for the people of all ages. Likewise, this Eid, Fantasy Kingdom promises to give the grandest celebration. The park authorities arranged special promotions for the visitors.

**WATER KINGDOM**  
This world class theme park has a number of water-based rides like water slides, lazy river and a gigantic wave pool. This Eid the park authorities arranged a colorful celebration featuring concerts and DJ shows with exciting game shows and raffle draws.

**X-TREME RACING GO-KART**  
Be the first one to experience racing with these exciting Go-karts at Fantasy Kingdom Complex. Participants will get the necessary safety equipment before riding the carts.

**MOTEL ATLANTIS**  
Take a break from your busy schedule and escape to this fabulous resort in Water Kingdom where spectacular landscapes, historical wonders, magnificent environment and adventurous rides promise to create memories for a lifetime. Room rent includes complimentary breakfast and free entry + rides at Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom.

## Shooter in Texas massacre said he was targeting ‘Mexicans’

AFP, Washington

The 21-year-old Texan who killed 22 people in an El Paso Walmart told police following his arrest that he was targeting “Mexicans,” according to an arrest warrant published Friday by US media.

The document charging Patrick Crusius, of Allen, Texas, with murder also described the circumstances of his arrest, saying he stepped out of his vehicle when surrounded by police, put his hands up and said “I’m the shooter.”

At police headquarters, Crusius waived his right to remain silent or have a lawyer present and told detectives that “his target (was) ‘Mexicans,’” according to the document, obtained by The Washington Post and others.

## Man killed

FROM PAGE 16

The OC claimed they conducted a raid in Karomjatala area of the upazila around 2:00am on information that a group of criminals gathered there for robbery.

Sensing the police presence, the criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he further claimed.

At one point, Chan sustained bullet injuries and died on the spot. Later, his body was handed over to family members after conducting an autopsy at Patuakhali General Hospital morgue, he added.

Three cops were also injured during the “gunfight” and received treatment at the hospital, he further added.

Police also claimed to have recovered a home-made pipe gun and five sharp weapons from the spot. Two cases were filed in connection with the “gunfight”.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the police claims.

## 2 killed

FROM PAGE 16

When the microbus carrying Hanif, his family members and supporters reached Kaichail Madhyapara Darul Ullum Madrasa area around 5:00pm, the followers of his opponent attacked them with sharp weapons including machetes and vandalised the vehicle, said locals.

Hanif responded by opening fire on his opponents with his shotgun.

During the 30-minute clash, at least 15 people from both groups were injured, and 10 of them suffered bullet wounds. Rowshan and Tuhin were among those hit by bullets. They died on the way to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Contacted, Kaichail union Chairman Kabir Hossain, also general secretary of the union AL, said his supporters were holding a meeting at the spot. At that time, Jubo League leader Hanif opened fire on them without provocation.

Hanif was not available over phone for comments.

Contacted, Hanif’s brother Hasan Mia said the supporters of Kabir first attacked them while they were coming to the village.

He, however, admitted that his brother Hanif opened fire on his opponents.

Shahin Mohammad, emergency medical officer of the medical college hospital, said two bullet-hit persons were brought dead to the hospital around 7:10pm.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Nagarkanda Police Station, said police rushed to the spot after hearing the news and brought the situation under control, but no one filed any case till 8:20pm.

## Good luck

FROM PAGE 16

in the critical operation.

The twin sisters are now under the care of neuro intensivists from the CMH and Shishu Hospital. They will have to undergo another surgery in two to three months, the ISPR release says.

Hungary-based Action for Defenceless People Foundation supported the critical surgery.

Talking to this newspaper, renowned Bangladeshi burn and plastic surgery expert Dr Samanta Lal Sen said conducting such a surgery was a “milestone achievement” for the country’s medical science as well as for this region.

He said it would take another two to three weeks for them to say whether the babies were out of danger or not, said Sen who attended the press briefing and also coordinated the whole process of the surgery.

Rafiqul Islam, the babies’ father, said both his daughters had been unconscious since being operated on at the CMH.

He said Rabeya on Friday gestured towards her mother as if she wanted to be in her lap.

Doctors were hopeful that Rokeya would gain consciousness soon, Rafiqul added.



**Volunteers, local residents and members of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) search for survivors in the debris left by a landslide at Puthumala at Meppadi in the Wayanad district of the Indian state of Kerala, yesterday. Floods have killed at least 100 people and displaced hundreds of thousands across much of India with the southern state of Kerala worst hit, authorities said.**

PHOTO: AFP

## Nearly 2.5m pilgrims scale Mount Arafat

FROM PAGE 16

pilgrims first braved the blazing sun and then heavy downpours that many welcomed as a blessing.

Some burst into tears as they chanted prayers.

Thousands of faithful had spent the night under the stars, sleeping on prayer rugs or pieces of cardboard.

Trucks were parked at regular intervals on the route leading up to the hill, distributing bottles of water and meals.

Thousands of workers prepared to clear the rubbish that littered the ground.

Helicopters criss-crossed overhead, part of the tight security precautions taken by the pilgrimage’s Saudi hosts.

The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam which every Muslim is required to complete at least once in their lifetime if they are healthy enough and have the means to do so.

“I came last year during Ramadan, now I am there for the hajj,” said Indonesian pilgrim Zakir Uddin.

“It is an honour, praise be to God,” added the 27-year-old cook.

Like other male pilgrims, he wears a seamless white garment that covers

only one shoulder and emphasises unity regardless of social status or nationality.

The women wear loose dresses, most of them white, exposing only their faces and hands.

They are designed to help pilgrims enter a state of purity, called ihram.

Uddin, who works in the Saudi city of Jeddah less than 90 kilometres from Makkah, says he is happy to see so many of his compatriots among the pilgrims.

“Indonesians make up the single largest contingent, such is the will of God,” he said.

Pilgrims travelling from abroad account for 1.86 million of the 2.48 million taking part in this year’s hajj, according to official figures.

After sunset prayers, pilgrims will make their way down Mount Arafat to Muzdalifah, another holy site where they will sleep under the stars to prepare for the final stage of hajj, a ritual “stoning of the devil”.

That marks the beginning of Eid al-Azha, the festival of sacrifice.

Sheep are traditionally slaughtered for the three-day event, a tribute to the prophet Abraham’s sacrifice of a lamb

after God spared Ishmael, his son.

Pilgrims then return to the Grand Mosque to perform a final “tawaf” or walk around the Kaaba.

The scale of the pilgrimage presents vast security and logistical challenges, with tens of thousands of safety officers deployed.

Riyadh faced strong criticism in 2015 when some 2,300 worshippers were killed in the deadliest stampede in the gathering’s history.

This year’s hajj takes place to a backdrop of Gulf tensions following a series of attacks on tankers, the downing of drones and the seizure of ships.

Riyadh blames regional foe Tehran for the attacks on commercial shipping, accusations Iran vehemently denies.

Despite the absence of diplomatic ties between the two countries, some 88,550 Iranian pilgrims are due to take part in the hajj this year according to Iran’s Tasnim news agency.

As in previous years, Saudi authorities have been at pains to stress that the hajj is a religious event and have sought to prevent its politicisation.

## US, China step up war of words over Hong Kong

AFP, Washington

The United States and China have stepped up an increasingly harsh war of words over pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, as Beijing seeks to push its accusations that the mass demonstrations are being fueled by foreign powers.

In the latest exchange, Washington on Friday called out Beijing-backed news outlets for sharing “dangerous” reports after a newspaper revealed personal information about an American diplomat in Hong Kong who met with pro-democracy activists.

“Official Chinese media reports on our diplomat in Hong Kong have gone from irresponsible to dangerous. This must stop,” State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus posted on Twitter.

Beijing has increasingly pitched the anti-government protests in the semi-autonomous city as funded by the West, at one point describing violent

unrest in the city as “the work of the US.”

But China has provided little evidence for the claim beyond supportive statements from some Western politicians.

The Hong Kong-based, pro-Beijing Ta Kung Pao reported that the political unit chief of the US Consulate General in Hong Kong, Julie Eadeh, had met with members of the political party Demosisto -- including prominent democracy activist Joshua Wong.

It shared details on Eadeh’s career as well as her family members’ names.

The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in Hong Kong denounced Ortagus’ remarks as “blatant slander against China” that had “again exposed US gangster logic.”

Ortagus, however, said that “Chinese authorities know full well, our accredited consular personnel are just doing their jobs, just like

diplomats from every other country.”

“Foreign diplomats in the United States, including Chinese ones, enjoy open access to all elements of American politics, civil society, academia, and business,” she added.

On Thursday, China demanded that US diplomats based in Hong Kong “stop interfering” in the city’s affairs.

In a statement, the Chinese foreign ministry urged the US diplomatic office in Hong Kong to “immediately make a clean break with various anti-China rioters” and “stop interfering in Hong Kong’s affairs immediately.”

Ortagus responded at the time: “I don’t think that that’s a formal protest, that is what a tughish regime would do. That is not how a responsible nation would behave.”

A State Department official told AFP that representatives of the US government “meet regularly with a wide cross section of people across Hong Kong and Macau.”

## No foul play behind mass blackout in UK

AFP, London

National Grid, which runs Britain’s power network, said Saturday it was confident of “no malicious intent” behind a major outage Friday that hit nearly one million people and caused travel chaos.

The company has blamed the blackouts, that left more than 900,000 customers without power for several hours and transport systems reeling, on the loss of two generators in quick succession.

It has vowed to “learn any lessons” from what it described as an “unexpected and unusual event”, which saw evening commuters stranded on trains, traffic lights failing and homes plunged into darkness.

“We are already very confident that there was no malicious intent or cyber attack involved,” National Grid director of operations Duncan Burt told the BBC.

“This will require careful study to make sure that we do learn any lessons that come out of it and that the next time this happens disruption

is minimised.”

He said the company would provide a technical report on the outage to industry regulator Ofgem, which on Friday demanded an immediate investigation into the incident.

“Ofgem has asked for an urgent detailed report from National Grid so we can understand what went wrong and decide what further steps need to be taken,” the regulator said in a statement.

“This could include enforcement action.”

Industry experts believe the blackout was prompted by a gas-fired power station in Bedfordshire, north of London, and then an offshore wind farm in Yorkshire, northern England, both disconnecting from the grid.

The outage lasted for several hours, affecting around 300,000 customers in London and the southeast, and 500,000 in the Midlands, southwest England and Wales, according to regional power utilities.

Some 110,000 were affected in Yorkshire and northeast England.

It sparked rush-hour transportation misery, as some traffic lights faltered on the capital’s streets and air traffic was disrupted at the airport in Newcastle.

- Like an ‘apocalyptic film’ -

“All the traffic lights were down, but there were no police present... it was like witnessing something out of an apocalyptic film,” Harriet Jackson told Britain’s Press Association in south London.

Many trains were delayed or cancelled on Britain’s national rail network, with efforts to return services to normal hampered by severe weather on Saturday.

Large swathes of the country were hit overnight by high winds and torrential rain, threatening further travel disruption through the weekend.

Keith Bell, a professor of electronic and electrical engineering at the University of Strathclyde, said the power cut was a “relatively small event” compared to blackouts seen elsewhere around the world.

## First

FROM PAGE 16

Ethical concerns were raised over the trial, partly over fears that human stem cells could migrate to the brain.

Angel Raya, of the Barcelona Regenerative Medicine Centre, said experiments on organisms with cells from two species faced “ethical barriers”.

He told El Pais: “What happens if the stem cells escape and form human neurons in the brain of the animal? Would it have consciousness? And what happens if these stem cells turn into sperm cells?”

But Estrella Nunez, of Murcia Catholic University (UCAM) and the project collaborator, said mechanisms were put in place so that if human cells did migrate to the brain, they would self-destruct.

“The results are very promising,” Nunez said.

The research, which was financed largely by the university, was costly. “If we combine the human/plg, human/rat and human/monkey research, it is many hundreds of thousands of euros,” she said.

Dr Raya said scientists have traditionally set a “red line” at 14 days’ gestation, which is not long enough for the embryo to develop a human central nervous system. All chimera embryos are destroyed before that time.

Juan Carlos Izpisua, who created the world’s first human-pig hybrid in 2017 and led the latest experiment, said: “We are now trying not only to move forward and continue experimenting with human cells and rodent and pig cells, but also with non-human primates. Our country is a pioneer and a world leader in these investigations.”

## A case filed against OC

FROM PAGE 16

police had complied with the court order and recorded the case.

“The responsibility of investigating into the case had been given to Firoz Ahmed, assistant superintendent of police [ASP], Kushtia Railway Circle. The case is now under investigation,” the letter, signed my ASP Nazrul, read.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the letter.

Contacted, the accused OC, Osman Gani Pathan, yesterday once again denied the allegation of raping the woman and claimed that he was not present at the police station that night.

On August 2, the woman was detained inside a train by railway police in Phultala Railway Station around 7:30pm. She was then forced to disembark and was taken to Khulna Railway Station, where she was gangraped, the woman’s sister said.

The next day, the alleged rapists filed a case against the victim for possessing five bottles of Phensedyl, after which a court sent her to jail.

On August 4, the victim filed a complaint with the Chief Judicial Magistrate’s court against the policemen.

In the complaint, the woman alleged that Osman Gani Pathan, OC of Government Railway Police Station in Khulna, and four other cops gangraped her in a room inside the police station.

The incident continued moments before Fajr prayers the next morning.

The woman could only tell the name of the OC but not the other policemen. She however claimed in the complaint that she would be able to identify the faces of the other cops if she saw them again.

After receiving the complaint, the court on the same day sent the victim to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) for a medical test and later directed police to record a First Information Report (FIR) against the concerned OC and others accused.

After the allegations came to light, the Police Headquarters and Railway Police formed two separate probe bodies to investigate the incident.

On August 7, authorities withdrew two policemen, including the OC, and attached them to Pakshey Railway Police.

## Kashmir set for Eid

FROM PAGE 16

today whether restrictions would be eased for what is one of the most important Muslim festivals of the year.

After weekly prayers on Friday, about 8,000 people gathered for a protest on the edge of Srinagar that was broken up by security forces with tear gas and shotgun pellets, residents said.

“About 12 people were hurt, but none seriously,” said one witness.

The home ministry denied any protest took place.

Kashmir has been split between India and Pakistan since their independence in 1947. Both have fought two wars over the former kingdom. An insurgency against New Delhi’s rule in Indian-administered Kashmir has claimed tens of thousands of lives in the past three decades.

Islamabad has been infuriated by New Delhi’s moves and has expelled the Indian ambassador and halted the little bilateral trade between the arch-rivals. Pakistani ministers have also halted cross-border transport services.

The last Friendship bus left New

Delhi early yesterday carrying just two passengers for the trip to the Pakistani city of Lahore.

The service had been running since 1999 except for a two-year suspension after a militant attack on the Indian parliament in 2001 carried out by two Pakistan-based groups.

A Pakistan Tourism Department official in Lahore told AFP: “Today was the last day for the Friendship bus service. The bus service is suspended until further notice, we are making refunds to all passengers.”

The last Thar Express train also left the Rajasthan city of Jodhpur early Saturday but had to wait more than 12 hours to get clearance to cross the border, officials said.

The train has run every Friday night since 2006 from Jodhpur to Karachi. It is one of two rail services to cross the frontier between the rival states. The Samjhauta Express was halted on Thursday by Pakistan’s Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed.

“As long as I am railway minister, the Samjhauta Express and the Thar Express will not operate,” he vowed to reporters yesterday.

## Panama ex-president Martinelli acquitted of espionage, corruption

AFP, Panama City

Panama’s ex-president Ricardo Martinelli was acquitted on charges of spying on political foes and misappropriation of public funds in a court decision Friday.

The case marked the first time a Panamanian former president was tried in criminal court.

The 67-year-old supermarket tycoon was accused of spying on some 150 opponents between 2012 and 2014 as well as using state resources in the pursuit, including \$13 million in equipment which subsequently disappeared.

Martinelli “is found not guilty,” said Raul Vergara, one of three judges on the tribunal.

Shouts of joy from Martinelli’s

supporters rang out in the courtroom after the verdict was read.

“Thank you to my lawyers, thank you to the Panama authorities, this was a criminal conspiracy,” Martinelli told journalists and supporters.

After his release, Martinelli held a small party at one of his luxurious properties.

Martinelli -- who was president from 2009-14 and fled to Miami in 2015 to avoid arrest -- claims he was a victim of political persecution by the government of his successor Juan Carlos Varela, a former political ally.

Prosecutors had asked for an “exemplary” sentence of 21 years to set a precedent for corruption cases in Panama.



Traffic has been heavy and slow on highways in Sirajganj as Roads and Highways Department is repairing several regional highways, inset, that were damaged by floods. The photos were taken yesterday from Hatikumrul-Bonpara highway.

PHOTO: STAR

HIGHWAY REPAIR WORKS IN SIRAJGANJ

# Holidaymakers face huge tailbacks on battered roads

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

When highways are swamped with heavy traffic ahead of Eid, the authorities usually start repairing those. This year is no different. Repair work on several highways in Sirajganj started only a few days ago, adding to the woes of travellers and transport workers. Holidaymakers going home for Eid in 22 northern and southern districts, crossing the Bangabandhu bridge, should brace for a longer travel time due to the ongoing

repair work in Sirajganj. Currently, Sirajganj-Bogura, Hatikumrul-Bogura and Hatikumrul-Bonpara highways are undergoing repair. Incessant rain and floods over the past month left these regional highways battered and damaged. The damage is extensive in about 18 kilometres of road from Hatikumrul to Chandaikona toward Bogura and 25 kilometres from Hatikumrul to Mannannagar on way to Bonpara. Ashrafur Islam, executive engineer of Roads and Highways (RHD) in

Sirajganj, said, “We’ve already started repair work on Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway and Hatikumrul-Bogura highway ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.” Now the potholes in Hatikumrul-Bonpara highway are being fixed with bricks and carpeting work on the Hatikumrul-Bogura highway is going on. The RHD in 2017-18 fiscal year undertook repair work of the Hatikumrul-Bogura highway at a cost of Tk 15 core and the Hatikumrul-Bonpara highway at Tk 8 core. But as

the contractor firm did not complete the work, RHD had to start urgent repair work of the highways ahead of the Eid, Ashrafur also said. Frustrated by long delays on the road, bus passenger Eunus Ali said thanks to the congestion on the road due to the repair work, it took him more than double the usual time, nearly two and a half hours, to reach Bonpara from Hatikumrul. Truck driver Sohul said with all the work going on and an increased number of vehicles loaded with sacrificial

animals on the road, passing ten kilometres distance from Hatikumrul nowadays takes at least an hour. Hatikumrul Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Akteruzzaman said a long queue of vehicles is being formed on the only available lane on both Hatikumrul-Bonpara and Hatikumrul-Bogura highways due to the ongoing work. He also said the situation might worsen if the work is continued amid the Eid rush.

## Man killed, 10 hurt in clash over disputed land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was killed at least 10 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups of villagers during handing over possession of a disputed land in Nawabganj upazila yesterday. The deceased, Liton Mia, 35, son of Atiar Rahman, was a resident of Chawkkarim village in the upazila. The injured were admitted to Nawabganj Upazila Health Complex, Phulbari Upazila Health Complex and M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur.

Quoting the villagers, police said around two acres of land had been illegally occupied by Atiar Rahman of Chawkkarim village for the last 18 years. On July 29, Dinajpur Joint District and Session Judge Court-3 ordered the authorities concerned to hand over the land to its original owner Rafiq Uddin of Bhatka Joypur village. As per the court order, Shah Alam, a Nazir at Dinajpur court, went to the village yesterday morning to hand over possession of the land to Rafiq. In the meantime, some hired goons of Atiar, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked Rafiq and his men, leaving 10 people injured. On information, police went to the spot and fired rubber bullets to bring the situation under control that left another man wounded. Of the injured, Liton succumbed to his injuries on way to a hospital in Dinajpur. Officer in Charge (OC) of Nawabganj Police Station Subrata Sarkar said. Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any untoward incident, the OC said, adding that a tense situation was prevailing at the village.



Cattle farmers and traders are seen a bit upset as the prices have dropped sharply in all the 25 cattle markets in Lalmonirhat. The photo was taken from Durakuti Haat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

CATTLE MARKETS IN LALMONIRHAT

# Farmers, traders unhappy over low price

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Cattle markets in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila are seeing an oversupply on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha as flood-hit farmers are putting up their cows for sale due to dearth of animal fodder. Villages and chars along the Teesta and Dharala rivers were hit hard by flash flood twice lately when huge amounts of fodder got damaged. As a result, farmers and small scale traders are seeing no option but to sell off their cows. In consequence, the prices have dropped sharply in all 25 cattle markets of the district. Mozibur Rahman, 55, brought three cows to sell at Durakuti Haat, one of the biggest cattle markets in the Sadar upazila, on August 6, five days before Eid-ul-Azha. He could sell only one cow at Tk 42,000 and returned home with the rest. “I bought the cow at Tk 55,000 three months ago but now had to sell it at a loss in the same market,”

said Mozibur, a farmer of Kalmati village located on the bank of Teesta. “I would never have sold it at such a low price if was not in a financial crisis,” he told this correspondent. Another farmer, Nazu Miah, 50, of Bongram village said, “Grasses and hays were largely damaged by the recent flood. The crisis of fodder has compelled us to sell cattle at low rates. “I had nurtured four cows with an aim to earn Tk 200,000 by selling them. But I got only Tk 82,000 by selling two of them, the rest are still unsold,” he said adding, supply of cattle was greater than demand this season. Jitish Chandra Sen of Falimari char had 19 cows. “My two cows got washed away by flood while I have sold 10 dirt-cheap. This happened due to an acute crisis of fodder in our flood affected village,” said the 63-year-old farmer. “Prices have fallen sharply this

year due to oversupply. The flood affected farmers are bringing their cattle but are returning with disappointment.” Said Hazrat Ali, a trader in Durakuti Haat. Similar condition was prevailing in 25 other cattle markets in the district, he told this paper. Mizanur Rahman, 50, who came from Thana Para of Lalmonirhat town, said he purchased one cow at price lower than last year. “From a large number of verities, I selected one and bought it at Tk 48,000,” said the content customer. Lalmonirhat Zila Parishad Chairman Matiar Rahman was at the Haat on August 6. “Buyers are happy to get cattle at reasonable prices but flood affected farmers and small scale traders are unhappy as they are being compelled to sell off their cows on the occasion of Eid,” said Matiar, also general secretary of Awami League Lalmonirhat district unit.

## Youth held over rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police on Friday night arrested a youth in connection with a case filed for raping a sixth grader girl in Barlekha upazila of the district on August 6. The arrestee, Mahir Ahmed, 22, a private car driver, is son of Khalil Uddin in Kumarsail village in the upazila, Sub Inspector of Barlekha Police Station Ratan Kumar Halder, also investigation officer of the case, said. According to the case statement, Mahir forcibly picked up the girl while she was returning home from school on August 6, took her to a nearby jungle and raped her. Meanwhile, victim’s father filed a case with Barlekha Police Station against Mahir the same night.

## Arson attack on Pabna trader’s house

The victim’s teenage son was murdered on Nov 30 last year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Criminals set fire to the house of trader Md Rabiul Islam at Dublia village in Pabna Sadar upazila early Friday, apparently in a bid to kill the family members. The residents of the house, however, managed to save themselves although the fire caused serious damage to valuables. “A group of criminals set fire to our house when we were asleep at about 1:00am on Friday. Sensing the matter, we managed to leave unhurt with the help of neighbours,” Rabiul Islam said. Four motorbikes, goods, valuables and cash worth a total of Tk 20 lakh was destroyed in the fire, he added. Rabiul filed a case with Ataikula Police Station on Friday, accusing anonymous people on charge of setting the fire to his house with a target to kill him and his family members. “Criminals killed my brother Mahamud Ani, a Junior Secondary Certificate examinee, on November 30 last year. The men of the

accused in the murder case might have made the arson attack to kill us,” said Ashik Mahamud Avi, son of Rabiul. Police earlier submitted charge sheet against two men in the case for killing Ani. Police arrested one of the two accused while the other went into hiding after the incident. Family members of the victim submitted an objection regarding the charge sheet and demanded reinvestigation for finding out the mastermind of the murder. The case was later handed over to Police Bureau of Investigation. “We are demanding justice for killing my brother. We also demand proper investigation into the arson attack incident,” Avi said. Md Kamruzzaman, officer in charge of Ataikula Police Station, said police has visited the spot and started investigating the incident. “Although the victims have verbally mentioned the name of a suspect, they have filed a case against anonymous people. We are trying to find out the culprits,” he added.



A roller smoothens the ground of Gor-e-Shaheed Boromoydan Eidgah in Dinajpur town yesterday as part of the authorities’ preparation to arrange the Eid-ul-Azha congregation there tomorrow. A large number of people from far and near areas come to say Eid prayers at the venue every year.

PHOTO: KONGKONKARMAKER

### 4 Palestinians killed on Gaza border

AFP, Jerusalem

The Israeli army said its troops shot dead four heavily armed Palestinians on the Gaza border early yesterday, alleging one of them had managed to cross and throw a grenade at soldiers.

There have been frequent clashes along the Gaza border since the Palestinians began organising regular mass protests there in March 2018.

But yesterday's exchange was unusual due to the weaponry the Israeli army said was involved on the Palestinian side.

"The terrorists were equipped with AK-47 assault rifles, RPG grenade launchers and hand grenades," an army statement said.

A spokeswoman said "the army opened fire after one of the terrorists scaled the barrier and hurled a grenade at the soldiers."

No casualties were reported in Israeli ranks.

Conricus restated Israel's longstanding position that it holds Gaza's rulers Hamas responsible for all attacks emanating from the territory, since they control it.

A Hamas statement condemned Israel's killing of the four Palestinians as a "crime". But the Islamist rulers of the Palestinian enclave made no claim of responsibility and did not say if the four were members of its armed wing.

Palestinian sources said the four men all came from the village of Wadi al-Salqa, close to the Israeli border.

Palestinian demonstrations at the border demanding the lifting of Israel's more than decade-old blockade have often led to violence and a deadly response from the Israeli army.

At least 301 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in Gaza or the border area since March 2018, the majority during the demonstrations. Seven Israelis have also been killed.



A woman looks at riot police gathered in the Tsim Sha Tsui district of Hong Kong, yesterday. *Inset*, Protesters throw back tear gas cannisters fired by the police in Tai Wai in the New Territories of Hong Kong. Police in Hong Kong fired tear gas on August 10 at pro-democracy protesters who defied orders to cancel a rally and blocked intersections across the city in "hit-and-run" demonstrations.

PHOTO: AFP



### NORTH KOREA DENUCLEARISATION DRIVE

## Kim wants to resume talks

*Says Trump, claims Kim apologised to him for missile tests*

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday said that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wants to resume denuclearization talks after US-South Korean war games end.

Trump tweeted that in a letter to him, Kim apologised for a recent spate of missile tests, the latest of which came at daybreak Saturday Korean time, and said they were to protest these joint military drills.

Trump said he looks "forward to seeing Kim Jong Un in the not too distant future!"

"In a letter to me sent by Kim Jong Un, he stated, very nicely, that he would like to meet and start negotiations as soon as the joint US/ South Korea joint exercise are over," Trump wrote.

The exercises began Monday and are due to last another week. North Korea has said the recent short-range missile tests are designed to protest the war games.

Yesterday, Trump again seemed

to side with Kim by criticizing the exercises, which are a cornerstone of US-South Korean military cooperation.

"It was a long letter, much of it complaining about the ridiculous and expensive exercises. It was also a small apology for testing the short range missiles, and that this testing would



stop when the exercises end," Trump said.

Trump has appeared determined to secure a denuclearization agreement with North Korea ahead of next year's US presidential elections, despite faltering talks since he first met Kim in a historic ice-breaking summit in Singapore in June 2018.

Even after their abortive second summit in February, Trump has been reluctant to criticize the North Korean leader.

Trump has repeatedly talked up his close personal relationship with Kim, as his administration seeks to resume the stalled denuclearisation talks with the North.

Washington and Seoul pledged in March to scale down their joint drills in an effort to foster denuclearisation talks with Pyongyang.

In contrast to Trump's dismissal of the missile launches, others in the US administration have voiced opposition to them.

After Pyongyang's fourth launch early this week, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington was ready to resume talks, but that the target of the "full, final denuclearisation of North Korea" had not changed.

A senior State Department official who refused to be named told journalists last week that the missile tests were an impediment to peace.

## Death toll hits 95, hundreds of thousands evacuated

REUTERS, Kochi/Bengaluru

The death toll from floods in India's states of Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra rose to 95, official figures showed yesterday, as heavy rain and landslides forced hundreds of thousands to evacuate their homes.

Seasonal monsoon rains from June to September are a crucial lifeline for agrarian Indian society, delivering 70% of the country's rainfall, but they also bring in their wake death and destruction every year.

"Our entire village under water for the last eight days but still we haven't got any assistance from the government," said farmer Prashant Lathe, 35, from a village in one of the flood-hit districts of the western state of Maharashtra.

The district has lost access to all basic amenities such as drinking water, power supply, cooking gas cylinder and petrol for running vehicles, Lathe said.

In the southwestern state of Kerala, some 42 people died and over 100,000 affected people have been evacuated, the central government's disaster management cell said, after 80 landslides hit the state in two days.

The state was opening the gates of Banasurasagar dam in Wayanad district yesterday to manage water levels and avoid serious damage. Last year, more than 200 people were killed and over five million affected in one of Kerala's worst floods in 100 years.

In neighbouring Karnataka, home to India's tech hub Bengaluru, some 24 people have died in what chief minister B.S. Yeddyurappa said

on Saturday were the worst floods in 45 years. Around 1,024 villages have been inundated due to the rains, several dams were reaching their full capacity, and over 200,000 people had been evacuated, he

added. In Maharashtra, home to India's financial capital Mumbai, 29 people have died this week.

The Indian Meteorological Department said heavy to very heavy rain was likely to lash isolated areas of Kerala, parts of Karnataka and Maharashtra, and some southern states might also see extremely heavy rain yesterday.

### FLOODS IN INDIA

States of Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra worst hit by flood



### Jeffrey Epstein kills himself in US prison

AFP, New York

Disgraced US financier Jeffrey Epstein has committed suicide in prison while awaiting trial on charges that he trafficked girls as young as 14 for sex, US news media reported yesterday.

Epstein, a convicted sex offender who befriended numerous politicians and celebrities over the years, hanged himself in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, The New York Times and other media said, quoting officials.

His body was found around 7:30 am (1230 GMT) yesterday and taken to a hospital in New York, added the reports.

The city medical examiner's office confirmed Epstein's death but said nothing about what caused it or the time of death. It said a medical investigation has been opened.

The 66-year-old's death comes just over two weeks after he was found unconscious in his cell with marks on his neck after an apparent suicide attempt.

Prosecutors said Epstein sexually exploited dozens of underage teenagers, some as young as 14, at his homes in Manhattan and Palm Beach, Florida, between 2002 and 2005. They claim that Epstein was "well aware that many of the victims were minors."

The girls were paid hundreds of dollars in cash to massage him, perform sexual acts and to recruit other girls, prosecutors allege.

## 18 killed as Typhoon Lekima slams China

AFP, Shanghai

At least 18 people were killed and 14 others missing as Typhoon Lekima lashed eastern China yesterday, downing thousands of trees and forcing more than a million people from their homes.

Waves several metres high hit the coastline as the storm made landfall in Zhejiang province, south of Shanghai.

The deaths were caused by a landslide triggered by the storm's downpours in the municipality of Wenzhou, around 400 kilometres south of Shanghai, national television station CCTV reported.

"Torrential rains caused a landslide on a mountain that blocked a river below," it said, adding that the resulting "dam" created a lake which swept downstream when it burst.

More than a million people were evacuated from their homes ahead of the storm, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Some 110,000 people were housed in shelters.

The monster storm made landfall in the early hours in Wenling City, packing winds of 187 kilometres per hour, and was expected to churn up the east coast towards Shanghai, Xinhua added.

Footage broadcast on CCTV showed a torrent of muddy water surging through the streets and emergency workers rescuing a man trapped under rubble and fallen trees.

China issued a red alert as the storm approached on Friday, before downgrading the level to orange as winds eased on Saturday morning. Lekima has been downgraded from a super typhoon to a typhoon as it headed northwards inland.



People attend a rally to demand opposition candidates to run in the upcoming local election in Moscow, Russia yesterday. Tens of thousands of Muscovites staged Russia's biggest political protest for years yesterday, rallying to demand free city elections in spite of a government crackdown. Russian police detained 72 people in several cities during the protests.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Myanmar landslide kills 41

*Rescue operations on for about 80 missing people*

AFP, Mawlamyine

The death toll from a landslide triggered by monsoon rains in eastern Myanmar rose to at least 41, an official said late yesterday, as emergency workers continued for a second night their desperate search through thick mud for the scores feared missing.

A huge brown gash on the hillside marked where the deluge of mud flooded onto Ye Pyar Kone village in Mon state on Friday, wiping out 27 homes.

Search and rescue teams worked through Friday night and into late Saturday, using excavators and their bare hands to recover bodies from the deep sludge.

"The death toll has risen to 41," township administrator Zaw Moe Aung told AFP yesterday.

Some farm animals, like cows and goats, were found alive, but "there are no humans left alive," he said, adding that the search operations will push through for a second night.

So far, 47 people have been injured while officials believe that about 80 people could still be missing.

Myanmar is battered annually by a monsoon season which strikes countries across Southeast Asia, leaving tens of thousands displaced from flooded homes and setting

off deadly landslides.

Aerial pictures of Ye Pyar Kone village showed shattered remnants of rooftops and other debris from the houses strewn next to trucks knocked over by the force of the onslaught.

Its hillside temple was left inundated, leaving the pagoda's golden spire peeking out from beneath the mud.

Htay Htay Win, 32, told AFP that two of her daughters and five other relatives had still not been found.

She only survived because she had left her home minutes earlier to look at the flooding nearby.

"I heard a huge noise and turned round to see my home being hit by the mud," she said, crying.

Rescue workers yesterday continued to carry out excavated bodies wrapped in plastic to waiting ambulances, wading through pools of water and ankle-deep sludge.

Crying relatives of the missing watched on helplessly under a steady torrent of rain, as nearby floodwaters edged closer to the village.

Torrential downpours have burst riverbanks across the country while coastal communities have been warned of higher tides. Around 89,000 people have been displaced by floods in recent weeks, although many have since been able to return home, according to the UN.



## Republicans ready to impose background checks: Trump

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump said Friday that fellow Republicans will set aside resistance to restricting access to firearms by supporting background checks for people buying weapons in the wake of mass shootings in Ohio and Texas.

The progress in efforts to curb the United States' free-wheeling relationship with firearms came despite talks between Trump and the head of the fierce NRA gun lobby, Wayne LaPierre.

Republicans have long resisted imposing background checks on gun buyers, a measure that the powerful NRA argues would be the thin end of the wedge, leading to ever tighter restrictions on the constitutional right to carrying weapons.

But after 31 people were shot dead in

El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, last weekend -- just the latest in an ever growing list of bloodbaths carried out by men with powerful rifles -- political momentum has apparently shifted.

Trump said that Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was "totally onboard" with background checks.

Even "hardline" gun rights supporters in the Republican party understand we don't want insane people, mentally ill people, bad people, dangerous people" buying firearms, Trump told reporters at the White House.

He said he'd spoken with LaPierre and had "a good talk."

But despite describing the NRA as "phenomenal people" and insisting that no other president has been more supportive of gun rights, Trump said "we need meaningful background checks so that sick

### GUN VIOLENCE IN US



CURFEW-SMOTHERED KASHMIR VALLEY

Where mourning is not allowed

AFP, Srinagar

In India's curfew-smothered Kashmir valley, even the freedom to mourn the dead has been shut down.

When his father suddenly passed away this week in Srinagar, Irfan Ahmad Bhat's grief was compounded by a military lockdown that not only prevented family members gathering to pay their respects, but also meant many could not be told he had died.

"My greatest regret is that my father's close relatives could not see his face one last time or perform his last rites," Bhat told AFP. "This should not have happened."

Srinagar is coming up to one week without internet or phones -- the city's 1.5 million people cooped up in their homes unless they have a curfew pass.

The lockdown and communications blackout is being enforced by tens of thousands of troops that New Delhi's Hindu-nationalist government deployed to back its move on Monday to strip the Muslim-majority territory of its autonomy.

So tight are the restrictions that Bhat said he had only been able to inform four family members who live in Srinagar that his 58-year-old father had passed away.

The proper mourning period can only end when the whole family has been told, but "I don't know how long that will take," he added tearfully.

Kashmiris are used to mourning. The region has been bedeviled by a three-decade-old insurgency that has left tens of thousands dead.

But the inability to observe basic funeral rites is a stark illustration of the severity of the current clampdown that has



transformed Srinagar into a maze of razor wire coils, barricades and checkpoints blocking roads and small lanes alike.

Residents can only walk in public in ones and twos. The few cars on the streets are forced to take complex, zigzag routes between the security points.

And the heightened stress levels induced by the military lockdown mean that unexpectedly calling on friends or relatives -- especially at night -- is more than likely to trigger fear in the household.

Another relative of Bhat's father, Umar Bhat, said he initially panicked when someone came to deliver the news of the death in the family.

"I heard our door being knocked late at night and someone calling out my name. I was so afraid, thinking police had come to take me away before I realised it was my cousin," he said.

In a separate district of the city, Srinagar's main SMHS Hospital was almost empty on Friday, with barely a patient entering. One doctor in the emergency department said there had been less than a tenth of the normal number of patients since the lockdown came into force. And the ones who came were found to be clinically fit.

"They are afraid, anxious and in panic," said the doctor who declined to be named.

**FORMATION OF KASHMIR:** The Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), was formed in 1846 under the Treaty of Amritsar signed between the East India Company and Maharaja Gulab Singh. The Maharaja became the founder of the Royal Dogra Dynasty and the first king of the Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir by paying 7.5 million of Nanak Shahi rupees (the ruling currency of the Sikh Empire) to the British government and bought Kashmir Valley, Ladakh Wizarat (comprising of Baltistan, Kargil and Leh) and added it to Jammu which was already under his rule. Gilgit Wizarat (comprising of Gilgit and Pamiri areas) were conquered later in the war against Sikh rule led by Dogra Generals.

**PARTITION AND THE BEGINNING OF CRISIS :** In 1947, after much turmoil, India and Pakistan gained independence from British Empire. 562 Princely States existed in British India before the partition, which were not completely and formally part of British India. Under the hasty terms of partition, the princely states could decide to join either new nation or remain independent. Hari Singh, the then Maharaja of Kashmir, choose to remain independent. He offered to sign Standstill Agreements with both India and Pakistan. Pakistan immediately signed it while India asked for further discussions on its contents. But the discussion never took place.

Soon after the Standstill Agreement, as partition-related violence raged across the two new nations, the government of Pakistan pressured Kashmir to join it. Pro-Pakistani rebels took over much of western Kashmir, and in September 1947, Pashtun tribesmen streamed over the border from Pakistan into Kashmir carrying out killings and arsons. The panic-stricken maharaja asked for India's help in staving off the invasion, but India responded that, in order to gain military assistance, Kashmir would have to accede to India, thus becoming part of the new country. Singh agreed and signed the Instrument of Accession in 26 October 1947.

The Governor General of India Lord Mountbatten accepted the Accession of Jammu and Kashmir with a remark, "It is my government's wish that as soon as law and order have been restored in Jammu and Kashmir and her soil cleared of the invader, the question of the State's accession should be settled by a reference to the people".

**FIRST KASHMIR WAR AND 'CEASEFIRE LINE':** Consequently to the signing of the Instrument of Accession, the first war was fought between India and Pakistan over the Jammu and Kashmir from 1947 to 1948. This led to more unrest and the United Nations had to intervene to negotiate a cease-fire. Most troops were withdrawn and a Ceasefire Line was mutually agreed upon between India and Pakistan in January 1949.

**ARTICLE 370 AND SPECIAL STATUS:** The Instrument of Accession grants the state of Jammu and Kashmir federal autonomy within the Union of India except Defense, Central Finance, Communications and Foreign Affairs. In 1948, mass leader of Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah became the prime minister of Jammu and Kashmir



and in 1949, Sheikh Abdullah and Maharaja Hari Singh agreed that Jammu and Kashmir should remain united with India with the maximum possible autonomy. A special status was given to the state by the Indian Constitution under Article 370 and in 1951, the first elections for the J&K Constituent Assembly were held which later elected a body of representatives to formulate the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. On 14th July 1954, the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir decided that Article 370, which was temporary in nature shall remain in force, making it in essence a permanent feature of the Indian Constitution. The Constituent Assembly of J&K State had the legal authority to recommend the articles of the Indian constitution to be applied to the state or to abrogate Article 370 altogether. With the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in 1957, Article 370 became un-amendable. In October 2015, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir has ruled that Article 370 cannot be "abrogated, repealed or even amended". It explained that clause 3 of the Article conferred power to the State's Constituent Assembly to recommend to the president on the matter of the repeal of the Article. Since the Constituent Assembly did not make such a recommendation before its dissolution in 1957, Article 370 has taken on the features of a "permanent provision" despite being titled a temporary provision in the Constitution. The arguments in favor and against abrogation of article 370 are both debatable, however legal experts say it cannot be abrogated as it would translate into fundamentally changing the Instrument of Accession.

**UN MEDIATION IN KASHMIR AND PLEBISCITE:** The UN Security Council adopted its first resolution, 39, on 17th January, 1948, and United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) was established. On 21st April, 1948, Resolution 47 was adopted. Besides cessation of hostilities and withdrawal of all troops, UNSC called for a UN supervised Plebiscite in the Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir under a Plebiscite Administrator to determine the aspirations of the people. In January 1949, another resolution was laid down citing requirements for holding a Plebiscite, one of which was Pakistan withdrawing its troops from that area. Till date Pakistan has failed to implement its clauses.

**INDIA-PAKISTAN 1965 WAR:** The Kashmir conflict resumed in the India-Pakistan War of 1965. The Pakistani army tried to take Kashmir by force but failed. The



Security Council passed a resolution to put an end to the fighting and ban arms supplies to both parties.

**THE SHIMLA AGREEMENT:** The Shimla Agreement was signed between India and Pakistan in 1972 to bring peace between the two countries after the Bangladesh Independence War. Another line of control was established between India-controlled Kashmir and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. Both countries agreed to put an end to the conflict and confrontation, and adjudicate their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations without any third-party intervention. The signing of the agreement essentially made Jammu and Kashmir dispute a bilateral one.

**KASHMIR ACCORD (1975):** The Kashmir Accord (February 1975) was signed between Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Abdullah. The Accord strengthened India's role over legislation in Kashmir, though the state continued to be governed by Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. It was agreed that, residuary powers of legislation shall remain with the State but Parliament of India will continue to have power to make laws relating to the prevention of activities directed towards disclaiming,



questioning or disrupting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India or bringing about secession of a part of the territory of India from the Union. In 1977, the Congress party of the state withdrew its support in favor of the Abdullah government, ending the National Conference-Congress Alliance. In retaliation, Abdullah began supporting a demand for Plebiscite.

**MASS VIOLENCE AND EXODUS OF HINDUS:** Jammu and Kashmir witnessed sporadic periods of violence post the Independence of India, but never an organized insurgency till 1989. Tens of thousands have been killed by violence in Indian-controlled Kashmir since 1989. In response, India imposed direct rule in 1990, which worsened the situation, resulting in violent

attacks on Hindu residents. 100,000 Kashmiri Hindus (Pandits) fled the valley, fearing for their lives.

**KARGIL CONFLICT:** The Kargil conflict of 1999 erupted when India launched air strikes against Pakistan-backed troops that had infiltrated Indian-controlled Kashmir. Pakistan refused to claim responsibility for the infiltration, but was forced to call back its troops under pressure from the United States. Pakistan was also suspended from the Commonwealth.

**THE URI ATTACK:** After years of relative peace, tensions were reignited when armed militants attacked the Indian army base in Uri, killing 18 soldiers. India responded by blaming Pakistan, while Pakistan blamed India for the unrest in the region.

**HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS:** In 2016, The Indian army killed Burhan Wani, a 21-year-old commander of the separatist group Hizbul Mujaheddin. This led to massive protests that resulted in curfews and lockdowns in large parts of the region. The Indian army used pellet guns to disperse the angry crowd, blinding hundreds. The New York Times called it an epidemic of "dead eyes".

**SCRAPPING OF ARTICLE 370:** On August 4, the Indian government stripped Kashmir of the special autonomy it has had for seven decades. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist party rushed through a presidential decree to scrap from the constitution the Indian-ruled part of the disputed territory's special status. It also moved a bill proposing the Indian-administered part of Kashmir be divided into two regions directly ruled by New Delhi. Ahead of the announcements, tens of thousands of extra Indian troops were deployed in the territory, and a security lockdown was imposed with all telecommunications there cut.

**WHAT KASHMIRIS WANT:** Though India and Pakistan are both claiming the whole of Kashmir as their integral part, nearly 90 percent of Kashmiris in summer capital of Srinagar want independence,

From left, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Earl Mountbatten, viceroy of India; and Muhammad Ali Jinnah discuss Britain's plan for the future of its colony at the historic India Conference in New Delhi, June 2, 1947.

PHOTO: AP (MAX DESFOR)

according to a 2007 poll published by Indian Express. 87 percent of people questioned in Srinagar had no allegiance to either side. Only 3 percent of the mainly Muslim inhabitants of the city think Kashmir should become part of Pakistan, and 7 percent prefer Indian rule, the poll said. But down in Jammu, the state's mainly Hindu winter capital in the plains to the south, 95 percent think Kashmir should be part of India. Both countries claim the region in full, and both have ruled out independence as an option. India controls around 45 percent of the former princely state, Pakistan around a third and China the rest, a largely uninhabited slice of high-altitude desert.

SOURCE: STAR INTERNATIONAL DESK

# গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়  
মানিকগঞ্জ

স্মারক নং-২৮২৫/ই.

তারিখঃ ০৭/০৮/২০১৯খ্রিঃ

## দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০১৯-২০২০

“পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা/২০০৮ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা/২০১১ (সংশোধিত)” অনুসারে জেলা পুলিশ, মানিকগঞ্জ এর ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরে ২য় কোয়ার্টারের (অক্টোবর/নভেম্বর/ডিসেম্বর/২০১৯ মাস) জন্য বিভিন্ন রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়, গম পেছাই, কুলি ও অন্যান্য সেবা কাজ সম্পন্ন করার লক্ষ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	সরঞ্জাম মন্ত্রণালয়/পুলিশ বিভাগ।
২.	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	পুলিশ সুপার, মানিকগঞ্জ।
৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিষয়	জেলা পুলিশ, মানিকগঞ্জ এর রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয় ও অন্যান্য সেবা কাজ।
৫.	দরপত্র সূত্র নং	২৮২৫/ই।
৬.	তারিখ	তারিখঃ ০৭/০৮/২০১৯খ্রিঃ।
কাজের বিবরণঃ		
৭.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)।
অর্থের উৎসঃ		
৮.	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	রাজস্ব খাত।
তথ্যাদিঃ		
৯.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	১৪/০৮/২০১৯খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে।
১০.	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৮/০৮/২০১৯খ্রিঃ ১৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১.	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৮/২০১৯খ্রিঃ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১২.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৮/২০১৯খ্রিঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৩.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ, সময় এবং স্থান	০৫/০৯/২০১৯খ্রিঃ ১১.০০ ঘটিকা, পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।
দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থানঃ		
১৪.	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	১। ডিআইজি, ঢাকা রেঞ্জ, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়। ২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ। ৩। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রাজবাড়ী।
	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস ও খোলার স্থান	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।
দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্যঃ		
১৫.	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	১। হাসানাদার ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ২। আয়কর সনদ, ৩। ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ৪। ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদ এবং ৫। অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যাহা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।
মালামালের বিবরণঃ		

১৬.	লট নং	আইটেম	পরিমাপ (কেজি/লিটার)	দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা) (অক্ষেরতযোগ্য)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়
	ক.	উন্নতমানের সয়াবিন তেল ক্রয়	১৩,০০০ লিটার	৭৫০/-	৪০,০০০/-	২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরে ২য় কোয়ার্টার (অক্টোবর/নভেম্বর/ডিসেম্বর/২০১৯ মাস)
	খ.	উন্নতমানের মধুর ভাল ক্রয়	১৭,০০০ কেজি	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-	
	গ.	জ্বালানি কাঠ ক্রয়	৩,৫০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	২,৫০০/-	
	ঘ.	গম পেছাই	৯৩,৫০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	১০,০০০/-	
	ঙ.	কুলি কাজঃ চিনি-অনুমোদিত চিনি কল হতে এবং চাল ও গম-জেলা খাদ্য ওদাম হতে ট্রাকে উঠানো/রেশন স্টোরে নামানো	২,০৮,৮০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	২,৫০০/-	
	চ.	পোঙ্গাও চাল ক্রয়	৯০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	৩,০০০/-	
১৭.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	জনাব রিফাত রহমান শামীম পিপিএম।				
১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার, মানিকগঞ্জ।				
১৯.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।				
২০.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ফোনঃ ০২৭৭১০৪০০, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২৭৭১০৩০৬।				
বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ						
(ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।						
(খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।						
(গ) দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।						
(ঘ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত সকল কার্যক্রম পিপিআর/২০০৮, পিপিআর/২০১১ (সংশোধিত) মোতাবেক কার্যকর হবে।						
(ঙ) প্রতিনিধির মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয় ও দরপত্র দাখিলের ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক যথাযথ ক্ষমতাপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।						
(চ) কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণ করতে বাধ্য নহেন।						

রিফাত রহমান শামীম পিপিএম

বিপি নং-৭৩০৫১০০৯৯৯

পুলিশ সুপার

মানিকগঞ্জ

ফোনঃ ০২৭৭১০৪০০

জিডি-১৩৬১

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়	
প্রশাসন শাখা	
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
www.parliament.gov.bd	
১.	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম : বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়।
২.	অর্থের উৎস : জিওবি
৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ও তারিখ : ১১.০০.০০০০.৬০৪.০৭.০৪৯.১৯/৭৬ তারিখঃ ০৭/০৮/২০১৯ খ্রিঃ।
৪.	দরপত্রের ধরণ : ওপেন টেন্ডার।
৫.	মালামালের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ : নন-এইচপি ব্রান্ডের প্রিন্টারের টোনার ও অন্যান্য মালামাল ক্রয়।
৬.	সরবরাহের সময় : চুক্তি অনুযায়ী।
৭.	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা : দরপত্রের সাথে ২০১৮-২০১৯ অর্থবছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ২০১৮-২০১৯ কর বর্ষের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (কোম্পানীর ক্ষেত্রে সর্বশেষ আর্থিক বছরের পরিশোধিত আয়কর সনদপত্র), ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র (১১ ডিজিটের/বিন নম্বর, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ হতে), অথরাইজেশন সনদপত্র, সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র প্রথম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে অরিজিনাল ক্যাটালগসহ দাখিল করতে হবে। এ ছাড়াও দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য সকল শর্তাবলী এক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে।
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য : প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (ক্ষেত্রযোগ্য নয়)।
৯.	Tender security Tender validity period : Tender security (ফেরতযোগ্য)ঃ ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন থেকে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন।
১০.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা : সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (প্রশাসন) (উত্তর-পূর্ব ব্লক, লেভেল-১, কক্ষ নং-১০১), জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-১২২৫ এর বরাবর ২ কপি আবেদনপত্র ও এনআইডি ফটোকপি সহ সিডিউল ক্রয় এবং দাখিলের সময় সংগে আনতে হবে।
১১.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময় : ২২ আগস্ট ২০১৯ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০টা হতে ৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯ তারিখ অপরাহ্ন ৩.০০টা পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন।
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিল এবং খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান : তারিখঃ ৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯ তারিখ সকাল ৯.০০টা হতে বেলা ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত। খোলাঃ ৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০৫ মিনিট। স্থান-অতিরিক্ত সচিব (প্রশাসন-১) অধিশাখা, কক্ষ নম্বর ৭৪১, পূর্ব ব্লক, লেভেল-৭, জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
১৩.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা : কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৪.	টেন্ডার আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর : এ এস এম হুমায়ুন কবীর, সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব, প্রশাসন শাখা, জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২২৫, ফোনঃ ৯১৩১১০০/২১৮৮, ৯১২৫৩৮৯।
২। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ের www.Parliament.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।	
জিডি-১৫৫	

Beyond The Line  
An Autobiography  
KULDIP NAYAR

FROM TWO ECONOMIES TO TWO NATIONS  
MY JOURNEY TO BANGLADESH  
REHMAN SOBHAN

৩. দুসল মাসের সন্মিলিত  
আবুল মনসুর  
আহমদের  
শ্রেষ্ঠ গল্প

MIRZA AZIZUL ISLAM

SELECTED  
MACRO ECONOMIC  
ISSUES  
THEORY AND PRACTICE

Nesar Nadim

NAVEED MAHBUB

DEMONS

HUMOROUSLY YOURS  
AND COUNTING

**AFP, Srinagar**

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PHOTO:  
REUTERS

SEE NPAGE 10 COL 2

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Faridpur*

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

**INDEPENDENT.CO.UK**

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,**  
*Patuakhali*

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-25	12-45	4-45	6-41	8-00
JAMAAT	5-00	1-15	5-00	6-44	8-30

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