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WATER SHARING FROM 54 COMMON RIVERS

Let's find a mutually acceptable formula

Jaishankar says after meeting Momen; hands over Modi's invitation letter to Hasina

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India want a "mutually acceptable formula" for sharing the water of 54 common rivers, said Indian External Relations Minister S Jaishankar yesterday. "We are ready to start from anywhere," he said, adding, "We look forward to making progress in finding mutually acceptable formula to share water from upper riparian 54 rivers."

Jaishankar was talking to reporters at a joint press briefing after a meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at the state guesthouse Jamuna. Asked about signing of the Teesta water-

sharing treaty, Jaishankar said, "We've a position. You all are aware of it. We've a commitment to that position. And there's no change in that regard."

Fair share of the water of the Teesta is crucial for Bangladesh, especially during the dry season (December to March), and the countries failed to sign a sharing deal during the then Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in 2011. West Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had opposed the deal.

Against this backdrop, officials of India and Bangladesh believe the countries can work on sharing water of other

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- Safe, speedy and sustainable return of the displaced people from Myanmar is important in the national interest of all the three countries – Bangladesh, Myanmar and India
- Assam NRC an internal matter for India

ROAD CONSTRUCTION Don't block natural flow of water: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to be careful about construction of roads so that the natural flow of water was not obstructed by those during the rainy season.

She also directed them to work in coordination with the water resources ministry.

The PM gave the directives at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) at the planning ministry. Planning Minister Abdul Mannan later briefed reporters after the meeting.

The directives came at a time when experts blamed poor planning for construction of roads and ignoring the impacts of climate change for the extensive damage to roads caused by recent floods.

According to experts, floods usually cause more damage to roads in Bangladesh as roads and

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DENGUE OUTBREAK

Dhaka-dwellers join in the fight

HELEMUL ALAM, MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A section of Dhaka dwellers has voluntarily intensified measures to kill mosquitoes and prevent them from breeding, aiming to curb further spread of dengue fever in the capital.

Locals are spraying insecticides in their respective areas, cleaning their localities by destroying possible mosquitoes breeding grounds and sources, monitoring activities of under-construction buildings, and holding awareness programmes.

They are also collecting and destroying unnecessary containers -- such as plastic jars, bottles, cans, tyres and buckets -- that can store stagnant water in which Aedes mosquitoes can lay eggs.

"Destroying possible sources [of the spread of mosquitoes] by members of the community is effective when performed regularly to control Aedes and subsequently the spread of dengue fever," epidemiologist of Dhaka Shishu Hospital Kankar Gosh said.

The local community came forward as this year's dengue spread is already the worst in the country, with at least 56,369 cases detected and at least 106 dead so far.

The number of reported infections is five times that of last year, and the actual figures are likely to be higher as many cases go unreported.

Meanwhile, two more people have died after being infected with dengue in Barisal and Faridpur.

WHAT LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE DOING

Community locals said that they took the initiatives to help the city corporations' anti-mosquito drives, as dengue fever has spread all over the country.

"We took the initiative to prevent dengue fever," said

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AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK 2004



A horrific scene in front of the Awami League's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue after the grisly attack on an AL rally there on August 21, 2004. *Top left*, shocked Sheikh Hasina, then leader of the opposition, after the attack. Hasina and late president Zillur Rahman, *bottom left*, grieve for the victims.

STAR FILE PHOTO

In agony, they wait for JUSTICE

SHARIFUL ISLAM and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

With about 1,800 splinters in her body, including two in her brain, what Mahbuba Parvin wants is quick completion of all the procedures paving the way for execution of those involved in the August 21 grenade attacks in 2004.

"Living has been a curse for me. Those who were injured in the grenade attacks feel like dying every moment," she said.

"I don't know when I will die but I want to see implementation of the lower court verdict before my death," Mahbuba, now a senior vice-

president of Dhaka North Swachchasebak League, told this newspaper on August 15.

In the photos that appeared in newspapers after the gruesome attacks on an Awami League rally, she was seen in a blood-stained sari lying among the dead on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital. People initially took her to be dead.

She first moved her limbs after three days in coma, and regained full consciousness after 25 days.

Like her, Rashida Akter Ruma, who is carrying 700 grenade splinters in her body, too wants quick completion of all procedures at

higher courts and punishment of the convicts.

Ruma, a member of Dhaka City Mahila Awami League, said she was saddened as Tarique Rahman, who was the "key planner", was not awarded capital punishment.

Mahbuba and Ruma at least saw the verdict being delivered in the two cases filed over the grisly attacks that left 24 people, including Ivy Rahman, wife of late president Zillur Rahman, killed, and over 300 wounded.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina, then opposition leader, narrowly escaped death with injuries to her right ear.

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LOOKING BACK ■ AS WE REPORTED EARLIER

One man shame for judiciary

RASHIDUL HASAN

A day after the gruesome grenade attack on August 21, 2004, the BNP government formed a one-member inquiry commission comprised of a High Court judge that submitted its report to the home ministry on October 2.

Media reports at that time said Justice Joyntul Abedin's probe hinted at links of "foreign enemies" with the attack but it stopped short of naming any country.

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A CLOSE SHAVE

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and WASIM BIN HABIB

The day before August 21, 2004, Dhaka city Awami League leaders had an informal meeting with party chief Sheikh Hasina for her directives on the next day's rally.

At the end of the meeting, Hasina, in a lighter vein, asked her party leaders to get a big truck so that most of her senior leaders could stand on it.

"Get a table in front of me at the edge of the truck so that no one would fall from the truck should there is any shoving and pushing from behind," Hasina said, laughing.

Never in their wildest dreams did the party leaders imagine that the small table, brought from the Jubo League office, would serve as a temporary shield to protect their party president when grenades would start raining

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Testimony to terror sponsored by state

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The dreadful memories of captivity still send shudder down his spine. Police tortured Joj Mia in custody to make him confess to a crime he did not commit.

He now tries hard to forget the terrifying ordeal but those memories still haunt him.

"My days in prison were a nightmare. I see the torture scenes often

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UNHCR talks to Rohingyas cleared for repatriation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The UNHCR started repatriation discussions yesterday with the Rohingyas selected to return to Myanmar starting from tomorrow.

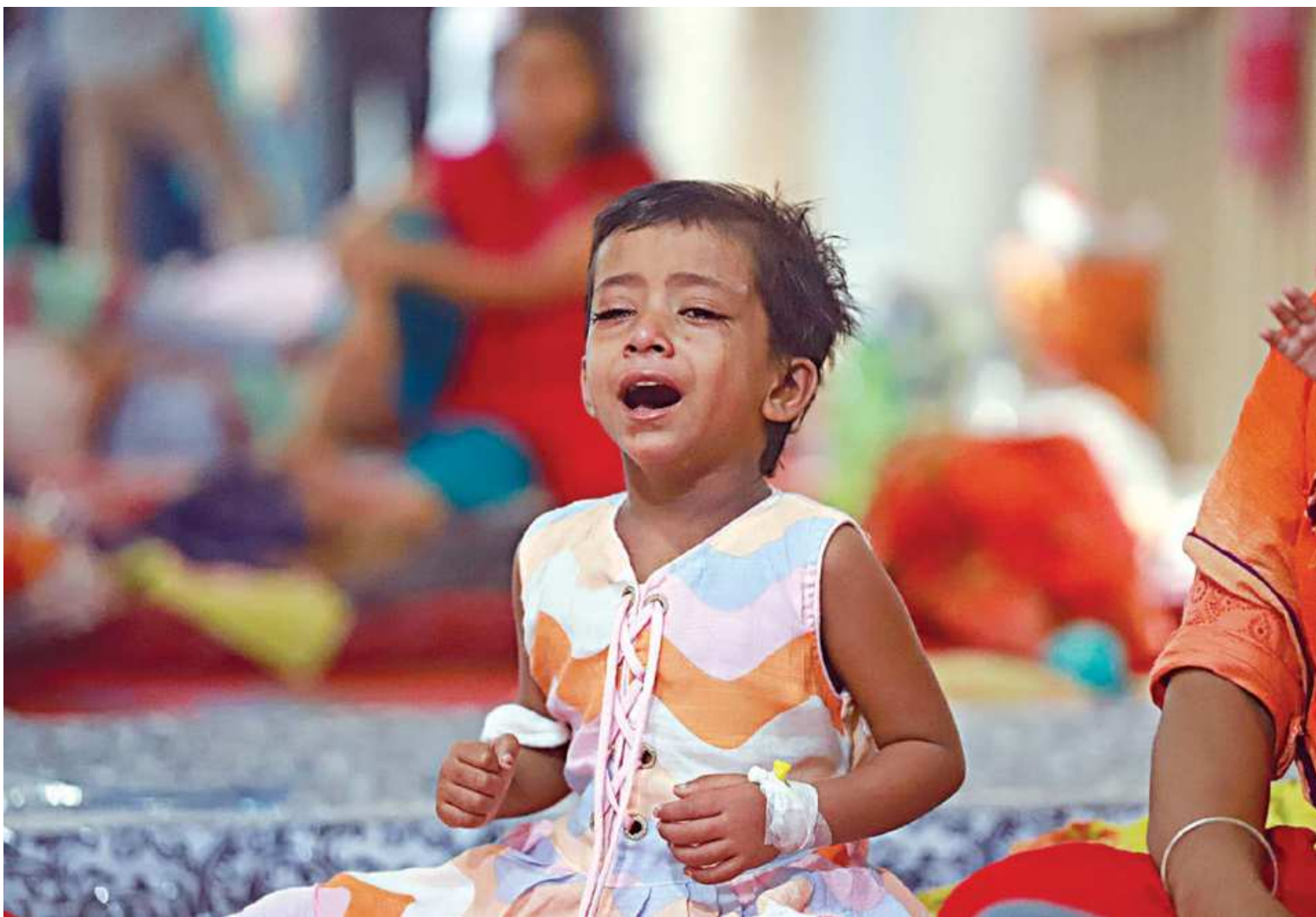
The UN Refugee Agency interviewed the 3,450 Rohingyas cleared for return by the Myanmar government. The engagement, officially called an intention survey, is a key part of the voluntary return of the refugees.

The survey conducted by the UNHCR began at 9:00am at the Shalban Rohingya Camp in Teknaf. Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) officials were also present during the sessions.

Workers from both the organisations, however, refused to say the number of Rohingyas who appeared for the survey which continued till 5:00pm.

Shalban camp in-charge Khaled Hossain said that

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Jannatul Ferdous, 5, cries out at the city's Mugda Medical College Hospital yesterday, three days after she was admitted to the hospital with dengue fever.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

MATARBARI COAL POWER PLANT

Pollution to claim 14,000 lives in 30 yrs

Says a Greenpeace report on Japan-funded projects in South, Southeast Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over three million people from South and Southeast Asia, including Bangladesh, will be exposed to air pollution and face health hazards as the Japanese public finance agencies are funding 17 coal-fired power plants in the region, says a Greenpeace report.

It is estimated that the Japanese investment would cause a total of 148,000 to 410,000 avoidable premature deaths over the typical 30-year operation period of those plants in the region, said the joint Greenpeace Southeast Asia and Greenpeace Japan report released yesterday in Singapore.

In Bangladesh, the number of premature deaths would be up to 14,000 due to pollution by Japan-funded Matarbari coal fired power plant in 30 years since it goes into operation, the report estimates.

The report projected that the Japanese investments would lead to 160,000 premature deaths in India, 72,000 in Indonesia and 36,000 in Vietnam due to long-term exposures to fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide pollution.

All these deaths could be avoided by shifting the investments into renewable energy, the report said.

The report, titled "A deadly double standard:

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Yemen separatists surround two govt camps in south

AFP, Aden

Separatists surrounded two government military bases in Yemen’s south and demanded elements inside surrender, sources on both sides said yesterday, ten days after the secessionists seized defacto capital Aden.

The flare-up, in Abyan province, comes after the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC) partially withdrew from key sites it occupied in Aden, and the Saudi-led military coalition -- which backs the government -- said Riyadh and Abu Dhabi had “succeeded in calming the situation”.

But on Tuesday fighters from the so-called Security Belt Forces surrounded a military camp in Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan, and another at Al-Kawd, according to government sources.

Yemeni Information Minister Moammer al-Eryani said the Zinjibar base had been surrounded, noting that it was a special forces camp.

“The Security Belt Forces... are demanding the (government) troops surrender or they will storm the camp,” he said, referring to a United Arab Emirates trained force that is aligned with the separatist STC.

STC spokesman Nizar Haitham confirmed to AFP that the two pro-government camps were surrounded by separatist troops.

The Security Belt Forces are “pursuing (agents) working to destabilise security and stability and hiding in the camps belonging to the legitimate government”, he told AFP.

The spike in tensions between the separatists and pro-government forces constrains their cooperation against a common foe -- the Iran-aligned Huthi rebels -- in a years-long war that has pushed the country to the brink of famine.

On August 10, the Security Belt Forces ousted loyalists of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi from what was the capital of the formerly independent south in clashes that left around 40 people dead.

They agreed to a withdrawal under pressure by Saudi Arabia and the UAE -- both key to the military coalition supporting the Yemeni government against the Huthis -- but retain control of key military sites.

Yemen’s Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad al-Hadhrami said the latest flare-up will undermine peace talks.

UNHCR talks to Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 1

many of the selected turned up for the engagement sessions conducted at make-shift tents close to the camp office.

Visiting the camp, many Rohingyas were found reading leaflets printed in Arakanese language, also known as Rakhine. The distribution of the leaflets started on Monday.

Detailing the content, Noor Bashar, a resident of the camp, said it said they would have to get the national verification card (NVC) first upon their return to Myanmar.

After that, they would be kept in Nakfura camp in Myanmar from where they would be shifted to another camp in the country for six months.

He, however, said that no Rohingya would be interested for voluntary return until they were given citizenship and the benefits the status would bring.

Badlul Islam, a Rohingya camp leader, said the leaflet mainly focused on providing NVC. “But the Rohingyas are still scared due to the bitter past when they were driven away in the name of being provided the NVC,” said Islam.

Mohammed Riaz, one of the session attendees, said the UNHCR officials told him nothing new, adding that he would not return to Myanmar if their four-point demand was not met.

The Rohingyas’ four-point demands are for holding accountable those who killed and tortured the Rohingyas and drove them out of their land; ensuring citizenship and security of the Rohingyas in Myanmar; giving back their land and properties; and protecting all fundamental rights of the Rohingyas in Myanmar’s Rakhine State.

Rashid Amin, who also attended the session, told the reporters that the whole exercise was “nothing but an eyewash”. He said the discussion of their voluntary return should have been done with Myanmar officials.

In agony, they wait for justice

FROM PAGE 1

But AL leaders Suranjit Sengupta and Mohammad Hanif, who were injured in the attack, and Zillur Rahman, who lost his wife, were not fortunate enough to get justice in their lifetime.

A special court in Dhaka delivered the verdict on October 10 last year.

BNP’s acting chairman Tarique Rahman and 18 others were sentenced to life in prison while former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, and 18 others were given death penalty on charges of murder through criminal conspiracy.

All the 38 accused were also sentenced to life in prison for causing grievous injuries to the survivors.

With the code “Sheikh Hasina will be served a light breakfast”, some home-grown militants with the help of international militant groups launched the attack, said the court in its verdict.

“Specialised lethal weapon Arges grenades, which are used in wars, were blasted in front of the Awami League’s central office on 23 Bangabandhu Avenue in broad daylight with the help of the then state machinery,” said Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 Judge Shahed Nuruddin.

PRESENT STATUS

The High Court is yet to start the hearing on the death references and appeals in connection with the cases due to non-preparation of paper books.

A paper book contains all the details of a case, trial proceedings, statements, evidence, verdicts and other documents. It is necessary for the HC to hear and dispose of a death reference and an appeal.

Once the paper book is ready, an HC bench hears and disposes of its death reference and appeal.

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), if a lower court awards death penalty, the verdict is

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said both Bangladesh and Myanmar were ready to resume the repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland, but some Rohingya leaders and NGOs were discouraging the refugees from returning, reports UNB.

“We’ve heard some Rohingya leaders have emerged there. They don’t want the return of any Rohingya [to their homeland]. They’re trying to stop the returnees. Some INGOs [international non-governmental organisations] and NGOs are instigating them [Rohingyas],” he told a small group of reporters at his office in the afternoon.

He said Bangladesh wanted to see the refugees return to Rakhine State as soon as possible. The two countries would try to resume the repatriation in a small scale from tomorrow.

The much-awaited Rohingya repatriation is set to begin around 10 months after the first attempt failed as the refugees didn’t choose to go back.

Bangladesh authorities have set up two transit camps -- one on the banks of the Naf river near Keruntali of Nayapara in Teknaf and the other near Chumdhum border area of Naikkhanchhari in Bandarban.

The Rohingyas who agree to return will be first taken to the transit camp and then to Myanmar border, where the Myanmar authorities will receive them.

The first attempt of Rohingya repatriation was made on November 15, 2018, a year after Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a bilateral repatriation deal following the influx of nearly 750,000 Rohingya since a military crackdown by Myanmar began on August 25, 2017.

In June 2018, Myanmar signed a tripartite deal with the UNDP and UNHCR, allowing the agencies to undertake assessment work and propose and implement community-based projects to create conditions conducive to Rohingya repatriation.

examined by the HC for confirmation of the punishment.

The case documents and judgment, as the death reference, reach the HC from the lower court within seven days of the verdict.

Contacted, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star on August 6 that the HC is yet start the hearing on death reference and appeals of the grenade attack cases as the paper books are not ready.

“It cannot be specifically said now when the High Court can start the hearing on the death references and appeals of the August 21 grenade attack cases and when the hearing will be finished and they will be disposed of,” he said.

Mohammad Saifur Rahman, special officer of the HC, told this correspondent on August 7 that the official process of preparing the paper books has been started.

“But it cannot be said at this moment when the paper books will be prepared and when the High Court will start the hearing on their death references and appeals,” he added.

After the death reference reached the HC, the convicts, now in jail, filed separate appeals with the HC challenging the trial court verdict.

On January 13 last year, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman accepted the appeals for hearing.

The bench also stayed part of the trial court verdict that fined the convicts of the cases.

The bench passed the order as the appeals filed by the convicts were included in its cause list, the then Assistant Attorney General Md Yousuf Mahmud Morshed had told The Daily Star.

He had also said the HC will hold the hearing on the appeals after relevant procedures are completed.



Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Let’s find a mutually acceptable formula

FROM PAGE 1

common rivers and a secretary-level meeting in early August decided to work on water-sharing and basin management of seven rivers -- the Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Feni, Gumti, Dharla, and the Dudhkumar.

They also decided to have a feasibility study on the proposed Ganges Barrage project, especially its impact on the environment and people’s livelihoods in both the countries.

Asked about concerns that some four million Bangla-speaking people are at the risk of losing Indian citizenship as they were left out of the National Register of Citizens in Assam, Jaishankar said, “This is an internal matter of India.”

However, Foreign Minister Momen later told reporters that India asked Bangladesh not to worry about the NRC issue.

“We said we are already in serious trouble with 1.1 million Rohingyas ... They [Jaishankar] said ‘you don’t worry at all about it,’” Momen told a smaller group of reporters at his ministry office.

The NRC is aimed at identifying illegal immigrants in Assam which shares a border with Bangladesh. Assam had an influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century. It is the only Indian state where people are being registered under the NRC.

When the draft NRC was published on July 30, 2018, there was a controversy over the exclusion of 40.7 lakh people.

This is Jaishankar’s maiden visit to Dhaka since his appointment as the minister of the BJP-led government in May.

The three-day visit, that began on Monday, comes ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s state visit to New Delhi in the first week of October.

Jaishankar handed Hasina Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s invitation for the visit when he met her at the Gono Bhaban later in the day, reports UNB.

Hasina thanked Modi for the

invitation.

PM’s Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting. He said Jaishankar laid emphasis on simplifying the process for people’s visits to the countries.

During the meeting with Hasina, Jaishankar expressed interest in enhancing cooperation in the energy sector, especially hydroelectricity project.

The hydroelectric project can be implemented effectively as the cost of this project is lower, Jaishankar told the PM.

During Jaishankar’s meeting with Momen, the two ministers discussed preparations for the PM’s visit to India. The countries are likely to sign a number of MoUs then.

Details were not disclosed but the ministers discussed border management, reducing untoward incidents at the border, trade and investment, power and energy, river water-sharing, connectivity, culture, and consular issues.

They reviewed progress of projects under the Indian Lines of Credit (LoC). Sources said Momen sought fast disbursement of funds.

The ministers also discussed the Rohingya crisis that has put immense strain on the economy, environment, and security of Bangladesh.

“We agreed that safe, speedy, and sustainable return of the displaced people from Myanmar is important in the national interest of all the three countries -- Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India,” said Jaishankar.

He also reaffirmed India’s readiness to provide more assistance to the Rohingyas in Bangladesh and improve socio-economic conditions in Rakhine State.

Jaishankar said Bangladesh and India are enjoying the best of relations. Over 100 agreements have been signed in the last 10 years and 68 of them were inked in the last three years. The decades-old land boundary and maritime issues have been resolved.

It’s now the golden age of India-

A Close Shave

FROM PAGE 1

down by the truck on the fateful afternoon of August 21. But that’s exactly what the small table did.

The place at the heart of the capital turned out to be a scene of chaos, smokes, screams, and confusion, resembling a set for a war movie. Disjointed limbs and bloody bodies littered everywhere, with sobs of people and mayhem echoing the place.

The grisly grenade attack left 24 people, including Ivy Rahman, wife of late president Zillur Rahman, dead and more than 300 others injured.

Hasina, then Leader of the Opposition, narrowly escaped the attack, but suffered damage in her right ear. The attackers left the spot without a problem, reportedly with the help of the law enforcement agencies.

The BNP-led four-party coalition was in power. After the attack, Hasina held the government responsible, saying it was a government-sponsored attempt to kill her. She demanded an investigation involving the international community.

Moments before the attack, the scene at the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue was different. The place was teeming with party leaders, activists, workers and supporters in the sultry and humid August afternoon.

Glistened with sweat, they were all listening to Hasina speaking from the truck, holding a microphone. Senior leaders and security personnel were also on the truck, which was used as a makeshift dais.

As Hasina was about to close her speech, an explosion occurred at 5:22pm, turning the venue into a ghastly scene of bloody carnage in seconds.

“There was a loud boom all of a sudden. We heard two more explosions in quick successions,” said AL leader Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, as he recounted the fateful evening and the events leading to and following the day to The Daily Star in 2016.

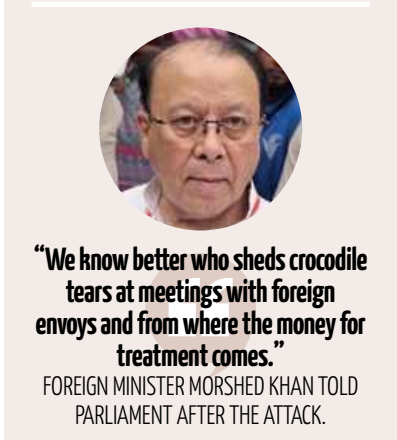
“Apa [Hasina] took two steps backward. We ducked her beneath the table as a cover,” he recalled.

Mohammad Hanif, late Dhaka mayor; Squadron Leader (ret’d) Abdullah Al Mamun, a member of Hasina’s personal security team; Nazib Ahmed, a cousin of Hasina; and Maya, the then general secretary of Dhaka City Unit AL created a human shield to save Hasina.

“It [creating the shield] was nobody’s decision in particular. We



“As investigations are on, I won’t name anyone. But I do know for sure that there was a plot, which is still being nursed. The attack was part of a conspiracy to tarnish my government’s image.”
PM KHALEDA ZIA TOLD A PARTY MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2004.



“We know better who sheds crocodile tears at meetings with foreign envoys and from where the money for treatment comes.”
FOREIGN MINISTER MORSHED KHAN TOLD PARLIAMENT AFTER THE ATTACK.



just followed our instinct to save Apa. So that the bullets hit us, not her,” said Maya.

Echoing him, Nazib Ahmed said the human shield had been in place for three-four minutes.

“When it appeared that she [Hasina] was the target, we encircled her. Nobody gave any instructions about this to anyone. What we had in our mind was to save her at the cost of our lives,” said Nazib, a cousin of Hasina.

Hasina was praying herself and asked them all to do the same, he recalled.

Sri Lanka rejects international criticism of new army chief

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday rejected as “unwarranted and unacceptable” mounting international criticism of the appointment of a general accused of war crimes as the island nation’s army chief.

The foreign ministry called the appointment of Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva as commander of the Sri Lankan army a “sovereign decision” by President Maithripala Sirisena.

“Foreign entities trying to influence the decisions and internal administrative processes of public service promotions in Sri Lanka is unwarranted and unacceptable,” the ministry said in a statement.

Colombo added that the international condemnations were “based on allegations”.

“Articulating a position of concern... is regrettable and contrary to the principles of natural justice,” the ministry added.

The statement came amid a chorus of opposition to Silva, who has been accused by the United Nations of committing war crimes during the final stages of Sri Lanka’s separatist conflict.

Pollution

FROM PAGE 1

How Japan’s financing of highly polluting overseas coal plants endangers public health”, also stated that Japanese-financed coal power plants are likely to emit up to 13 times more nitrogen oxides (NOx), 33 times more sulfur dioxide (SO2) and 40 times more dust than those plants built in Japan.

Most of those power plants located in South and Southeast Asian countries were financed by Japanese public finance agencies JBIC, JICA and NEXI. They have invested a total of \$16.7 billion from January 2013 to May 2019 in coal plants of which Indonesia is the major recipient, 42 percent, Vietnam 20 percent and Bangladesh 18 percent.

Japan has developed technology to reduce emissions and is using that in their own coal-fired plants, but they are financing for inferior technologies in other countries, the report said, adding that the Japanese government was “exporting air pollution overseas”.

Japan has a stricter guideline than WHO set recommendations for air pollution for their own country. But those power plants Japan is financing would breach WHO set guideline for air pollution, the report mentioned.

According to World Health Organisation, air pollution increases the risk of diseases such as stroke, lung cancer, heart and respiratory illness in adults, as well as respiratory infections in children.

“It’s unfortunate to see the gap between Japan’s promises of exporting quality infrastructure and the reality of low-quality coal technology exports. Japan should honour its trading partners and citizens of those countries by promoting energy technologies that stop hurting people’s health and the environment,” said Senior Energy Campaigner Hanna Hakko at Greenpeace Japan.

Japan is currently the only G7 country still actively building new coal power plants at home and abroad, and is the second largest public investor in overseas coal projects among the G20 countries.

“If it’s not good enough for Japan, it’s not good enough for Indonesia. Governments in the host countries of Japan’s coal projects must protect their citizens by setting stronger emission standards,” Tata Mustasya, Greenpeace Southeast Asia’s regional climate and energy campaign coordinator, said in the report.

Greenpeace demands that both Japan and countries receiving Japanese coal financing immediately shift away from coal and toward clean renewable energy sources, the report added.

Don’t block

FROM PAGE 1

highways are often built obstructing the natural flow of water. If roads are needed in such areas, more culverts should be built there, but engineers give this little consideration, they said.

More than 1,000km of roads under the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) were damaged by flood this year. Two floods in 2017 had damaged 5,015km of roads.

Mannan said the PM asked the authorities to construct required number of culverts to ensure free flow of water. She also directed them to construct elevated roads in haor areas so that water can flow under those.

Hasina asked them to plant trees along roads and embankments and include the expenditure of tree plantation in project costs.

She directed the authorities to install all electricity lines underground. The planning minister said works for taking all electricity lines underground have already started and those will be completed in phases.

The Ecnc yesterday approved 12 projects involving Tk 3,470 crore.

'Best remedy for bad speech is more speech'

Four Gulshan buildings fined Tk three lakh

US counterterrorism specialist on combating radicalisation

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

John T Godfrey, deputy coordinator for regional and multilateral affairs, Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism under the US Department of State was in Dhaka on a two-day (August 18, 19) visit.

During the visit, Godfrey -- who is responsible for the Bureau's Office of South and Central Asia and the Near East; Office of Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas; and the Office of Multilateral Affairs -- attended a roundtable on 'counterterrorism and countering violent extremism' at the US embassy with academics, journalists and experts from other relevant sectors. In an interview, he shared his views on the subject with The Daily Star.

Are you partnering with Bangladesh in countering violent extremism?

Godfrey: Yes, we are. The [US] embassy has a range of programmes in partnership with the government of Bangladesh. These are implemented in different parts of the country and target different groups who are considered to be at risk.

What is your take on violent extremism in Bangladesh?

Godfrey: Bangladesh obviously has had the unfortunate experience of acts of terrorism committed here, some of them recently. I think the one that grabbed everyone's attention was the terrible attack at Holey Artisan Bakery in 2016, and following the incident, the government took a number of steps to dismantle the network that had conducted that attack.

There has been some success in dealing with that particular threat. I think there's concern regarding Bangladesh being located in a region where Islamic State (IS) and other terrorist groups have shown interest in trying to develop capacity and perhaps even establish a presence. Going forward, a high level of attention on efforts to mitigate that threat is needed.

Bangladesh has decided that it will not allow foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) to return to the country. Do you think this will help in addressing the issue?

Godfrey: Our policy is that FTFs' countries of origin



John T Godfrey

should repatriate those individuals and prosecute them where appropriate, but there should certainly be programmes in place that provide for the appropriate monitoring, deradicalisation and reintegration of those individuals. One of our concerns is that leaving them where they are in north-eastern Syria might be feasible in the short term, but in the long run this could create problems -- both for Bangladesh and other places those individuals might travel to.

FTFs have started moving to different countries, especially in South Asia after the IS was dismantled. How alarming is it?

Godfrey: Some of those individuals [FTFs] are very dangerous people and there is concern that if they are able to move to other countries, they will re-establish their networks and develop capabilities -- posing threats to those countries.

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) has been silent for a long time. Do you think they pose a threat to Bangladesh?

Godfrey: The world's attention for the past several years has understandably been focused on IS, because of the events in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere.

Al-Qaeda, being an opportunistic organisation, has quietly taken advantage of this to rebuild its capacity and expand its network. We are quite concerned that they are poised to do something to reassert their position.

I would say AQIS very much fits in that broader trend.

Self-radicalisation through online content has become a major threat. What would be your suggestion to stop the "lone-wolf" or "wolf pack" attacks and home-grown radicalisation?

Godfrey: It is not possible to give a simple answer to this. It's a complex challenge that involves a range of efforts running in parallel to and complementing each other to help change the mentality of individuals who are self-radicalised and also the environment.

It's important to understand that often people go through traumatic events or challenges that leave them vulnerable to radicalisation. Having systems, programmes in place that allow people to understand what those signs of radicalisation look like -- when someone is going through that kind of experience -- provide for effective intervention to

“Shutting down websites or removing content from the internet is not sufficient to really address those issues [radicalisation]. The techniques that have proven to work better over time are alternative narratives.”

steer people off the path of radicalisation.

It's a challenging task but it's something really important -- particularly in societies where there are people who feel marginalised for a number of reasons.

Will shutting down websites be enough for combating radicalisation?

Godfrey: Unfortunately, again this is an issue where there is no single solution. Shutting down websites or removing content from the internet is not sufficient to really address those issues. The techniques that have proven to work better over time are alternative narratives or so-called counter narratives.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Land owner of FR tower gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to the land owner of FR Tower, SMHI Faruque, considering his illness and old age, till August 29 in connection with the cases filed for illegal extension of the high-rise in Banani that caught fire on March 27.

The devastating fire left 25 people killed and 73 others injured.

Yesterday, Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order a day after his arrest when Faruque was produced before it with a forwarding report.

Md Abu Bakar Siddique, a deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission and also the investigation officer of the case, produced Faruque before it in the afternoon.

The IO appealed to the court to keep the accused in jail until the investigation is complete. Moreover,

ACC Public Prosecutor Mosharrar Hossain Kajol told the court that the accused was involved in illegally extending the building.

Meanwhile, defense lawyer Sheikh Baharul Islam submitted a bail petition saying that his client is now about 80 years old and he has been suffering from different ailments including hearing impediment.

On Monday, Faruque was arrested from Gulshan area around 1:30pm.

On June 25, ACC filed two cases accusing 23 people for their alleged involvement in illegally extending the building. The accused include a former chairman of Rajuk, chairman of Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd and several government officials.

In an ACC enquiry, it was discovered that the 23-storey FR Tower had no fire alarm, narrow exit points and staircases, blocked fire exits and other issues. Besides, although the

authorities had legally obtained a permission for a 15-storey building, they made the FR Tower a 23-storey building with time. As a result, the casualties peaked.

ACC sued 20 and five people respectively in two cases filed over illegal extension of FR Tower from 16th to 18th and 19th to 23rd floors. Two of the accused were charged in both the cases.

On Monday, another accused Tasvir Ul Islam, one of the owners of the FR Tower, got bail in the same cases after he was produced before the same court.

Moreover, Liakat Ali Khan alias Mukul, 57, chairman of Rupayan Group -- the builder company of FR Tower, got bail in the cases on August 8 after his surrender. While assistant director of Rajuk Shah Md Sadrul Alam was arrested on July 28 and is now in jail in the same cases.

9TH WAGE BOARD FOR JOURNOS No bar to publish gazette: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the government to publish the gazette notification on implementing the recommendation of ninth wage board for journalists.

The apex court stayed for eight weeks the High Court order that issued status quo on publication of the gazette.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order following a petition filed by the government, seeking a stay on the HC order.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam represented the government while advocate AF Hasan Arif appeared for the Newspaper Owners' Association (Noab).

On August 6, the HC issued the status quo for two months. The court also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain why the unilateral finalisation of the award by the ninth wage board without giving the stakeholders opportunity to raise objections to the recommendations should not be declared illegal.

On Monday, the SC bench fixed yesterday for passing the order.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

DU, JU students protest attack on Ducsu VP Nur

DU CORRESPONDENT

A section of Dhaka University students formed a human chain on the campus yesterday, protesting the repeated attacks on Ducsu Vice President Nurul Haque Nur.

Under the banner of "General Students of Dhaka University", around 100 students took part in the programme, where they also demanded that the authorities provide necessary security to Nur.

"The attacks on Ducsu VP proves that no one is safe. If the attackers are not brought to book, they would be more aggressive and carry out such attack again and again," said Nusrat Tabassum, a third-year student of Linguistics department.

Hasanul Banna, a master's student, said, "It

is known to all that BCL activists are involved with the attacks. I request the prime minister to provide proper security to him [Nur] and bring the attackers to book."

Meanwhile, quota reformists of Jahangirnagar University (JU) also protested the recent attack on Ducsu VP in Patuakhali.

The leaders and activists of "Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad" formed a human chain in front of JU Shaheed Minar around 11:30am.

At the human chain, Abu Sayeed, co-coordinator of the organisation, said, "Nur has been repeatedly attacked by those belonging to the ruling party, but the attackers are being sheltered."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A man helps pull a motorbike up after its rider lost control and fell on the road due to an abrupt hard brake while trying to avoid collision with another bike. Witnesses said the incident took place when both the bikers speeded up to beat the signal at the intersection. The photo was taken in Chankharpool area yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DHAKA TODAY

DISCUSSION

Spirit of Liberation War & Ideology of Bangabandhu
Organiser: Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal
Nirmul Committee
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
Time: 4pm

PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

One Click One Story
Organiser: Photographers Club Bangladesh
Venue: Drik Gallery
Time: 11am

WORKSHOP

Application of Applied Behaviour Analysis
Organiser: Countrywide Health Initiative for Learning & Development
Venue: Gulshan North Club Limited
Time: 9am

EXHIBITION

Architectural designs will be displayed remembering the August 21 grenade attack
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Time: 6:30pm



It has been a hot day, and they have been on the road since morning -- selling flowers, peanuts and water. So these boys decided to take a break, that too in the best possible way, by taking a dip in the fountain at the Bijoy Sarani intersection. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

'What is the condition of Dhaka's canals?'

ACC asks DC, Wasa to respond within 15 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has asked Dhaka's deputy commissioner (DC) and Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to report to the commission about the status of the capital's canals.

In two separate letters signed by ACC Director General Sayeed Mahbub Khan, the anti-graft watchdog yesterday asked for a response within 15 working days.

"It was seen in published reports by the media and researchers that most of the government canals under watch of Dhaka's deputy commissioner and Wasa have been occupied by influential land grabbers," read the letters. Besides, many canals have been filled due to lack of proper renovation and excavation, or dumping rubbish, they said.

The letters read, "Due to the environmental imbalance, natural disasters and waterlogging are becoming acute day by day."

Against this backdrop, it is necessary to recover grabbed canals and bring them under government control to protect the environment and solve waterlogging.

ACC asked both the authorities to inform about how many canals are under their jurisdiction and of these how many are grabbed.

The authorities were also asked to report on steps they have taken to recover these canals from grabbers.

In December 2017, the High Court directed the government to prepare an action plan and create a list of land grabbers for recovering 50 canals in both Dhaka City Corporation zones by July 2018.

The government, however, took more time from the HC to formulate the action plan, the source said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

ATTACK ON HASINA'S TRAIN HC accepts appeals of 43 convicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday accepted three separate appeals filed by 43 convicts in a case over attack on a train carrying the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina in Pabna's Ishwardi 25 years ago.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice SM Abdul Mobin agreed to take the appeals after defence lawyer Barrister Kayser Kamal moved a prayer in this regard.

Barrister Kayser told The Daily Star that the HC will set a date later for hearing the appeals.

The 43 convicts on July 21 filed the appeals with the HC seeking acquittal of the charges in the case.

Among the convicted appellants, who are now in jail, eight were sentenced to death, 22 were sentenced to life imprisonment and 13 were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by the lower court concerned.

On July 3 this year, a Pabna court awarded death to nine people, life imprisonment to 25, and 10 years' rigorous imprisonment to 13 in the case filed under the Explosives Substances Act, 1908.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

MSF sees no solution in sight for Rohingyas

UNB, Dhaka

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) yesterday said very little progress has been made to address the lack of legal status for the Rohingyas in the region, or to address the underlying causes of the Rohingyas' exclusion in Myanmar.

A marginalised ethnic minority from Rakhine state, the Rohingyas have in recent decades been subject to mounting targeted state exclusion and persecution, it said adding that two years ago, news of Myanmar's campaign of violence against the Rohingyas dominated the headlines.

MSF Emergency Coordinator in Cox's Bazar, Arunn Jegan, said he first came to Cox's Bazar in June 2017, at a time when thousands of Rohingyas were already in Bangladesh from previous waves of targeted violence.

Even then, he said, the needs were massive. "I returned as project coordinator that August, as hundreds of thousands more people arrived. It was obvious the Rohingyas were fleeing violence -- in a two-week period between August and September 2017."

At the border crossings, he said, they saw Rohingyas arriving with burns, gunshots, lacerations, and smoke asphyxiation. "The trauma was visible on people's faces and bodies."

To date, no meaningful solutions have been offered to the Rohingyas, who have been pushed to the margins of society in virtually all the countries they have fled to.

In Bangladesh, over 9,12,000 Rohingyas still live in the same basic bamboo structures as when they first arrived, face travel and work restrictions, and remain wholly reliant on humanitarian aid, MSF said.

With children unable to attend formal schooling, future generations are deprived of an opportunity to improve their situation.

Many of the illnesses MSF treats at its clinics in Cox's Bazar are a result of the poor living conditions that the Rohingyas endure, with poor access to clean latrines or water.

MSF continues to treat tens of thousands of patients a month, performing over 1.3 million consultations between August 2017-June 2019.

"Two years on, there are now better roads, more latrines and clean water points in and around the camps. There's more sense of order. But conditions in the camps remain precarious and big questions about people's futures are still unanswered," says Jegan.

Jegan said, "When I think of the future for the Rohingyas, my biggest hope is that they're able to return home safely. Until then, I hope they're afforded greater self-sufficiency, education rights, as well as the legal recognition they deserve. If these things don't happen now, I fear the Rohingyas will be in the same situation in another two years, only with even fewer services available to them. Any decrease in aid should only come in tandem with growing self-sufficiency."

The Rohingyas likewise remain in limbo in Malaysia, where they have been fleeing to over the past 30 years.

Road crashes kill seven

FROM PAGE 5

Anta-zila Sarak Paribahan Shramik Union.

In Patiya, Md Rafiqul Islam Arju, 25, and Md Shahjahan, 42, both hailing from the upazila, were killed after their motorcycle collided with a truck at Amjurhat area around 11pm on Monday, said police, quoting locals.

Rafiqul and Shahjahan, who were family members, were going to the city from the upazila, and after the accident, fell into a roadside ditch. Police recovered their bodies around midnight and handed them over to their family, they added.

The bus and truck involved in both accidents were seized. One driver fled the scene while the other (trucker) was injured.

Ensure proper atmosphere for academic activities

President tells universities



President Abdul Hamid with the delegation from Comilla University.

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked universities to take necessary steps to ensure a congenial atmosphere for academic activities.

He made the remarks when a delegation led by Comilla University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Emran Kabir Chowdhury met him at Bangabhaban in the afternoon.

During the meeting, the VC apprised the president of ongoing development activities of the university.

President's Press Secretary Joyнал

Abedin briefed reporters after the meeting.

President Hamid urged universities to take measures to ensure congenial atmosphere for education.

He advised updating the curriculum to keep up with the world's reputed educational institutions.

The president said universities should emphasise research activities alongside routine academic activities.

VC Kabir invited the president, also the chancellor of the university, to preside over the 1st convocation of

the university.

Another delegation led by the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Brac University, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, paid a visit to President Hamid.

During the meeting, the president stressed on ensuring quality education at private universities.

He underscored increasing extra-curricular activities alongside the academic ones to get the students ready for the global stage.

Secretaries concerned to president were also present during the meeting.

PHOTO: PID

Best remedy for bad speech

FROM PAGE 3

In the US, we would say "the best remedy for bad speech is more speech". That right to free expression is enshrined in our constitution and that's the way we approach this particular issue. I would say, in many societies one of the things we have seen as a contributing factor of radicalisation by IS and AQIS and other extremist groups is the absence of messages that counter what those groups are putting out. It's something all societies need to particularly focus on.

What should be the government's

approach in countering violent extremism?

Godfrey: One of the important things for any government is to have a healthy dialogue with actors outside of government -- that include civil society and non-governmental organisations, religious leaders, community leaders etc.

I think it allows governments to have a much better and more accurate understanding of the challenges that people are facing within society and of the dynamics that are driving things like radicalisation.

Rajshahi police's new approach

FROM PAGE 5

the city's Sona Dighi intersection in the afternoon. When he protested, the men attacked him, he alleged on Facebook.

"The incident was reported to the police over a cell phone call within few hours of the incident and we jumped into the investigation, recording a general diary," said police official Golam Ruhul Kuddus. However, the police could not take any stern legal action as the victims themselves had not lodged a complaint, he added.

Six days later, the Ruet teacher's wife agreed to file a complaint with Boalia police station and the police gathered eyewitness' description of the criminals and video footage from CCTV cameras.

On Monday afternoon, the police arrested three youths in connection of their involvement in the assault and harassment incident, and they were identified by the couple.

"We could catch them easily with cooperation from the victims," the police official said.

No bar to publish gazette

FROM PAGE 3

The government on January 29 last year constituted the ninth wage board to propose enhanced salary and other benefits for journalists and other employees of newspapers and news agencies.

On July 25 this year, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said a cabinet committee has finalised its report for endorsement.

Quader, who heads the seven-member cabinet committee, had told newsmen that "after the final approval [by the cabinet], a gazette will be published" for its implementation.

DU, JU students protest

FROM PAGE 3

On August 14, Nur was attacked allegedly by BCL and Jubo League activists in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila while he was travelling to Dashmina upazila town to meet his sister. On the way around 1:30pm, the group forced him into a shop and beat him up.

Nur alleged that Galachipa upazila Chairman Shahin Shah led the attack on the directives of Patuakhali-3 lawmaker SM Shahjada Shaju.

When asked, both of them denied the allegation.

INVESTOR REQUIRED

Export oriented socks factory in EPZ having good production capacity and quality machines looking for foreign/ local investor to run the factory jointly. Contact: 01841544056

COMMERCIAL SPACE TO LET/FOR SALE

Two consecutive floors of 13,500 sqft each, (27,000 sqft) at Progoti Swarni to be let out/Sold together or separately; suitable for any kind of Commercial office. Please contact: 01819213824 / 01921589079

TIME EXTENSION OF RFP FOR OFFICE SPACE RENTAL

With reference to request for proposal for office space rental published in 'Daily Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and The Daily Ittefaq' on 25/07/2019; following date to be extended:

Duly completed proposal with requested document should be submitted in P.O. Box No. 6120, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 or through email to iorghq@gmail.com by September 04, 2019. For detail please download RFP from link <http://bit.ly/2JYyikC>.

Note: All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

ঔষধ প্রত্যাহারের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা স্মৃষ্টি সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অরিজিন ল্যাবরেটরীজ (আর্যুবেদিক) এর উপাদানিত ঔষধ হার্বোজিন (DAR NO. 017), ব্যাচ নম্বর J028। এই পদটি সরকারী বিশেষক কর্তৃক মান-বহির্ভূত/ভেজাল হইয়াছে। সুতরাং জনস্বার্থের কথা বিবেচনা করে সমগ্র দেশের বাজার হতে উক্ত ব্যাচের ঔষধটি স্মৃষ্টি এলাকার অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধিগণ কর্তৃক বাজার হতে সংগ্রহ করে অনতিবিলম্বে সের্ব প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো এবং প্রত্যাধারকৃত ঔষধসমূহের তথ্যাদি একীভূত করে ঔষধ প্রশাসনে পরবর্তীতে প্রতিবেদন প্রেরণ করা হবে। বিষয়টি অতিব জরুরি।
রাজন প্রামানিক
ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক
অরিজিন ল্যাবরেটরীজ (আর্যুবেদিক)
নওদাপাড়া, রাজশাহী

ফি-২০৫

HC accepts appeals

FROM PAGE 3

All the convicts are leaders and activists of local BNP units and its front organisations.

On September 23, 1994, Sheikh Hasina, now the prime minister, was travelling from Khulna to Saidpur by train and addressed several rallies at different railway stations on the way.

As the train reached Pakshi Station in Ishwardi, it came under attack. Crude bombs were hurled and shots fired. Many were injured while the AL president was hurt.

Following the attack, Nazrul Islam, the then officer-in-charge of Ishwardi General Railway Police Station, filed a case against five members of BNP and its associate bodies.

What is the condition

FROM PAGE 3

The list of land grabbers would be included in the plan for removing encroachments, regulating pollution and ensuring proper maintenance of canals.

The court also ordered the authorities concerned to demarcate areas of these canals so that they would return to their original shape.

The bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan came up with the order following a writ petition filed as a public interest litigation by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, seeking necessary directives to protect the canals.

Defence completes

FROM PAGE 5

refusing to withdraw a case she had filed against her principal, Siraj Ud Doula, for sexually harassing her. She died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on April 10.

The OC was withdrawn the same day after Nusrat's family alleged that he had not cooperated with them. During that time, a video clip of Moazzem asking Nusrat several humiliating questions went viral on social media, drawing widespread criticism.

Moazzem was suspended on May 8 for negligence in duty. Police later arrested him in the capital's Supreme Court area.



Children pose with their prizes after participating in a drawing and writing competition organised at the capital's BIAM Model School and College on Monday, on the occasion of National Mourning Day.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

RAK CERAMICS

RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited

RAK Tower (7th, 8th & 9th Floor), Plot # 1/A, Jasimuddin Avenue, Sector # 3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka- 1230

Price Sensitive Information

Further to our price sensitive information dated May 12, 2019, where we intimated that one of our tiles production lines i.e. Plant # 3 is under maintenance shutdown.

This is for information of all concerned that the Company announces the resumption of operations in said Plant # 3 from August 21, 2019.

For RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited

Sd/-

Dated: Dhaka

August 20, 2019

(Muhammad Shahidul Islam FCS)

Company Secretary

World Food Programme

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Supplier Enlistment)

Expression of Interest Number: CXB19NF83EOI

1. INTRODUCTION

UNWFP with offices in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh is undertaking an exercise of updating its supplier's roster and hereby invites expression of interest from prospective suppliers and service providers.

WFP will draw up a list of suppliers and service providers who meet the criteria set out at point n°3. Each time a specific tender is to be concluded, WFP will invite all vendors on the list of the relevant categories of goods/services to submit a tender.

Inclusion on the list of WFP Vendors does not mean that a company shall be invited in all tenders and does not constitute any contractual relationship between the company and WFP. It only means that if included in the database, a company will be given an equal consideration in process of supplier selection.

2. LIST OF FOOD COMMODITIES, GOODS AND SERVICES

- a) Interpretation and translation; b) Surveys, evaluation and data collection;
- c) Promotional & visibility materials (banners, sign post, caps t-shirts, branded vests etc);
- d) Provision of man power semi-skilled and skilled labour services;
- e) Office furniture; f) Office equipment and maintenance-photocopiers, binders;
- g) Office stationery and household items;
- h) Electronic data processing equipment (Computers, Laptops, Servers, Printers, Scanners etc);
- i) Weighing scales both electronic & mechanical;
- j) Electrical equipment and maintenance services (generators, air-conditioning systems, Inverters, solar panel systems);
- k) Warehouse materials/equipment (fumigation sheets, tarpaulins, phostoxin, wooden and plastic pallets, packaging materials, PP bags, bag stitching machines etc.); l) Consultancies (environmental management, hydrologist);
- m) Prefabricated structures;
- n) Construction and engineering equipment and works (civil engineering, mechanical engineering, architectural designers);
- o) Construction materials supply; p) Supply and maintenance of security equipment and services;
- q) Firefighting equipment, services and maintenance; r) Office supplies-bottled water services, newspaper supply services etc;
- s) Telecommunication equipment and services; t) Insurance services; u) Medical / pharmaceutical supplies;
- v) Printing, publishing services; w) Garbage collection and disposal services; x) Auction services; y) Food grade plastic containers;
- z) Supply of used standard containers. aa) Cleaning and security companies;
- bb) Vehicle rental services; cc) Vehicle maintenance services and spare parts (garage services);
- dd) Heavy & light construction equipment rental services; ee) Hotel & conferences facilities and event management;
- ff) Maintenance and repair of plumber and carpentry; gg) Customs clearance; hh) Provision/supply of fuel;
- ii) Courier services; jj) Catering; kk) Pest control and management; ll) Provision of language tutorial/teaching (English/French/Spanish).

For those who sent their documents in the past, no need to send them again, you are on our roster

3. CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION ON (One or More) OF CATEGORIES OF SERVICES OR GOODS

In expressing your interest to UNWFP, the prospective suppliers and service providers must submit the following requirements, and this shall be the criteria for inclusion and exclusion from the vendor list.

- a) A cover letter introducing the prospective suppliers/service provider and a brief business profile;
- b) Certificate of Registration/Incorporation, Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association;
- c) Letters of recommendation from at least three reputable public/private or United Nations institutions/organizations/agencies;
- d) A complete set of audited accounts for the last three years;

Those already in UNWFP supplier's roster aren't required to make a fresh expression of interest.

Expressions of interest must be sent in Zipped folder to the following email: coxsbazar.procurement@wfp.org and clearly marked in subject line: **Expression of Interest N° CXB19NF83EOI**

All expression of interest should be received no later than **4 September 2019 at 15.00 Bangladesh Time**. No expression of interest will be received after the closing date and time.

This exercise may include an interview with the applicant, inspection of applicants' office/premises, facilities and any other items of interest to UNWFP.

Cox's Bazar, 4th August 2019

Harmesh (Zeff) KAPOOR
Deputy Emergency Coordinator (OIC)
WFP - Cox's Bazar

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়

ঢাকা।

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ১১৩৩/২০১৯

তারিখঃ ৫ অগস্ট ২০১৯

২০ আগস্ট ২০১৯

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ এ সিনিয়র অফিসার পদে ২য় পর্যায় নিয়োগ প্রসঙ্গে।

বিপত ৩০/০৬/২০১৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত ও ০৪/১০/২০১৮ থেকে ০৮/১২/২০১৮ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মধ্য হতে নিম্নলিখিত রোল নম্বরধারী ৭৬ (ছিয়াত্তর) জন প্রার্থী সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ-এ "সিনিয়র অফিসার" পদে নিয়োগের জন্য দ্বিতীয় পর্যায় নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন:

11000500	11005375	11008461	11010685	11013719	11017406	11018784	11021274	11032446
11036132	11037340	11040214	11046006	11046633	11053991	11054399	11056864	11057909
11059013	11059497	11059970	11060173	11068593	11074103	11074274	11074422	11076396
11081037	11083822	11084349	11085946	11086629	11088361	11091727	11093499	11093643
11098880	11101429	11110996	11111967	11113444	11120662	11121232	11124380	11125547
11127454	11128419	11131896	11132489	11134374	11143475	11146614	11158729	11165307
11167855	11168872	11169094	11172003	11184626	11187662	11193467	11194124	11194333
11195677	11197072	11207180	11208380	11209421	11218285	11225629	11227734	11228541
11234929	11236760	11243913	11254003	= 76 Persons.				

নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রম সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত হবে।

ডিসিপি: ৪৮/২০১৯-২৮৭১

তারিখ: ২০/০৮/২০১৯

স্বাক্ষরিত/=(
মোহাম্মদ আলী)
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সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

যাচাই ও আর্থিক সেবা পোত হওয়ার পরে নিম্নের হতে নিম্নের
কোনো অভিযোগ গ্রহণে ১২০৬ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে করা হবে।

GD-1385

Governement of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Public Health Engineering

Office of Executive Engineer, Research and Development Division

DPHE Bhaban, 14, Shahid Captain Monsur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

Memo No: 46.03.2600.083.07.008.19-328

Date: 19/08/2019

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No.	Package No	Description	Online Publication Date and Time	Online Closing Date and Time
347821	SWTSP RBF-10	Supply & Installation of photocopier under Surface Water Treatment and Supply Project for Ranganati Bagerhat and Faridpur District	19-August-2019 17:00	04-September-2019 15:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(A.H.M. Khalequr Rahman)
Executive Engineer(c.c.)
Phone: 02-9330061

GD-1376



FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21, 2019, BHADRA 6, 1426 BS

Take action against the attackers

Ducsu VP attacked for the eighth time!

WE condemn the attack on Ducsu Vice President Nurul Haque Nur by the ruling party men during Eid vacation. Reportedly, Nur along with his friends were attacked with rods, steel pipes, and machetes allegedly by local Chhatra League and Jubo League activists in Patuakhali's Galachipa while they were going to Nur's sister's house. According to Nur, after the assault, the attackers confined them to a shop for some time and even prevented him from getting treatment at local hospitals. Sadly, this is not an isolated case. Since being elected Ducsu VP on June 30 last year, Nur has been attacked eight times by activists of Chhatra League and other ruling party affiliated organisations. He was even beaten up for joining an event as innocuous as an iftar party last Ramadan.

What's more, he had been threatened by the ruling party men and members of law enforcement agencies several times. Nur alleged all this in a recent press conference. The question that naturally arises: Is he being targeted for being a leader of the Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, the platform that spearheaded the quota reform movement? This platform has earned a reputation for standing up for the general students' rights during many past student movements. Nur's claim that he and activists of his organisation face the wrath of the ruling party men for protesting their wrongdoings must have some ground. The government must look into such allegations.

Frequent attacks on an elected vice president of Ducsu only goes to show the lack of tolerance of the ruling party men towards dissenting voices. This is not acceptable in a democracy. The government must ensure a democratic environment where dissenting voices are not met with repression by those in power. In this particular case, the law enforcement agencies must play their due role and take action against those who attacked Nur and others. We also hope that those who previously attacked Nur would also be brought to justice. Nur must be protected from what appears to be targeted attacks by members of the ruling party. We appeal to the prime minister to intervene and stop these senseless acts of political vengeance by members of her party.

Business as usual at Chawkbazar

The chemical warehouses are back!

IT has been six months since the devastating fire that ripped through Chawkbazar. We are silent witnesses to the lives lost and the empty promises made by authorities that things would change and chemical warehouses would not be allowed to store their ware in the residential area. Unfortunately, this is a classic case of avoiding responsibility. As the public gaze moved away from the Chawkbazar tragedy, the warehouses have returned silently. To apply salt to injury, the families of those injured or those who became casualties in the fire have not received any financial compensation from the State.

The infamous Haji Wahed Mansion, where the fire had originally started, stands like a ghost mansion. Of the thirty or so businesses that sustained damage in the fire that spread, a mere five establishments have been able to recuperate their losses and start all over again. The people who live in the neighbourhood of Haji Wahed Mansion continue to live in fear of their lives because the danger remains omnipresent. We would like to know why authorities refuse to take action against the hundreds of warehouses storing flammable material which continue to operate in the area with impunity.

While local community pressure has desisted the infamous Haji Wahed Mansion from opening shop again, precisely what is to stop yet another disaster to strike again in Chawkbazar, or Mitford, Armanitola, Kayettuili, Agamasi Lane, Islambagh, Bongshal, and other areas—which are “residential” and yet are used for the storage of chemicals to make body spray and cigarette lighters? The first major fire claimed 124 lives in Old Dhaka's Nimtoli area. The Chawkbazar incident took another 70 or so lives and yet nothing changes. No relocation for chemical warehouses and no compensation for families who lost loved ones, because it appears that making profits is more important than safeguarding people's lives!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Businesses need a change in perception

Finding a job these days takes considerable effort, whether it be at a private or government institution. On top of that, a number of companies are apparently reluctant to hire graduates from certain universities which makes things more problematic. Because companies are mainly looking to hire graduates from only a handful of universities, students coming out of universities that are considered mediocre have fewer options available to them.

Shortlisting candidates for a job should extend beyond which university they graduate from. Companies should consider how qualified a candidate is based on their individual abilities, not just the universities they attend. Sadly, however, this does not seem to be the case. Applicants are often overlooked because of such discriminatory practices.

Although many top businesspeople propagate the need for creative thinking, it seems the companies they lead haven't succeeded in getting out of such traditional thinking. The perception that creative people deserve a chance to prove themselves is yet to be truly established in Bangladesh. Which is why, our perception regarding this matter must change first.

Abu Hasnat Evna Mostafa, Corporate HR Executive, Ananta Companies

Repatriation of Rohingyas: Evidence of Myanmar's lack of preparedness



AN OPEN DIALOGUE

ABDULLAH SHIBLI

THE Rohingya repatriation is now rumoured to start in a few days, on August 22 to be specific. “Repatriation [of Rohingyas] is always on the table. It can start anytime,” the Bangladeshi foreign secretary announced to journalists following a seminar at BIIS in the capital this week. Unfortunately, the optimism expressed by the official is not shared by everyone. Only a few days ago, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Dr Abdul Momen spoke at Harvard University about the status of Bangladesh's negotiations with Myanmar over Rohingya repatriation. He was the keynote speaker at the “International Rohingya Awareness Conference” at the Kennedy School of Government. During this presentation, the foreign minister emphasised once again that the Rohingyas will return voluntarily only when they feel that the conditions on the ground in Myanmar's Rakhine State are appropriate and favourable. It is clear from all independent accounts that the ground conditions are not yet ripe for repatriation.

As I see it, there are three elements essential for what the Vatican News termed as “conducive environment and conditions for repatriation”. First, the Rohingyas must be given some form of reassurance regarding their most fundamental demand, i.e. recognition and citizenship. Secondly, the Rohingya refugees now living in Bangladesh need to feel a sense of security about the camps set up by the Myanmar authorities. Finally, the Rohingyas require assurance and guarantees that they will be received well by the local communities and provided all the support and material assistance they need to get back to where they had left off two years ago, before being driven out by the marauding armed forces and their henchmen in Myanmar.

It is not difficult to see that every Rohingya who is living temporarily in Bangladesh has one question on their mind: Are we better off in the camps in Bangladesh or at the camps set up by Myanmar in the so-called “Transit Centre”? They want to know if they will have freedom of mobility and equal treatment before the law should they go back. Can they expect citizenship and recognition as an ethnic community like the others?

They also wonder if they can hope to return to their abandoned homes and villages in Northern Rakhine State. And, what about the property they left behind, the homestead, the fruit-bearing trees, means of livelihood, farmland, fishing boats, and all other equipment?

A recently published analysis by an Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) shows that Myanmar has so far initiated minimal preparation for a return of more than half a million refugees, contrary to its proclaimed announcement. During the recent visit

to Cox's Bazar by a 10-member Myanmar delegation, led by Permanent Foreign Secretary Myint Thu, Rohingya leaders articulated the conditions necessary for their return, including the ability to go back to their original villages and lands. The ASPI report backed up by new satellite imagery conclusively shows that the Rohingya settlements in Rakhine, which were burned, damaged or destroyed in 2017, are still uninhabitable and inhospitable. Some of the settlements have been taken over by the armed forces and converted into administrative and military facilities.

The Australian institute's International Cyber Policy Centre has combined open-source data with the collection and analysis of new satellite imagery to assess the current status of settlements in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State abandoned by the Rohingyas in August 2017. The report also critically assessed the readiness of several “repatriation sites” or “relocation sites” proposed

Rohingya settlements that were burned, damaged, or destroyed during the 2017 crisis. Of these, more than 320 show no signs of reconstruction, and least of all, residential construction needed for the returnees to feel “at home” once they go back. At least 40 percent of the affected settlements have been razed. In addition to the UNOSAT data, the study identified at least 58 settlements which have been subject to new demolition in 2018. Separate to these 58 settlements, satellite imagery shows demolition has occurred in other settlements in 2019.

Secondly, the process of repatriation planned by Myanmar, and revealed in an Asean mission report, has raised grave concerns. The returning refugees are expected to stay at Hla Pho Kaung Transit Centre for a maximum of 30 days under draconic conditions. Refugees will have to sign in and out to leave the centre and adhere to a curfew. Camp security will be maintained by the Border Guard Police (BGP), an agency which had previously



Rohingya refugees carry bricks to a construction site at the Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar, on April 8, 2019.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD PONIR HOSSAIN/REUTERS

by Myanmar to house the returning Rohingyas.

The research team collaborated with UNOSAT, a UN organisation. UNOSAT is a technology-intensive programme delivering imagery analysis and satellite solutions to relief and development organisations.

The study used that data, and their own satellite imagery collection and analysis, to make an updated assessment of the status of these settlements. The findings are very discouraging and do not bode well for the prospect of Rohingya repatriation and resettlement. If they could read the ASPI report, every Rohingya would have asked: “What do we go back to?”

Three key findings of the ASPI should raise grave concerns and give Bangladesh some issues to discuss in future negotiations with Myanmar.

First, UNOSAT data identified 392

been accused of torturing Rohingya refugees.

Knowledgeable sources have expressed reservations about the chances of the Rohingyas being successful in this venture within this short time. They may then be sent to Taung Pyo Letwe Repatriation Centre, one of the two identified in the Asean Emergency Response and Action Team (ERAT) report. Satellite imagery of this and other repatriation sites contradict claims by Myanmar that preparations are being made for a “dignified and safe return” of the refugees. Many of these designated repatriation areas appear to be highly securitised camps more akin to detention facilities.

If they cannot return to their original home, which is highly unlikely given the current condition of their homestead, they may be sent to “relocation sites” such as Kyein Chaung. This site is built on the site of a burned Rohingya village, and is a

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

Remembering the miracle of 1989



CARL BILDT

summer of 1989, the Soviet Union was already in terminal decline. The only question was whether communism would disintegrate peacefully, or amid an explosion of violence and devastation.

In the Soviet Union itself, Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika* had opened the floodgates of change, but Gorbachev still seemed to believe that the communist system could be salvaged through reform. Meanwhile, on the periphery of the Soviet empire, many feared that a potential collapse of the system would bring Red Army tanks back into streets and city squares. Memories of Soviet crackdowns in Berlin in 1953, Budapest in 1956, and Prague in 1968 remained vivid, as did the severe repression of the Baltic states in the run-up to World War II.

Born in terror, the Soviet Union had been sustained by jackboots and secret police. Nobody knew if it could survive without resorting to brute force once again. It was a nervous time for Europe.

But it was also a time of change. Efforts to suppress Poland's independent trade union, Solidarity (*Solidarność*), had failed. Forced to compromise, the Polish communist regime held semi-free elections in June 1989, in which Solidarity won all but one of the freely contested seats. Meanwhile, in the three Baltic republics (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), broad-based “people's fronts” had already been calling for more autonomy from the Soviet Union, and soon began demanding full independence.

On August 23, two million people formed a human chain stretching 372 miles (600 kilometres) through

Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, calling for independence. The timing of the so-called Baltic Way was no accident. Exactly 50 years earlier, Hitler and Stalin had entered into a secret non-aggression pact, whereby Eastern Europe was to be divided between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. That paved the way for World War II, and immediately spelled the end of freedom and independence in the Baltics.

But the central, potentially explosive arena in 1989 was the so-called German Democratic Republic (GDR)—that is, communist East Germany. This was essentially a garrison state, built for the protection of five Soviet armies—spanning 19 divisions and comprising 500,000 soldiers—that had been

the barbed wire near Sopron, a small Hungarian town on the border with Austria. What became known as the Pan-European Picnic was the largest escape from behind the Iron Curtain since the building of the Berlin Wall. More to the point, it had been carefully planned to test the reaction of the Soviet authorities.

In the Kremlin, the Soviet leadership—or Gorbachev, at least—continued to believe that the empire was safe and could be reformed. The Baltic Way was tolerated, and the Pan-European Picnic was simply ignored. But the latent potential of those demonstrations soon became apparent. People began to flee the GDR by the thousands. Soon enough, the Hungarian authorities had no alternative



People in Lithuania on August 23, 1989, participating in the “The Baltic Way”, a human chain that extended more than 400 miles across three countries to demand freedom from the USSR.

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

stationed there ever since 1945. Although the Berlin Wall became a powerful symbol of Europe's bifurcation after August 1961, it is worth remembering why it was needed in the first place: to prevent the collapse of the GDR, and thus of the Soviet outer empire in Europe.

A few days before the human chain formed in the Baltics, some 600-700 East German citizens had held a peaceful demonstration during which they crossed

but to open the border. Doves of East Germans flooded into Czechoslovakia in search of a route to the West. On November 9, fumbling GDR leaders even opened the Berlin Wall itself.

The East German state would be gone in less than a year. Following democratic elections in March 1990, East Germans decided to merge with the Federal Republic of Germany. With the GDR gone, the collapse of the Soviet empire

military camp for practical purposes.

Finally, the government in Myanmar has taken many actions—legislative, judicial, and administrative—to make the life of Rohingyas difficult. On June 22, 2019, the central government ordered telecommunications companies to shut down the internet in parts of Rakhine and neighbouring Chin State. UN Special Rapporteur Yanghee Lee said in early July that the “information blackout is imperilling villagers, further obstructing the humanitarian response and shielding the military operations from scrutiny.”

The Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law was amended in 2018. In September, the parliament passed amendments requiring anyone occupying land classified as “vacant, fallow, or virgin” to apply for permits or face up to two years in prison. The government issued a March 2019 deadline for permit applications. The purpose of this amendment is to claim control over lands which have been left fallow.

This applies most immediately to any land owned by Rohingyas who are either away in Bangladesh or face restrictions in movement in Myanmar. In either case, they will be unable to appeal any adverse decisions against them.

The end result of all these hostile actions against the Rohingyas has diminished the chances that they will return either on August 22 or in the immediate future. The ASPI report appears to be more relevant than the optimistic forecasts coming out of Dhaka. “The ongoing instability, violence, interruptions to communications technologies, and lack of information about the security situation in Rakhine further complicate conditions on the ground for a safe return of the Rohingya refugees.”

Dr Abdullah Shibli is an economist and works in information technology. He is Senior Research Fellow, International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI), a think-tank in Boston, USA.

was all but complete.

Some think that the momentous change that began in 1989 was inevitable. They would do well to remember that in June of the same year, China's elderly rulers had deployed tanks to crush (literally) the peaceful freedom movement in Tiananmen Square. And there were plenty of communist leaders urging a “Chinese solution” for the demonstrations of 1989. In fact, at the Soviet command post just south of Berlin (which had served as command centre for the German Army during World War II, and which had been seized from Hitler decades earlier), Red Army marshals were awaiting orders to march in and save the empire by whatever means necessary.

No one can know what would have happened if more conservative forces within the Kremlin had prevailed. Most likely, there would have been widespread disorder and violence across much of the region, which would have put the west under substantial pressure to intervene. Open war would have been a distinct possibility. After all, large empires throughout history have generally gone out with a bang. If anything, the Soviet experience was an exception.

Thankfully, that order to the Red Army was never issued. Part of the reason was that Soviet leaders believed, mistakenly, that a crackdown was unnecessary, and that the system would survive. But it was also because democratic forces were starting to assert themselves within Russia itself. The rising leader in Moscow was Boris Yeltsin, who held no attachment to the nostalgia of an overextended and unsustainable empire.

Thirty years ago, Europe experienced a truly miraculous few months. Today, we should honour not only those who fought for change, but also those who refused to send out the tanks. Blood could have flowed through the streets of Europe once again, but it did not.

Carl Bildt is a former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden.
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(Exclusive to The Daily Star)

Flood forecasting in Bangladesh and the need for greater response capabilities



RAIHANUL HAQUE KHAN

MORE often than not, climate change is analysed from a long-term perspective. Surely, the word “change” itself requires one to look at it through a futuristic lens. However, in an interview with *The Guardian* on July 7, 2019, Mami Mizutori, a top UN official, warned that climate crisis disasters are occurring every week causing death, displacement and suffering. In other words, “climate change” is not so much about the future anymore. It is a current crisis as well.

Similarly, European Academies’ Science Advisory Council had examined the rise in extreme weather events and published a statement on March 21, 2018, concluding that “man-made climate change has proven to have increased recent extreme rainfall and associated floods and coastal flooding due to sea-level rise.”

A study performed by researchers at the University of Oxford titled “Risks of Pre-Monsoon Extreme Rainfall Events of Bangladesh: Is Anthropogenic Climate Change Playing A Role,” also concluded that anthropogenic climate change doubled the likelihood of extreme pre-monsoon rainfall over north-eastern Bangladesh. In reality, extreme weather events are defining a new normal in terms of hydro-climatic conditions.

In July 2019, we experienced flooding in three different regions (north-western, north-eastern and south-eastern) of Bangladesh, where flood-water level has exceeded the previous record at a number of observation points that experienced unprecedented flooding. Earlier, when we talked about unprecedented environmental shocks, most of us would assume that they weren’t frequent. But such notions are redundant

now, as we experienced unprecedented flooding in the nation for the past four years. Until 2016, the recorded highest flood (in terms of magnitude) for the low-lying areas of Jamalpur was the one that occurred in 1988. The severity of that flood was surpassed by the 2016 monsoon flood; the new record was again broken during another flood that happened in 2017. On July 19, 2019, that level was again exceeded by a much greater margin when an ongoing flood hit over a million people in Bahadurabad point of Jamalpur.

While some regions of the country are experiencing floods, some others are swept by heat waves. On March 2017, extreme rainfall triggered the earliest flash flood in north-eastern Bangladesh since 2000, damaging huge amounts of Boro rice just before the harvest. Consequently, rice import saw the highest rise in a decade in the following fiscal year. During the same year, landslides—which were a consequence of the flash flood—reportedly claimed more than 150 lives in three hilly districts of Bangladesh (Rangamati, Chattogram and Bandarban).

In light of these disasters that have claimed so many lives, we must devise ways to manage the risks of climate change. One way is by monitoring and forecasting imminent risks using Early Warning System (EWS). In Bangladesh, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of Bangladesh Water Development Board is responsible for forecasting floods using structural and non-structural measures. Quality-checked, processed data are used in their model to generate 5-day lead-time deterministic and 10-day lead-time probabilistic flood forecasts. With 10 days’ lead time, FFWC has been able to detect the monsoon floods well ahead of the events. This capability has been highly appreciated in the region as Bangladesh is the only country in South Asia to have this flood forecasting system.

Forecasting is just the first step, however.



Floods in Jamalpur exceeded previous levels manifesting the effects of climate change. The picture was taken on July 22, 2019.

REUTERS/MOHAMMAD PONIR HOSSAIN

Forecasts need to be listened to, understood and used to actually take precautions. The communities at risk should have the capacity to respond to the warnings. FFWC issued a warning well ahead (at least 8 days) of the flood that happened earlier this month in the north-western region of the country, which marooned millions of people. FFWC also captured the possibility of exceeding the previous recorded highest levels at Jamalpur and issued a special flood outlook on July 17. This was a brilliant job from the forecasting point of view, given FFWC’s technical and human resources limitations.

When it comes to forecasting, we always ask one question—“How accurate is it?” But what we need to inquire and investigate more is whether the early warning for the ongoing flood was used by the responsible officials to devise a proper risk management plan and whether that plan proved useful.

The Department of Agricultural Extension

issued special advisories for the farmers based on the 10-day flood forecast. We need to find out how much of this information reached the impoverished farmers and whether they were able to take preventive measures at all. We cannot deny that the community needs to be provided with more impact-oriented information; they need to know what the weather will do, not only what the weather will be.

To tackle the new normal, we need an integrated multi-hazard EWS. We need to develop the capacity of that software around four crucial safety measures: disaster risk knowledge; detection, monitoring, analysis and forecasting of hazards and possible consequences; dissemination of warnings ensuring last-mile connectivity; and preparedness and enhancing response capabilities through risk education.

It is important to note that we need to act very soon and that it is not a time to argue

about the quantum of measures to be taken. Our social, environmental and economic foundations for sustainable development have been threatened by non-linear climatic variability. Extreme weather events are happening across multiple dimensions and on varying scales. New risks and correlations are emerging in ways that had not been anticipated. We need to incorporate these findings in development planning, investments and policies.

We also need to find a balance between our approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, while adhering to their main goals for more effective and efficient long-term development gain. This would open up opportunities to learn from each other, enhance resilience at the local level through risk anticipation and reduce the number of overlapping activities, thus, improving funding efficiency.

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in developing early warning systems for floods. However, rapid development and the environmental concerns that come with it could also affect climate risks. We need more research and development to improve the EWS to face the future challenges that may arise out of man-made climate change.

All in all, major changes to the current risk management approaches are needed to be able to realise the outcomes and goals of the agreements we have pursued after 2015—the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We need to improve our foreseeability and look at the risks of not investing in resilience. The urgency is evident as climate change is happening right now in Bangladesh. And so, the time to act is undeniably also now.

Raihanul Haque Khan is the Country Program Lead of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES). He is also a member of the Water Youth Network. Email: raihanul@rimes.int

Nurturing the changemakers of tomorrow

MD SABUR KHAN

ENTREPRENEURS are harbingers of hope. To promote and nourish entrepreneurship, many countries have given substantial attention to entrepreneurship education and strengthening related institutions. Management gurus view entrepreneurial activities as a critical contributor in fostering economic growth and development.

We have observed that both entrepreneurial initiatives and education have expanded significantly in the US and Israel. You will find that the maximum numbers of unicorns are based in the US and China, such as Ant Financial, Airbnb, SpaceX, OLA Cabs, Rubrik. A unicorn is a privately held startup company valued at over USD 1 billion. Among former unicorns, Uber, Facebook, Xiaomi, Alibaba are the more notable ones. Some perfect examples of entrepreneurial legacies are developed in Silicon Valley in Northern California, Austin TX, San Francisco, CA. To boost entrepreneurial initiatives, the US has also developed a unique culture of Angel Investment Ecosystem. All giant startups and entrepreneurial initiatives have been developed by nurturing the entrepreneurial mindset of people. Qatar is also doing good in the domain of innovation and research; for example, Qatar Foundation is working on education, research, and community development.

In our education system, we do not assess or evaluate a person’s natural talents, innovation or entrepreneurial mindset. An innovator or entrepreneur does not only mean being a successful businessperson; people with an entrepreneurial mindset can contribute or engage themselves in different sectors or segments. Those entrepreneurial minded people may be in government, law enforcement agencies or in the corporate sector. These individuals possess unique traits like creativity, innovativeness, ability to take risks. A nation can only progress by nurturing these people.

To maintain sustainable and equitable development, the tertiary-level education system needs to be transformed, focusing

heavily on encouraging and cultivating entrepreneurial minded students. Practical or hands-on experience is needed in our education system. At the tertiary level, our students should be involved in practical experiences. Besides, the country’s education needs to adopt innovation, instead of following the archaic method of teaching-learning. The old system should be replaced by Outcome Based Education (OBE). Effective pedagogy and innovative teaching methods can be applied with entrepreneurial minded academics.

We must take into account one thing, that

2030, while the World Economic Forum suggests that a “skills revolution” could open up a raft of new opportunities. So, our tertiary education should concentrate on innovation in every area. “If we do not change the way we teach, 30 years from now, we’re going to be in trouble,” said Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba Group, China’s e-commerce giant. The knowledge-based approach of “200 years ago” would “fail our kids”, who would never be able to compete with machines. Children should be taught “soft skills” like independent thinking, values and teamwork, he said.

of them have already started their own ventures, which has been facilitated by this holistic initiative. We believe entrepreneurial education creates high job satisfaction. Higher levels of entrepreneurial education achievement lead to higher earnings and reduce the level of unemployment. Of late, many universities around the world are in the process of strengthening their entrepreneurship education programmes in order to create more young entrepreneurs in the future.

We are pretty hopeful as our government formulates various pro-entrepreneurial

in the country. We hope the central bank will come up with more such initiatives to contribute in creating entrepreneurs in the country. The initiative has given the direction to nurture the entrepreneurship process, which was acknowledged and accepted by the government.

Imran Khan, former Chief Strategy Officer of Snap Inc., at a national debate programme remarked: “My talent will not be nourished here; that’s why I have decided to go to the US.” Though it was meant to be a light-hearted comment, it sums up the situation and highlights how we need to stop the brain drain by providing entrepreneurial facilities to the young generation.

Bangladesh has enormous opportunities to grow more. According to a World Bank report, Bangladesh is among the five fastest-growing economies of the world, with a 7.3 percent GDP growth projection in the FY2019. The report also added that Bangladesh’s growth outlook remains strong and stable. Sound macroeconomic policies—such as keeping the budget deficit below 5 percent of GDP—and resilient domestic demand have led to growth in manufacturing and construction industries on the supply side. On the demand side, growth is led by private consumption and exports. Aligning with this trajectory, quality in tertiary education plays a vital role, as the world is now moving towards the fifth industrial revolution. For sustainable growth, we need to build a skilled pool of human resources.

I strongly believe our young population can adjust well, with their inherent power to transform, and can retain the existing progress of the country where entrepreneurial mindset and innovation will work as a catalyst. The new generation of our country needs to be educated and trained up in such a way that they will believe in their own minds that they can become successful entrepreneurs, who will not have to search for jobs, rather will provide jobs to others as Bangladesh works to transform into a “developed country”.

Dr Md Sabur Khan is Chairman, Board of Trustees, Daffodil International University.



our education system should also focus on the theme of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. We also need to think of our future workforce where emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Internet of Things (IoT), Robotics will play a pivotal role in production and manufacturing. According to the McKinsey Global Institute, robots could replace 800 million jobs by

I believe it is high time we focused on ensuring sustainable education model in the country, where innovation will be an integral part of that process. There are some real-life challenges in the country to establish a good entrepreneurial ecosystem. In tackling the challenges, students should be familiarised with alternative funds like venture capital, angel investment, etc.

At Daffodil International University, we have already planned to introduce courses on robotics in each department. A good number

policies. The government is already set to form a specialised firm (to be called Startup Bangladesh Company Limited), to fund and nurture startups and ICT entrepreneurs under the Innovation Design and Entrepreneur Academy of the ICT division with the view to encouraging innovative ventures in Bangladesh, which is a unique and holistic initiative. It is worth mentioning here that Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with Bangladesh Bank, has organised Creating 2000 Entrepreneurs (E2K)

OSCAR WILDE
(1854 – 1900)

Irish poet and playwright who became one of London’s most popular playwrights in the early 1890s.

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 “Toodleo!”

5 Young pigeons

11 Trojan War hero

12 European fish

13 Bakery buy

14 Makes fresh

15 Bauxite, e.g.

16 Salon supplies

17 Knitted wrap

19 Spring month

22 Wander off

24 Comet’s place

26 Destitute

27 Gumbo vegetable

28 Take as one’s own

30 Snide expression

31 Nonsense

32 Map lines

34 Ersatz

35 Cardinal color

38 Philosophy topic

41 Seep

42 Spectrum color

43 Nick Charles’ wife

44 Appears onstage

45 Yemen neighbor

DOWN

1 Folded food

2 Cracked

3 Becomes established

4 Lumberman’s tool

5 Scatter

6 Suppresses

7 Coffee dispensers

8 Japanese prime minister

9 Fiddling need

10 Ave. crossers

16 Like Pride Parade

participants

18 Plucked instrument

19 Scoots over

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YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

C	A	S	T		G	A	O	L	S
A	T	E	A	M		A	L	L	O
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BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker

BABY BLUES

by Kirkman & Scott

NEWSIN
brief

'I can't breathe'
US cop fired

AFP, New York

A US police officer was sacked Monday for putting a black man in a banned chokehold just before he died five years ago in a case that fueled "Black Lives Matter" protests. Daniel Pantaleo was fired with immediate effect over the death of 43-year-old Eric Garner during an arrest in July 2014. Garner's last words -- "I can't breathe," which he repeated 11 times to Pantaleo -- became a rallying cry for the demonstrators.

Iran FM to meet
Macron on Friday

AFP, Tehran

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is expected to visit Paris and meet with his counterpart and the French President Emmanuel Macron, state news agency IRNA reported yesterday. Zarif is currently on a three-nation tour of Scandinavia and he will also visit China "next week", according to IRNA.

Duterte to visit Beijing
amid China sea row

AFP, Manila

President Duterte will visit Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping next week to raise their conflicting claims to the South China Sea, as the Filipino leader faces pressure at home to confront Beijing. Duterte heads to China on August 28 and is due to return on September 2.

13 tourists killed in
Laos bus accident

AFP, Bangkok

At least 13 Chinese tourists were killed and dozens injured when their bus skidded off the road and plunged 30 metres into a ravine in Laos. The bus was carrying more than 40 Chinese nationals heading towards the tourist town of Luang Prabang when the accident occurred late on Monday.



A demonstrator tries to protect Peoples Democracy Party's (HDP) deputy Feleknas Uca (C,R) during clashes with Turkish anti riot police in Diyarbakir yesterday. The Turkish government removed three mayors from office on Monday over alleged links to Kurdish militants as Ankara deepened its crackdown on the opposition.

PHOTO: AFP

Italy PM says to resign as
crisis comes to a head

AFP, Rome

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte yesterday said he would resign, lashing out at far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini for pursuing his own interests by pulling the plug on the government coalition. "I'm ending this government experience here... I will go to the president of the republic (Sergio Mattarella) to inform him of my resignation", after a Senate debate, Conte said after an almost hour-long speech to the chamber. "It is irresponsible to initiate a government crisis," Conte said after Salvini began his efforts to bring down the government in the hope of snap elections he hoped would make him premier.



"It shows personal and party interests," Conte said of the end of the alliance between the anti-migrant League and the anti-establishment Five Star Movement. Conte was speaking following a week of fallout from Salvini's decision to back out of the alliance on August 8, plunging the eurozone's third-largest economy into

political turmoil.

After Conte announced his intention to resign, Salvini hit back saying: "Thank you, finally, I would do it all again."

Salvini "violated the solemn promise he took when the government began that if there were differences they should be discussed in good faith and with loyal collaboration," Conte said as League senators booed and hissed. "Making citizens vote is the essence of democracy, asking them to vote every year is irresponsible," Conte added.

The likely end of the 14-month-old government would open the way for Mattarella to begin consultations with political parties, with a range of options available.

A snap election, the forming of a new coalition without holding a new vote and, although unlikely, the continuation of the current government, would all be considered. Salvini's plan for a snap election -- more than three years early -- had envisioned a vote in October followed by him being crowned as prime minister.

Lam sees way out of crisis

Twitter, Facebook dismantle China campaign to undermine protests

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam yesterday said she hoped a peaceful weekend anti-government protest was the start of efforts to restore calm and that talks with non-violent protesters would provide "a way out" for the Chinese-ruled city.

Hundreds of thousands of protesters rallied peacefully in torrential rain on Sunday in the eleventh week of what have been often violent demonstrations.

"I sincerely hope that this was the beginning of society returning to peace and staying away from violence," Lam said.

"We will immediately start the work to establish a platform for dialogue. This dialogue, I hope, will be based on a mutual understanding and respect and find a way out for today's Hong Kong."

Anger erupted in June over a now-suspended bill that would allow criminal suspects in the former British colony to be extradited to mainland China for trial.

The unrest has been fuelled by broader worries about the erosion of freedoms guaranteed under the "one country, two systems" formula put in place after Hong Kong's return to China in 1997, including an independent judiciary and the right to protest.

The protests have prompted sharp reactions from Beijing, which has accused foreign countries, including the United States, of fomenting unrest in the territory. China



has also sent clear warning that forceful intervention is possible, with paramilitary forces holding drills in neighbouring Shenzhen.

Twitter Inc and Facebook Inc also said on Monday they had dismantled a state-backed social media campaign originating in mainland China that sought to undermine protests in Hong Kong.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang declined direct comment on the Twitter and Facebook actions, but defended the right of Chinese people to make their voices heard.

The protests are exacting a toll on the city's economy and tourism, with the Asian financial hub on the verge of its first recession in a decade.

Aside from seeking Lam's resignation, demonstrators have five demands - complete withdrawal of the extradition bill, a halt to descriptions of the protests as "rioting", a waiver of charges against those arrested, an independent inquiry and resumption of political reform.

"The bill is dead," Lam told yesterday's news briefing. "There is no plan to revive the bill."

Police have been criticised for using increasingly aggressive tactics to break up demonstrations but there was a minimal police presence on Sunday and no arrests were made. More than 700 people have been arrested since June.

Lam said the police watchdog had set up a task force to investigate complaints.

JAPAN'S WWII ATROCITIES

Emperor 'prevented from voicing remorse' after war

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's wartime emperor Hirohito wanted to express his regret and remorse shortly after World War II but the prime minister at the time stopped him, local media reported yesterday, citing newly disclosed documents.

The 18 notebooks, written by Michiji Tajima, a top official at the Imperial Household Agency, featured dialogue between him and Hirohito between 1949 and 1953.

According to the documents, the emperor said in 1952: "No matter what, I really think I need to include the word remorse" in his planned speech to mark Japan's regaining of its independence later that year.

The emperor was also cited as saying: "For myself, I do feel great remorse. I really want to add the phrase -- reflection on the past and self-discipline for the future -- even if the words can be changed."

But then prime minister Shigeru Yoshida opposed the emperor's plan to publicly express regret and remorse, telling Tajima: "There is a danger that people will say he was responsible for starting the war."

The phrases of regret and remorse were eventually deleted from the speech delivered by Hirohito to celebrate the 1951 San Francisco peace treaty.

Hirohito, who died in 1989, is the grandfather of Emperor Naruhito, 59, who ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne in May from his father Akihito.

Emperor Hirohito was once worshipped as a living demigod and served as Japan's commander-in-chief during its march across Asia in the 1930s and 1940s.

Hirohito's speech to surrender in the war was broadcast on radio on August 15, 1945, days after the US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Kashmiri refugees in Pakistan-administered Kashmir shout anti-Indian slogans during a protest in Muzaffarabad, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Johnson Brexit letter offers no alternatives to Irish backstop

Says EU as UK PM seeks deal without the clause

AFP, Brussels

EU yesterday rejected British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's demand to scrap the Irish border backstop plan to achieve a Brexit deal, saying he had offered no workable alternative.

Johnson wrote to EU Council President Donald Tusk on Monday to insist that Britain could not accept what he called the "anti-democratic" backstop, a mechanism to avoid border checks between EU-member Ireland and British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Since taking office last month, Johnson has been adamant Britain will leave the EU on October 31 come what may and has stepped up preparations for a chaotic "no deal" departure that would cause major economic disruption.

But the European Commission, the EU executive which has led Brexit negotiations with London, dismissed the proposal in Johnson's letter that the backstop could be replaced with a "commitment" to find

"alternative arrangements".

"The letter does not provide a legal operational solution to prevent the return of a hard border on the island of Ireland," commission spokeswoman Natasha Bertaud told reporters.

"It does not set out what any alternative arrangements could be, and in fact it recognises there is no guarantee that such arrangements will be in place by the end of the transitional period."

Brussels insists that the backstop -- which would keep the UK in EU customs arrangements to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland -- is essential to preserve the integrity of European trade and to avoid risking a return of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

Critics say the backstop -- part of the Brexit divorce deal struck between the EU and Johnson's predecessor Theresa May would keep Britain tied to EU rules potentially indefinitely.



IS reviving in Syria

Says China, urges int'l spotlight on the issue; anti-Assad fighters withdraw from key area

AFP, Geneva

China's Syria envoy yesterday said that "terrorist organisations" including the Islamic State group are being revived in the war-ravaged country, urging the international community not to ignore the "early warning" signs.

Xie Xiaoyan, Beijing's pointman for the Syrian conflict, made the comments after meeting in Geneva with the UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir O. Pedersen.

"There is now a danger of terrorist organisations like ISIS being revived," Xie told reporters, using another acronym for IS. "The international community should pay attention."

IS overran large parts of Syria and Iraq in 2014, proclaiming a "caliphate" there, but offensives in both countries reclaimed the territory.

Xie's Geneva visit came as concern mounts over a possible major offensive by President Bashar al-Assad's forces on Idlib, a jihadist-run area in the northwest which is the last major opposition stronghold in Syria.

The UN has warned that an assault on Idlib

could trigger a humanitarian catastrophe.

On the ground, jihadists and allied rebels withdrew from the town of Khan Sheikhun in northwestern Syria yesterday.

The town of Khan Sheikhun on the region's southern edge has been a key goal for the government as it lies on the main highway through Idlib province connecting the capital Damascus with second city Aleppo.

Idlib has for several years served as a reception zone for those escaping government advances elsewhere in the country, who now number in their hundreds of thousands. Today they have nowhere to run in case of a full assault on Idlib.

Asked about Beijing's position on a prospective of such an assault and the humanitarian fallout, Xie described the issue as "very complicated".

"We all know that this is the last stronghold of some of the terrorist organisations... so this is an issue that needs to be dealt with," he said.

"The fight against terrorism is not finished yet." Since January, Idlib has been administered by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance, which is led by jihadists from Syria's former al-Qaeda affiliate.

India's Moon probe enters lunar orbit

India's Chandrayaan 2 spacecraft entered lunar orbit yesterday, executing one of the trickiest manoeuvres on its historic mission to the Moon. After four weeks in space, the craft completed its Lunar Orbit Insertion as planned, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said in a statement. India is seeking to become just the fourth nation after Russia, the United States and China to land a spacecraft on the Moon. If the rest of the mission goes to plan, the Indian probe will land on the lunar South Pole on September 7. To enter the final orbit over the lunar poles, Chandrayaan 2 will undergo four more similar manoeuvres, with the next scheduled for Wednesday. Chandrayaan 2 lifted off from India's spaceport at Sriharikota in southern Andhra Pradesh state on July 22.

'Save our oceans,' Oscar winner Bardem tells UN

Oscar-winning actor Javier Bardem made an impassioned plea at the United Nations to save the world's oceans Monday. The Spaniard, a keen environmental activist, called on countries to agree to a treaty that would protect at least 30 percent of seas by 2030. "We just can't afford to get it wrong," he told an intergovernmental meeting at the UN's headquarters in New York. Bardem spoke as a representative of Greenpeace, which is campaigning for the Global Ocean Treaty being discussed at the UN. The environmental group says the UN's 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea does not go far enough to protect the planet's oceans.

Call grows in Malaysia to kick Zakir Naik out




A controversial Indian Islamic preacher yesterday apologised for making comments about race in multi-ethnic Malaysia which sparked calls for his expulsion, a day after being questioned by police. Zakir Naik, a radical television preacher, left India in 2016 and moved to largely Muslim Malaysia, where he was granted permanent residency. He is wanted in India for inciting extremism and money laundering, and New Delhi last year reportedly asked Malaysia to extradite him -- a request that was rejected. Calls have escalated for Naik to be kicked out after he said Hindus in Malaysia have "100 times" more rights than India's Muslim minority, and suggested Chinese Malaysians should be expelled. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has said Naik crossed the line and several cabinet ministers have called for him to be kicked out, while police have banned him from giving public talks anywhere in Malaysia, state news agency Bernama reported.

SOURCE: AFP

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, Screening & More
Title: Shilper Aloye Bangabandhu
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: BSA Premises
Date: August 1- 31
Time: 11 am onwards



Photography & Poetry Exhibition
Title: ProjectDebi: Revolutionary Photography And Poetry Exhibition
Organiser: 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: Muhurtama solo art exhibition by Shamset Tabreej
Venue: Dwip Gallery, Lalmatia
Date: July 27 – August 22 (except Mondays)
Time: 5 pm – 9 pm



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Bangla Academy holds seminar on Bangabandhu

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Marking the 44th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day (August 15), Bangla Academy held a seminar at their Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Auditorium on August 19. Professor Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh National University, presented the keynote on the title 'Bangabandhu Bangali Satta' at the seminar. State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid, MP graced the occasion as chief guest while renowned poet Habibullah Shirajee, also Director General of Bangla Academy, delivered welcome address at the event. Dr Md Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal NDC, Secretary, Cultural Affairs Ministry, presided over the programme. Professor Harun-or-Rashid meticulously elaborated on Bangabandhu's illustrious life, political vision and career, his philosophy of holding the thousand-year old history, heritage and conscience of Bangali nationalism,

his lifelong struggle to free the nation and finally, achieving the glorious Independence of Bangladesh in the 1971 Liberation War with references, allusions and his personal memories with the Father of the Nation. "Bangabandhu, throughout his entire life, held the status of our Mother Language, Bangla, highly. From the year 1946 to 1948, through the Rastrabhasa Sangram Parishad, the 1952 Language Movement, in the Pakistani parliament as a representative of United Front, during his visit to China in 1955, on March 7, 1971, on Homecoming Day 1972 and in the 1974 UN General Assembly, Bangabandhu delivered all his important speeches in Bangla," said Harun-or-Rashid. "Bangabandhu embraced the path of humanism, the non-communal spirit and the emancipation of the people of this part of the world. He was a great man, a gallant visionary and the architect of an independent Bangladesh. He loved the people of Bangladesh from the core of his heart and wanted to die in Bangladesh."

Professor Harun-or-Rashid nicely clarified the stereotypical ideas and thoughts regarding the history of Bangladesh. He described Bangabandhu as the most undisputed leader and the immortal poet of the world politics. Bangabandhu continued to rise in national politics because of his active involvement in the Language Movement in 1952, the 1954 general elections, and the six-point charter declaration in 1966. He spent most of his political career behind bars. His arrest in the Agaratala conspiracy case propelled him into the national limelight, making him the undisputed leader of the Bangalis' freedom struggle against Pakistani exploitation. He was bestowed with the title of 'Bangabandhu' after being freed from jail in 1969. On March 7, 1971, he delivered his historic speech at the Race Course Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan), which inspired Bangalis to wage an armed struggle to win independence from Pakistan. Professor Harun-or-Rashid highlighted parts of that speech as well.

'The Revelation' to compete in Pink City International Short Film Festival

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Revelation, a short film from Bangladesh, has been selected in the Foreign Films category of the Pink City International Short Film Festival, which will begin from September 1 this year, in Jaipur, India. The festival will end on September 15. The short film has been screened at 13 film festivals, held in seven different countries. Last year, it was screened at the grand opening ceremony of the 9 th China International Short Film Festival. The film was also selected in several other prestigious festivals such as Cefalu Film Festival,

Cefalu, Italy, NPS International Children's Film Festival, Assam, India, Cardiff International Film Festival, United Kingdom, Global Youth Film Festival 2018, Bangladesh, Africa International Film Festival, Lagos, Nigeria, and the 11th international Children's Film Festival, Bangladesh. *The Revelation* is about a talented young artist who detests nonfigurative art. She desperately tries to submit her meticulously painted masterpiece before the submission deadline for an important art exhibition. "The film has been adapted from one of the short stories of Satyajit Ray," says Faridul



Ahasan Shourav, the director and screenplay writer of the short film.

Shooting of *The Revelation* took place in different locations across the capital such as Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, an art studio of Uttara and at Moderna Museet Mane Museum of Stockholm, Sweden. The role of the protagonist is played by Safwat Tasnia Priyanka. The cinematography is done by Shariful Islam Shamim. Kalpopriya Chowdhury, Marium Mahzabin and Fairuja Krishty recorded the music and sound for the film. Shourav, the director himself, is behind the production, art direction, colour correction and editing of the short film.

In fond memory of NAYAK RAJ RAZZAK

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

An unmatched stalwart to have ever graced the Bangladeshi film industry, Razzak was indeed a hero. He reigned supreme during the black and white era of cinema, and starred in various genres of films. Apart from mesmerising the viewers with his brilliant acting, he was also a renowned producer and filmmaker. Five-time National Film Award winner, Razzak also received multiple accolades for his immense contributions to the film industry. As today marks the legend's second death anniversary, here is what some of his close associates wish to share.

Samrat: Not a day goes by that I do not miss my father. His absence left a void that can never be filled. It is

many films together. Razzak was like family to me. I still remember how I escaped to his home on my wedding night, out of tension. Only my closest companions knew about it. Later Razzak asked his spouse Lokkhi to take me back, and she did. I watch the films we did together when I miss him, and try to reminisce the good times we had. **Shakib Khan:** Nayak Raj Razzak was one of a kind, hence his absence is felt immensely. He was there throughout the good and bad times of our film industry. He devoted his life to films. I want to share something today that not many are aware of. Whenever something delicious and hearty was cooked at Razzak's house, they would invite me over. His wife is like a mother to me. I feel truly blessed that they treated me



PHOTO: STAR

heartwrenching when I wake up and cannot call out to my father any more. Our home is incomplete without him. All his belongings are there, but he is not. I always remember him in my prayers, especially today. **Babita:** It is impossible to forget an actor like Razzak. We truly miss his absence. Zahir Raihan introduced both of us to the film industry. When I first saw him at our home in Gandaria, I ran and hid in the fridge, and later was taken out. I first acted alongside him as a young actor in *Shongshar*, where I played his daughter. Later on, I starred as the female lead opposite him in the film, *Shesh Porjonto*. That film was a hit and the audience admired us as a pair. Ever since then, we starred in

like their own child. Nayak Raj Razzak holds a special place in my heart. **Rozina:** It is indeed sad that Razzak is no longer amongst us. When I started my acting career, he was already a superstar by then. I was extremely nervous to act alongside him. He sensed the matter and comforted me. This act of kindness and understanding is certainly praiseworthy. After that, we have acted in many films together. I would like to say that he was a teacher in the truest sense. He showed the way to many newcomers, as well as various artistes of his time. Rarely have I seen such a dedicated individual in our film industry. I have utmost respect for Razzak and I miss him dearly.



Puja Cherry



Shajal

PHOTOS: STAR

Shajal and Puja pair up for 'Jinn'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrated actors Shajal and Puja Cherry are set to pair up for the upcoming film, *Jinn*, directed by Nader Chowdhury and produced

under the banner of Jaaz Multimedia. Puja has delivered stellar performances in films such as *Nur Jahan*, *Poramon 2*, *Dohon* and *Prem Amar 2*. Shajal, on the other hand, has carved a space for himself in the

television industry with his brilliant performances over the years. He acted in the film *Harjeet*, opposite Mahiya Mahi. The shooting of *Jinn* is slated to begin next week.

First look of 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' unveiled

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Released in 2007, Priyadarshan's *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* starring Akshay Kumar, Vidya Balan, Paresch Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, Shinee Ahuja, Ameesha Patel and Manoj Joshi won over cinemagoers with its hilarious comedy shots and dialogues. Twelve years later, actor Kartik Aaryan has announced the second instalment of the horror-comedy by revealing its first look on social media. In the posters, Kartik Aaryan is dressed as a holy man. This means the audience will be missing Akshay Kumar's sublime comedy timings as Kartik Aaryan will be playing the lead in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, directed by Anees Bazmee. There is no doubt that Kartik Aaryan is quite a skilled actor. However, only time will tell whether he will be successful in not allowing the audience to miss Akshay Kumar in that role. To be released on July 31, 2020, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar and Murad Khetani. It is written by Farhad Samji and Aakash Kaushik.



Why should

FROM PAGE 16
In the petition, Minni said she was innocent and not involved in the murder in any way. She added that she had been made accused with an ulterior motive and on the instructions of a vested quarter.
Earlier, two courts in Barguna rejected her bail prayers on July 22 and 30.
Police arrested Minni after a daylong interrogation on July 16. A court placed her on a five-day remand the following day. Three days later, a Barguna court recorded her statement.
Minni's husband Rifat Sharif, 25, an internet service provider, was hacked to death in broad daylight in front of her college in Barguna town on June 26.
In footage of the incident that went viral on social media, Minni was seen screaming and trying to save her husband from the attackers.
Rifat's father filed the murder case with Barguna Sadar Police Station against 12 people on the day of the incident. The prime accused in the case, Nayan Bond, was killed in a "gunfight" with police on July 2.

3 abducted

FROM PAGE 16
Tk 30 lakh, he added.
On Sunday, a Bangladesh Army soldier was shot dead when criminals opened fire on an army patrol team in Rangamati.
Six people were killed and another was kidnapped in Bandarban in the last three months.

Sailor's message

FROM PAGE 16
sailing. 20 June 1969."
Tyler Ivanoff, a teacher's aide in Shishmaref, Alaska, spotted the bottle on the shore near his village, and pried off the plastic stopper with his teeth.
"It was still dry on the inside and still smelled like wine or whatever, old alcohol. The note was dry," he told the Nome Nugget newspaper.
Ivanoff posted a picture of the bottle and the note on Facebook on August 5.
But the yarn doesn't end there. Rossiya 1, a Russian television network, tracked it by its return address in Vladivostok to a retired Soviet ship captain now living in Crimea.
Anatoly Botsanenko, interviewed by the station in a naval uniform, said he served on the Sulak in 1969 when he was 35.
Peering at the message on the reporter's smartphone, Botsanenko said, "That's not my handwriting." But he then recognized the return address as his old home in Vladivostok.
"It's pretty cool how a small photo grew into a story," Ivanoff posted on Facebook.

33 indicted

FROM PAGE 16
Rab claimed the centre was used for teaching extremism to the newly recruited members of the outfit.
However, the elite force members could not arrest head of the training centre Mohammad Fattah, who had escaped before the raid.
However, the elite force is yet to trace out Maniruzzaman and another donor of the militant outfit Allama Libidi, a Dubai expatriate.
Rab said Chittagong-based Hamza Brigade was formed in November, 2013 by some former members of Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, Qawmi madrasa-based radical platform Hefazat-e-Islam and other militant groups.
Their aim was to topple the incumbent government through an armed revolution and establishing an Islamic state incorporating Chittagong, CHT, Cox's Bazar and parts of the bordering areas of Myanmar and India.

Dozen Burkina troops killed in 'major terrorist attack'

AFP, Ouagadougou
More than a dozen soldiers died on Monday during a "major attack" by "terrorist armed groups" in northern Burkina Faso, the army said.
With other soldiers still missing, the death toll could hit 20 dead, several security sources said.
"In the early morning, the military detachment of the Koutougou department in Soum province was the target of an attack," said a statement from the general staff.
"A provisional report states that more than a dozen soldiers were killed, and several were wounded."
The poor Sahel state of Burkina Faso has been battling a rising wave of jihadist violence over the last four years which began in the north but has since spread to the east, near the border with Togo and Benin.
The heaviest Islamist attack against Burkina's army to date left 12 soldiers dead at Nassoumbou, also in Soum province, in December 2016.



A demonstrator, dressed as a clown and wearing a mask of Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, protests outside the gates to Downing Street on Whitehall in London, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Not proud as Indian'

FROM PAGE 16
proud of the fact that India, after having done so much to achieve a democratic norm in the world -- where India was the first non-Western country to go for democracy -- that we lose that reputation on the grounds of action that have been taken".
The government's move earlier this month to end Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcate the state into two union territories have received political and popular support.
The bifurcation bill received support from several key opposition parties and individual leaders. Even a section of Congress leaders applauded the end to the special status, which has now put Jammu and Kashmir on par with the rest of the country -- doing sway with its own constitution, flag, penal code and the power to decide who buys land in the state.
Amid anticipation about the possibility buying land in Jammu and Kashmir by people from other states, Dr Sen said it should have been "something for the people of the state (Jammu and Kashmir) to decide".

"This is something in which Kashmiris have a legitimate point of view because it is their land," he said.
He was also critical of the government's decision to keep the mainstream political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir under arrest.
"I don't think you will ever have fairness and justice without hearing the voices of the leaders of the people and if you keep thousands of leaders under restraint and many of them in jail, including big leaders who have led the country and formed governments in the past ... you are stifling the channel of democracy that makes democracy a success," he said.
The government has described its decision to place Jammu and Kashmir under a massive security blanket as "preventive measures" to prevent backlash that might cost lives.
"That's the classic colonial excuse. That's how the British ran the country for 200 years," Dr Sen said. "The last thing that I expected when we got our independence... is that we would go back to our colonial heritage of preventive detentions," he added.

Pakistan to move

FROM PAGE 16
and detentions of hundreds of political leaders and separatists who have long campaigned for secession from India.
Youth have pelted stones at paramilitary police deployed in Srinagar, and the latest detentions took place in parts of the city where such incidents have occurred, a police officer said.
"These arrests have been made in the areas where there has been intensifying stone pelting in the last few days," the officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.
A local government official confirmed the latest detentions.
The withdrawal of the special privileges of Muslim majority Kashmir means residents of all parts of India can buy property and compete for government jobs and college places, raising fears that it will be flooded with outsiders.
US President Donald Trump spoke to Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday urging them to reduce tensions over

Kashmir. "A tough situation, but good conversations!" Trump said in a Twitter post after the calls.
Authorities in Indian Kashmir on Monday said the protests were local and small in nature involving no more than a dozen people. Still, primary schools remained deserted yesterday as they were the previous day as parents worried about the safety of their children kept them at home.
Reuters visited three schools in Srinagar including Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School and no students had turned up and classes were deserted.
"Some teachers reported to duty but left as there were no students", said an official of the school.
Authorities had ordered schools to reopen on Monday after a two-week closure as a sign of normalcy. Srinagar's top city official Shahid Choudhary asked schools to ensure resumption of bus services.
A driver, however, said it was difficult to operate buses in such a volatile situation. "It is very risky for us and the students," he said.

Cameroon anglophone separatist leader gets life sentence

AFP, Yaoundé

A military court in Cameroon yesterday handed a life sentence to the head of the country's anglophone separatist movement, Julius Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, and nine of his followers, lawyers said.
The 10 were convicted of charges including "terrorism and secession", the state's lawyer, Martin Luther Achet, told AFP.
The sentence was confirmed by a lawyer for the separatists, Joseph Fru, who condemned what he called a "parody of justice".
The defendants refused to recognise the right of the military tribunal in Yaounde to try them.
Their lawyers have yet to say whether they will file an appeal.
Ayuk Tabe, a charismatic 54-year-old computer engineer by training, was the first self-proclaimed president of "Ambazonia" -- a breakaway

state declared in October 2017 in two English-speaking regions of the central African country.
The government responded with a military crackdown.
Attacks by both sides have left 1,850 dead, according to the International Crisis Group (ICG) think tank, while the UN says 530,000 people have fled their homes.
English-speakers account for about a fifth of Cameroon's population of 24 million, who are majority French-speaking.
Anglophones are mainly concentrated in two western areas, the Northwest Region and the Southwest Region, that were incorporated into the French-speaking state after the colonial era in Africa wound down six decades ago.
Anglophones have chafed for years at perceived discrimination in education, law and economic opportunities at the hands of the

francophone majority.
Ayuk Tabe is part of the political branch of the separatist group that supports dialogue with President Paul Biya.
But the influence of moderates waned in 2017 as Biya, who has been in power for 36 years, rejected demands for autonomy and radicals in the movement gained the ascendant.
- 'Brazen crimes' -
In January 2018, Ayuk Tabe was arrested with 46 other separatists in the Nigerian capital Abuja.
They were then handed over to Cameroon -- a move that was ruled illegal by a Nigerian court in March this year.
In late May, Ayuk Tabe said he was willing to take part in talks with the government, provided this took place abroad and the government released all people who had been detained since the start of the anglophone

crisis.
Last month, Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused the security forces of committing "brazen crimes" against citizens, including unlawful killings and use of excessive force.
The authorities, while rejecting general criticism, have acknowledged a small number of abuses.
In June, the defence ministry said it would prosecute seven soldiers suspected of summarily killing two women and their two children, a video of which was distributed on the internet to widespread outrage.
The unrest has crippled the economy of the Northwest and Southwest Regions and had a knock-on effect across the country.
More than one in six people in Cameroon -- 4.3 million -- need humanitarian aid, an increase of 30 percent from 2018, according to UN aid officials.

Afghan ambassador to Spain hurt in Barcelona mugging

AFP, Barcelona

Afghanistan's ambassador to Spain was mugged at the weekend in Barcelona, police and diplomatic sources said Monday, the latest in a string of high-profile crimes in the city.
The assailants attacked Humayoon Rasaw late Sunday on a street in the centre of town, throwing him to the ground to steal his watch, a police spokeswoman said.
The ambassador, who was in Barcelona for celebrations marking war-torn Afghanistan's national day, suffered a leg injury but "is fine," according to a source at the Afghan embassy in Madrid.
The robbery comes as Barcelona, one of Europe's most visited cities, has seen a sharp rise in crimes, including several involving foreigners which have made global headlines.
The Mediterranean city has seen eight murders since July, an unusually high number in Spain which has one of the lowest crime rates in Europe.
Robberies, especially those targeting foreign visitors, have also risen.

Gunman in Brazil holds 16 bus passengers hostage

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

A gunman is holding as many as 16 bus passengers hostage in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, officials said.
At least six people have been freed from the vehicle that is stopped on a bridge connecting Rio with neighboring city Niteroi.
Heavily armed police have surrounded the bus as they negotiate with the gunman, who G1 news reported is armed with a gun and gasoline.
The gunman reportedly boarded the bus at 5:30 am (0830 GMT) and began threatening passengers.
Traffic on the Rio-Niteroi bridge spanning Guanabara Bay has been paralysed during the ongoing hostage situation.

Hundreds escape Papua prison after violent riots

AFP, Manokwari

Indonesian authorities were hunting for more than 250 inmates who escaped a Papua prison set ablaze during violent riots, officials said yesterday, as fresh protests broke out in the restive region.
The prison break happened Monday as several cities in Indonesia's easternmost territory -- where an insurgency against Jakarta's rule has simmered for decades -- saw rioting and protests triggered by the detention of dozens of Papuan students.
About half of a 500-inmate prison in Sorong city fled their cells when the prison was set ablaze by angry protesters Monday, according to authorities.
"258 inmates escaped and only five of them had returned by this morning," said local justice ministry spokeswoman Marlien Lande.
Several prison employees were injured by rock-throwing prisoners as they tried to stop the escape, she added.

Sorong, a city of some 220,000 people, was hit by mass protests on Monday while in Manokwari, the capital of West Papua province, chaos broke out with the local parliament building torched and nearly reduced to ashes.
While calm has mostly returned to the region, some 500 people rallied again in Sorong on Tuesday as police in riot gear fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowds.

This week's demonstrations were triggered by reports that authorities tear-gassed and detained some 43 Papuan university students in the Southeast Asian nation's second-biggest city Surabaya on Saturday -- Indonesia's independence day.
Local media and Papuan activists said police in riot gear stormed into a dormitory to force out students who allegedly destroyed an Indonesian flag. Police said the students were briefly questioned and set free.
A different group of protesters demonstrated against the students and shouting racial slurs about Papuans.
Indonesia's president Joko Widodo called for calm and the government pledged to investigate the Surabaya incident.
Monday's riots marked the latest flashpoint in a decades-old rebel insurgency against Indonesian rule and allegations that its security forces committed widespread rights abuses against Papua's ethnic Melanesian population.
The former Dutch colony declared its independence in the early Sixties, but neighbouring Indonesia took control of the resource-rich region following a UN-sponsored referendum that was widely viewed as a sham.
Papua, which shares a border with independent Papua New Guinea, sees frequent clashes between the military and rebels.

5 arrested

FROM PAGE 16
read, adding Mahmudul faked the dance performance to get the victim into his trap.
Hearing the victim scream, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her but the alleged rapists managed to flee, the case statement read.
Meanwhile, police arrested two more men in Madaripur Sadar upazila for allegedly raping two madrasa students.
The arrestees are Masud Moral, 30, and Rubel Mollah, 18, of the same upazila.
Sowgatul Alam, officer-in-charge of Madaripur Sadar Police Station, said one of the victim's brother filed a case against the duo.
According to the case statement, the duo forcibly took the victims, a tenth grader and a fifth grader student, to an abandoned dairy farm in Modhachar area of the upazila and raped them.
Later, locals found the victims on the spot and informed police, who later rescued the girls, the OC said.



Leaving a lucrative job in Dhaka, Munjer Alam Manik in Dakkhin Sahar area of Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila found success in farming fish organically.

One man’s venture to eat healthy

Organic food producer Munjer planted papaya, banana, gourd, pumpkin alongside other vegetables on the banks of his fish ponds

RABIUL HASAN DOLLAR, Chapainawabganj

Life had offered Munjer Alam Manik, who used to work at a multinational company, almost all modern amenities in the crowded metropolis of Dhaka. Yet a thought nagged him all the time. “What are we eating,” he would mull frequently about the pervasiveness of adulterated and contaminated food in the capital’s grocery shops and markets.

“After my son’s birth, I became more concerned with food contamination. I wanted to do something about it,” said Munjer. And he did.

The 42-year-old was recounting the story of his success in organic fish farming when this correspondent visited Munjer’s 26-acre farmland at Dakkhin Sahar in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila.

In 2014, Munjer invested Tk 85,000 and leased a pond starting an organic fish farm. Soon he expanded his business,

investing a total of nine lakh taka in four leased ponds on 4.4 acres of land. Within three years, he was earning enough to quit his job in Dhaka and move his family to Chapainawabganj town. Today, the fish farm generates around Tk. 2.5 lakh profit each year.

“Our markets are full of pesticides laden vegetables. It has become a menace for people who cannot get organically farmed fish and vegetables,” said the organic food producer, who also planted papaya, banana, gourd, pumpkin and other vegetables in a planned manner on the banks of the ponds.

“I had just one agenda when I decided to farm organic fish. My aim was to make fresh fish and pesticide free vegetables available to everyone,” he said.

Munjer totally avoids chemical fertilisers, or feeds available in local markets for use in his ponds and vegetable plants.

He feeds the fish in his farm with natural food such as oil cake (residues from compressed oilseeds) and crushed maize.

Fish feeding on natural food grows slowly compared to ones that eat commercially manufactured feed, admits Munjer. However, he produces at a small scale only for the local market and charges a higher price per kg of fish for the quality.

“I paid him only Tk 20 to Tk 30 higher price per kg compared to market price, but I get fresher and better tasting fish than those available in the market,” said one of Munjer’s regular customers, Hasan al Sadi, a businessman of Basuniapatti in Chapainawabganj town.

About 80-90 people, mostly from Chapainawabganj town and villages adjacent to the farm, buys from Munjer.

“My buyers usually buy one week’s worth of fish,” he said adding that the

quantity and frequency of netting the fish depend on customers’ order.

Buyers collect their orders directly from the farm; sometimes, Munjer supplies the fish to the buyers’ house on his own motorcycle.

Different species of carp including- rui, katla, mrigal, silver carp, grass carp, as well as tilapia and clown knife fish are available in the farm.

From dawn to dusk, Munjer supervises the work in his acreage, which also includes a dairy farm. Except for one helping hand, Munjer mostly employs temporary day labourers from the locality as farm hand. Each month around Tk 55,000 is spent behind the four ponds.

Referring to Munjer’s work, Dr Amimul Ehsan, district fisheries officer, said, “Our department highly appreciates him for his organic fish farming.” He hopes it will inspire other young men to take up organic fish farming too.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN DOLLAR

Mentally ill woman abandoned by mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mentally ill young woman, aged around 22 years, was found abandoned two months ago at an ashram near Pabna Mental Hospital in Hemayetpur.

Ever since the woman’s mother secretly left her at Thakur Anukulchandra Satsanga Ashram on June 12, the ashram authorities have been providing shelter to her, who can only identify herself as Nilufar Yasmin Lubna from Chandanaish upazila in Chattogram.

Tapash Kumar Roy, secretary of the ashram, said the institution provides short-term shelter, at no cost, to needy outdoor patients of the mental hospital and their attending family members who cannot afford to stay in paid accommodations for several days.

The ashram, with a capacity of around 10 occupancies, does not allow accommodation to any patient without registering details of her or his family member.

Due to their limitations in providing long-term accommodation, they would like to hand Nilufar over to her family or get her admitted to the mental hospital, Tapash said.

But the ashram authorities are now in a difficult situation as they do not have the resources to confirm her identity and the hospital will not admit anyone without details of an approving family member.

Finding no solution to the situation, the authorities recently filed a general diary with Pabna Sadar Police Station in this regard, he added.

Obaidul Haque, officer-in-charge of the police station, said in search of the woman’s identity, they already sent her photos to different police stations.

Asked about the admission policy at Pabna Mental Hospital, its Superintendent Dr Shushanto Kumar Das said the hospital admits patients only after getting approval of their family members and their contact details.



Nilufar Yasmin Lubna

ROW OVER PLAYING CRICKET

Schoolboy stabbed, house ransacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A schoolboy was stabbed allegedly by one of his neighbours centring a feud over playing cricket match in Aditmari upazila on Monday night.

The victim, Nayan Chandra Roy, 15, a Class X student at Mahishkhocha High School, was first admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated, said Saiful Islam, acting officer in charge (OC) of Aditmari Police Station.

Quoting locals, OC Saiful said an altercation took place between Nayan, son of Khoka Chandra Roy of Baraibari village, and Ariful Islam, 18, son of Alam Miah of the village, over playing a cricket match on Monday afternoon.

As a sequel to the conflict, Ariful along with some of his cohorts attacked Nayan’s house around 10:00pm the same night.

At one stage, the culprits dragged Nayan out of his room and stabbed him on the stomach with a knife, leaving him severally injured, he said, adding that they also beat up some of the villages when the latter tried to resist the attackers from vandalising Nayan’s house.

Nayan’s father filed a case with Aditmari Police Station yesterday naming 10 people and 20 others unnamed.

Police already detained prime accused Ariful and were conducting drives to arrest the other attackers, OC Saiful said.

Tortured by husband, woman hospitalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A housewife, brutally tortured allegedly by her dowry greedy husband on Thursday, is now undergoing treatment at Netrakona’s Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex.

The victim, Tanjila Akter, 22, also mother of a two-year-old girl, filed a case against her husband Salam Mia, 25, a garment worker, with Kalmakanda Police Station yesterday.

Quoting the case statement, Officer in Charge (investigation) of the police station Mohammad Sirajul Islam Khan said Tanjila, daughter of late Firoz Mondol of Bahadurkanda village in the upazila, was married to Salam Mia, son of Atab Mia of Baromara village, in 2016.

Since their marriage, Salam often used to torture his wife both physically and mentally for dowry.

Although, Tanjila somehow managed Tk 50,000 from her poor parents, Salam’s demand did not stop.

Recently, Salam again started pressuring Tanjila to bring Tk 50,000 from her parents, but she denied to do so.

As a sequel, the couple locked in an altercation over the issue on Thursday morning and at one stage, Salam confined Tanjila to a room of his house beat her mercilessly with sticks, leaving her severely injured.

Being informed by neighbours, Tanjila’s brother Kanchan Mondol went to Salam’s house on Sunday, rescued her from the confinement and admitted her at the hospital, the OC said, adding that they were conducting drives to arrest Salam.

Passengers suffer as train schedule in disarray

Eid special train late by 25 hours in Lalmonirhat; intercity trains of West Zone 4 to 10 hours behind schedule

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Disruption in train schedules causes immense sufferings to passengers in several northern districts as a large number of people are on their return journey, especially to the capital Dhaka, for joining work after the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

Around one thousand passengers badly suffered as Lalmonirhat-Dhaka Eid special train, scheduled to depart at 9:30pm on Sunday from Lalmonirhat, finally started from there after long 25 hours, around 10:30pm on Monday night, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent.

Passengers staged demonstration there on Monday evening as they were yet to know for certain when the train would arrive.

Golam Mostafa, an employee of a non-government office in Dhaka, said he and his family members were waiting for the train at the station from 8:00pm on Sunday night for getting the special train.

“I was asked to join work today [Monday] but I am here at Lalmonirhat as the train is yet to arrive,” he said on Monday afternoon.

“I failed to join my office today [Monday] as the Lalmonirhat-Dhaka Eid Special train is too late,” said Enamul Haque Pramanik, a government service holder in Dhaka.

“I collected tickets for me and four other family members to get on the special train on Sunday night but I got the train a day later. The unusual delay of the Eid Special train caused special suffering to us,” said Mahasin Ali.

Another passenger, Ashraful Islam said his wife got sick at the station platform due to long wait for the train.

On the occasion of Eid, a special train was arranged from August 5 to 10 before the Eid and from August 14 to 18 after the Eid under West Zone Railway’s Lalmonirhat Division.



Tired of waiting since Sunday night for the Dhaka-bound Eid special train at Lalmonirhat station, passengers demonstrate there on Monday evening. Inset, people wait at Dinajpur railway station for their scheduled trains yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Divisional Railway Manager Shafiqur Rahman declined to say why the train was late for 25 hours in the last day journey.

Lalmonirhat station sources, seeking anonymity, said the train was late for 12 hours in the journey and another 13 hours due to a technical fault at the station.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent reports: Schedule collapse of almost all the intercity trains under Western Zone of Bangladesh Railway (BR) causes immense sufferings to passengers.

Panchagarh Express intercity train of Dhaka-Panchagarh route was scheduled to reach Dinajpur Railway station at 8:10am yesterday but arrived seven hours later, said Nargis Pramanik, stationmaster of Dinajpur Railway Station.

Ekota Express, which was supposed to reach Dinajpur Railway station at 4:40am yesterday, arrived at 9:35am.

However, all the trains heading for Dhaka departed as per schedule, said the stationmaster.

Dhaka-bound Drutazan Express, which left Panchagarh at 7:20am Tuesday and arrived at Dinajpur station at 9:30am (only 20 minutes behind the schedule) was already overcrowded and many people were seen getting on its roof to go to their destinations.

This correspondent found a large number of people waiting at Dinajpur station since morning to board their scheduled trains.

Other stations in the district also saw huge crowds.

“All the trains of railway’s West

Zone including Panchagarh Express, Rangpur Express, Nilsagar express, Ekota Express, Drutazan Express and Lalmoni Express are now running three to ten hours behind the schedule,” said Aminul Haque Jewel, manager of Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka.

Overloading of passengers and extension of stoppage time are the main reasons for the train schedule collapse, he said.

“The Dhaka-bound trains are carrying three to four times more passengers than their usual capacity while the stoppage time is often extended up to fifteen minutes against the scheduled five minutes, considering safety of passengers. The situation will hopefully improve after a few days,” he added.

GRABBING OF WDB LAND

Taltali Jubo League president sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Barguna court yesterday sent Jubo League’s president of Taltali upazila unit to jail in a case filed for encroachment of land belonging to Water Development Board (WDB) in the upazila town.

Barguna Senior Special Judge’s Court of Md Asaduzzaman delivered the order when Jubo League leader Moniruzzaman Mintu, also former chairman of Taltali Upazila Parishad, surrendered before it and sought bail in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), said advocate Kamrul Ahsan Maharaj, lawyer for the ACC.

Jahangir Alam, deputy director of ACC in Patuakhali, filed the case on June 21, 2018, alleging that Mintu unlawfully took possession of 1.06 acres of WDB land and set up a business named Hawlder Sawmill there.

Mintu then obtained a six weeks’ interim bail from the High Court and later, on September 6 in 2018, he surrendered and secured a permanent bail from Barguna senior judicial magistrate’s court.

On April 10 this year, the ACC submitted charge sheet for the case to the senior judicial magistrate’s court of Barguna. The case was recently transferred to the Barguna senior special judge’s court.

Yesterday, when Mintu surrendered before the Barguna senior special judge’s court and submitted a bail prayer, the court rejected the prayer and sent him to jail, said the ACC lawyer.

Refuting the allegation, Mintu’s lawyer advocate Mojibul Haque Kislul said his client lawfully set up the sawmill after leasing the piece of land from WDB.

Mindless garbage disposal brings woe to townspeople

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Garbage cans haphazardly placed across Lalmonirhat town have become a nuisance for its residents.

Most of the 80 cans were placed on footpaths some six months ago, much to the inconvenience of commuters, locals told this paper.

The bins were never cleaned on a daily basis since their instalment, said the locals, while the mayor of the city said the situation was a consequence of the ongoing movement of the employees of municipalities.

Several thousand employees of the municipalities from across the country are agitating for the third week in Dhaka demanding their salaries be paid from state funds.

Dayal Chandra Roy, who runs a tea stall on the Saptana Road in Lalmonirhat town, said his business had been down lately as customers hardly could stand at his place because of the foul smell oozing out of a garbage can placed right beside his stall.

"Commuters come across the cans every now and then while using the sidewalks. The overflowing bins have so many negative impacts on health and environment and are also an eyesore," said Mobarak Hossain, a resident of Thana Road.

"The mayor or other officials do not feel the impact as they travel by cars but we have to walk by these bins," said Mobarak, demanding the bins be managed duly to lessen the sufferings.

Sathira Akhter, a student of Lalmonirhat Girls' High School, said one bin have been placed on a footpath besides her school building.

"The bin remains full all the time. We get the bad smell while sitting inside our classroom," she told this correspondent.

Regarding the residents' complaints, Fazlul Haque, an executive engineer of the Lalmonirhat municipality, said the bins were setup following the mayor's order. "It was done to help the residents. The mayor's decision is the final decision," he said.

The official refused to make further comments on the situation.

When contacted, Lalmonirhat Municipality Mayor Reazul Islam Rintu said the town dwellers who were not using the bins properly. "They do not drop the wastes inside the bins and litter instead," he said.

Regarding the claim that the bins were never cleaned regularly, he said, "This is a recent phenomenon. It is happening because the workers have gone on a strike.

"I, along with an engineer, will visit the spots and address the concerns as soon as the workers' movement is over," said the mayor.



PHOTO: STAR

This photo taken couple of days ago shows a garbage can set up in Saptana area in Lalmonirhat town.

Dhaka-dwellers join in the fight

FROM PAGE 1

Hossain Zillur Rahman, one of the initiators of an anti-mosquito drive in Dhanmondi.

"The government and city corporations are working but you have to turn your awareness into activity to tackle dengue," added Zillur, Brac chairperson and a public health activist.

He and others formed an organisation named "Parichhannata 28" that comprises house owners living on the old road no. 28 of Dhanmondi.

Several locals of the area said that they sprayed mosquito repellents using fog machines and cleaned their localities on August 2. They have been regularly doing so since then.

They also put up signboards in front of under-construction buildings terming them as potential danger zones for dengue, and urged the authorities to take the necessary steps to prevent the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes.

"We will all meet in a day or two to finalise the detailed action plan to prevent mosquitoes in our localities. I will urge residents of other roads to take steps as well in this regard," Zillur said.

He said another reason of their coming forward to prevent mosquito was the city corporation's irregularity in conducting anti-mosquito drives.

Several teams of volunteers from a social organisation named Bidyandana Foundation have sprayed mosquito repellents using fog machines in Pallabi and Arambagh areas of Mirpur, and adjacent areas of airport railway stations of Uttara area in this month.

Salman Khan Yeasmin, manager of the foundation's Dhaka branch, said they took the initiative as part of their responsibilities towards the society.

He said they are holding the drives targeting slum areas.

"We will continue our efforts," he added.

Churihatta Ekota Shangha, another organisation, has conducted anti-mosquito drives in Chawkbazar, Churihatta and Rahmatganj areas of old Dhaka from August 3 to August 10, said president of the organisation Ashraf Uddin Shadhin.

Ranjana Rani Roy, leader of the Scout unit of Udayan Higher Secondary School, said they have been conducting awareness programmes since before Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated on June 6, to conduct cleaning drives in Dhaka University and adjoining areas.

She said they are also doing a door-to-door awareness campaign to make people aware about Aedes mosquito and dengue.

Mohammad Mominul Haque, youth chief of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's Dhaka unit, said 80 members of their unit have been working at the grassroots level from 10 days before Eid-ul-Azha celebrated

on August 12.

"We have already visited 80 schools, many houses and mosques in 20 wards of Dhaka South City Corporation to raise awareness about Aedes mosquitoes," he said, adding that they will continue this work for another month.

Around 170 members of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society have been working in Dhaka to build social awareness on the issue, he said.

Meanwhile, Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in charge of Sutrapur Police Station, said they have cleaned the police station and its premises under the initiative of Dhaka Metropolitan police yesterday.

"We also cleaned and destroyed Aedes breeding sources at the station and its adjoining areas several times before Eid-ul-Azha," he said.

City Development Journalists' Forum Bangladesh along with Dhaka South City Corporation held a cleanliness programme to destroy possible sources Aedes larvae at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon and Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam both welcomed the community's initiatives to prevent dengue.

Sayeed Khokon said, "It is difficult for the city corporations alone to kill Aedes mosquitoes as it breeds on clean, stagnant water that can be found anywhere. Everyone should come forward to curb the spread of dengue fever."

TWO MORE DIE

Saheb Ali, 45, of Rajbari died while being treated for dengue fever in Faridpur Medical College Hospital around 9:10pm on Monday.

Kamoda Prosad Saha, superintendent of Faridpur Medical College Hospital said, "Saheb Ali was admitted to the hospital around 12:00pm on Monday with dengue fever."

In Barisal, a school teacher in Barguna's Amtali upazila, died yesterday after being diagnosed with dengue at Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

She was initially admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital on August 17 and then transferred to Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital where she died around 12:30am, Dr Shankar Prasad Adhikari, Amtali upazila's health officer.

A record 56,379 people have been infected with the mosquito-borne disease so far this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Of them 6,470 are currently under treatment in hospitals across the country.

A total of 1,572 new patients -- 750 in Dhaka and the rest outside -- were admitted to different hospitals in 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, according to the DGHS.

One man shame for judiciary

FROM PAGE 1

Apparently, the grisly attack was planned to kill Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, the then opposition leader, and her senior leaders present at a rally in front of the party's central office at the Bangabandhu Avenue.

Before submitting his report, Justice Joyrul Abedin had talked to reporters about it but did not disclose the identity and the motive of the attack that killed 20 and injured over 300. The judge said he was not at liberty to make them public.

However, talking to The Daily Star in 2015, the retired Justice claimed that a neighbouring country had wanted to create anarchy in efforts to unseat the then BNP-led government through the grenade attack.

That country wanted to establish a puppet government in place of the four-party government for its own vested interest. It wanted the people to go against the BNP-Jamaat government following the incident, he said, citing "findings" of his inquiry.

He said his findings might have been different had the Awami League President and then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and other senior leaders present during the incident cooperated with the probe.

The AL had outright rejected the judicial inquiry commission and questioned the government's sincerity to probe attack.

The party also did not allow the commission to inspect Hasina's SUV that had whisked her to safety immediately after the blasts.

Asked, Justice Abedin told The Daily Star he had found evidence that the spy agency of that country had a hand in the attack.

He also added that he did not get any "clear" evidence of involvement of then BNP-Jamaat government or any other officials of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, National Security Intelligence or Prime Minister's Office in the incident.

Justice Abedin, who was elevated to the Appellate Division in August 2006 and retired in December 2009, said he still believed his findings were complete and based on evidence.

Meanwhile, some senior investigating CID officials, presented a petty criminal, Joj Mia, as one of the attackers.

They had Joj Mia make a confessional statement, in which he named several absconding criminals known to be hiding in India as his co-conspirators.

The whole story fell apart as the media did not take long to find holes in his story.

Further investigation revealed in 2012 that the heinous attack was an outcome of conspiracy among militant outfit Huji and a section of senior officials of the home ministry, police, DGFI, NSI and PMO. Some influential leaders of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami were also alleged to have been involved in the planning, according to the investigation. They were indicted in the case and are now facing trial.

Asked about the judicial inquiry commission's findings in the light of those developments, Justice Abedin claimed his report was entirely based on evidence collected by the commission at the time.

The commission recorded statements of 123 people, including the injured victims and their doctors, AL leaders and activists present at the rally, explosives experts, journalists, and security men.

Referring to the ongoing trial process of August 21 grenade attack case, he said names of the attackers would be known after the judgment.

Abedin said he did not name any attackers in his probe. "We will have to wait and see who the attackers were," he added.

[This article was originally published in this paper on August 21, 2015.]

Testimony to terror

FROM PAGE 1

in my dreams," said Joj Mia, who was implicated in the sensational August 21 grenade attack case.

Another such victim, Shaibal Saha Partha, is in no better state.

He momentarily loses his grip on reality whenever he has flashbacks of the physical and mental torture police had inflicted on him.

Partha wants to rid himself of those memories.

"But I don't know whether I will be able to do it at all. The horrifying memories flash through my mind," he said.

Joj Mia and Partha talked to The Daily Star in 2015.

As part of a plan to save the actual culprits of the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in the capital in 2004, police arrested Joj Mia and Partha, and applied tricks to make them admit to crimes they had no knowledge of.

Joj Mia capitulated, and with the words put in his mouth by police, he made a confessional statement to a magistrate naming some top criminals in connection with the attack that left 24 people dead and more than 300 injured.

The then leader of the opposition, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, who was addressing the rally, survived the attack but suffered injuries in her ears.

Joj Mia and Partha were accused in the grenade attack case. They were later acquitted of the charges after an investigation found that several top leaders of the then BNP government, some government officials and militants were involved in the deadly attack.

JOJ MIA

Raiding his Senbagh house in Noakhali, police arrested Joj Mia on June 10, 2005, as part of a clandestine plan to make him a scapegoat in the sensational case.

Joj Mia, who was initially clueless about the reason behind his arrest, was first taken to Senbagh Police Station.

Later, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials brought him to the capital and allegedly tortured him.

"You threw grenades at the Awami League rally," Joj Mia quoted CID official Abdur Rashid, the then investigating officer in the case, as saying.

Joj Mia, who was 20 when the incident took place, said he was surprised at the accusation of his involvement in the attack, and told the officer that he knew nothing about it.

"I was at my Senbagh home on the day of the incident. I saw it on television at a tea stall," he said.

Joj Mia was later placed on remand for days. "During the remand, CID officials tortured me and also lured me into

confessing to the crime.

"They told me that if I agreed to become an approver, I would be sent abroad, and they would bear all the expenses of my family," he said.

Police then started giving a small amount of money to his mother every month. As they stopped it after six months, Joj Mia's family disclosed the whole thing to the media, detailing how the CID tried to feed the media with a made-up story about the attack.

"CID officials threatened to kill me in 'crossfire' if I refused to follow their instructions," he said.

"I would have preferred to get killed in 'crossfire' if I had known that they were going to make me a scapegoat in such a sensational case," Joj Mia told this correspondent over the phone.

PARTHA

Police arrested Partha from his sister's Elephant Road house on August 26, four days after the attack, on suspicion of sending an email with threats to assassinate Hasina.

He was later implicated in two cases -- one for giving death threat and the other over the grenade attack. On March 15, 2005, the High Court granted him ad-interim bail in the cases.

Partha, who just returned home after completing MBA from an Indian university, went to Hearnat Cyber Cafe on Elephant Road to submit his curriculum vitae to different organisations for a job a couple of days before his arrest.

"Police kept me blindfolded for seven consecutive days," he said.

"I still do not know where they had kept me.

"They poured water into my nose and mouth time and again. I felt my breathing would stop any moment and I would die," said Partha, who now works at a private organisation.

Police also lured him into making a confession, saying if he admitted to his involvement in the grenade attack, they would send him to a European country and arrange citizenship for him.

"I repeatedly told them that I knew nothing about it, but they tortured me even more.


"I wouldn't wish such terrible ordeal even on my worst enemy," said Partha.

On August 23, 2004, unknown persons sent an email to Bangla daily Prothom Alo threatening to assassinate Hasina. The CID arrested Partha on suspicion four days later.

He was produced before court on August 30, a day after the CID had filed a case over the death threat.

On September 14 that year, Partha was shown arrested in the case.

[This article was originally published in this paper on August 21, 2015.]



বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন

বিএফডিসি ভবন, ২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

পত্র নং-৩৩.০৩.০০০০.১০১.০৫.০০৯.১৭.২৩৫ তারিখঃ ১৯/০৮/২০১৯ খ্রি:

ভাড়া প্রদানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন বিএফডিসি ভবন, ২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা এর ৩য় ও ৪র্থ তলার ১১৩২৬ বর্গফুট জায়গা সরকারি, বেসরকারি, স্বনামধন্য ব্যাংক, বীমা/অন্যান্য আর্থিক ও বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট নির্ধারিত শর্তে ০১লা অক্টোবর ২০১৯ খ্রিঃ হতে ভাড়া দেয়া হবে। উক্ত জায়গা ভাড়া গ্রহণে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে আগামী ১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯ খ্রি: তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবরে মাসিক প্রতি বর্গফুট হিসেবে ভাড়া/দর প্রস্তাবপূর্বক দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।


(মুহাম্মদ হাবুন অর রশীদ)
সচিব

GD- 1382



Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC)

Banshilpo Bhaban

73, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka

(Website: www.bfidc.gov.bd)

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সচিব বাংলাদেশ।

রাবার কাঠ শক্ত, টেকসই ও উন্নতমানের
আপনিও রাবার কাঠ ব্যবহার করুন।

No. 22.03.0000.111.01.001.19-374 Date: 18/08/2019

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Rubber Industries/Rubber Traders/Purchasers for sales of natural rubber produced by BFIDC during the month of August 2019 as follows:-

Tender No.	Date and time of tender schedule	Submission date and time of tender	Opening time of tender
Tender No. 03	22.08.2019 to 26.08.2019 (From 9:00am to 5:00pm in every working day)	27.08.2019 up to 12:00 noon	27.08.2019 at 12:15pm

Tender schedule, containing details terms & conditions, can be procured from (1) Cashier, Accounts Division, BFIDC, Head Office, 73, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, (2) Office of the General Manager, BFIDC, Rubber Division, F/12, Chandgaon Residential Area, Chattogram, (3) Office of the General Manager, BFIDC, Rubber Division, Sreemangal, Moulavibazar and (4) Office of the General Manager, BFIDC, Rubber Division, Kakraid, Modhupur, Tangail on payment of Tk 200/- (two hundred) (non-refundable) in cash.

2.5% of the total quoted value to be submitted as earnest money in form of **"DD/Pay Order"** from any scheduled bank in favour of **"BFIDC, Head Office, Dhaka"** along with the tender.

Tenderers will have to drop their tenders in the tender box kept in the (1) Office of the Director (Planning & Development), BFIDC, Head Office, 73, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, (2) Office of the General Manager, BFIDC, Rubber Division, F/12, Chandgaon Residential Area, Chattogram and the tender box will be opened at 12:15pm on the same day in presence of the tenderer/tenderers (if any) in the respective offices mentioned above.

All rights are reserved by the authority to accept or reject tenders without assigning any reason.

Abu Md. Raihan
General Manager (Rubber) (Incharge)
GD-1381 Telephone: 9562252

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project

LGED Bhaban (Level-12), LGED

Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

www.lged.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র

শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

For Selection of Individual Consultant (National)

Memo No: 46.02.0000.728.07.004.13.1816 Date: 19-08-2019

1	Ministry/division	Local Government Division.
2	Agency	Local Government Engineering Department.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director.
4	EOI Ref No.	EOI No- 01 Date: 19-08-2019.
5	Procurement method	Selection of Individual Consultant (Time Based).
6	Budget and source of fund	JICA & GOB.
7	Name of the project	Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project.
8	EOI closing date and time	18-09-2019 at 2:00pm.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT:

Package No.	Name of position	No of post	Qualification and experience	Scope of services
SN0BI-LGED-OM-4(1)	Project Monitoring and Reporting Support (PMRS) Consultant	01 (one)	A qualified professional with a B.Sc Engineering (Civil) or its equivalent educational qualification with at least 12 (twelve) years of relevant work experience including experience in computer literacy.	Candidate should assist in providing monitoring, reporting and technical expertise to the project by ensuring effective coordination. Respective ToR and agreement will detail out the responsibilities of the individuals.

The Project Director, Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project (NOBIDEP) now invites eligible applicant to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested applications are invited to provide information completing CV with other details as required as per the applications form in the Request for Application (RFA) to perform the services. A consultant will be selected using the selection sub methods in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules 2008, issued by the GoB. Services are expected to be commenced on November, 2019. Interested applicants may obtain further information and collect the Request for Application Documents/Forms by applying to the address below during office hours up to 04-09-2019.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted by the applications on or before 18-09-2019 on 2:00pm, in sealed envelope delivered to the undersigned and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions" of Interest for Selection of Individual Consultant along with the name of the post. Only short listed candidates will be invited for interview.

Abu Mohd. Shahriar
Project Director
Phone: 88-02-8181355
e-mail: pd.nobidep@lged.gov.bd

GD-1379



CARROLL ADMITS LOW FOOTBALL IQ

Carroll has admitted his football IQ was so low he had to use Google to find out who Luis Suarez was when he joined Liverpool in 2011. Carroll moved to Merseyside for a record fee for a British player of £35 million (\$42 million) and teamed up with the Uruguayan superstar in attack. The 30-year-old former England international striker excused his ignorance by saying he meant no disrespect to Liverpool or Suarez. He said he was just much more interested in going out with his friends than following football off the pitch when he was making his name at his first club Newcastle.

--AFP



Abahani coach Mario Lemos (R) and captain Shahidul Alam (2nd from R) exchange greetings with their opposite numbers during a pre-match press conference at the BFF house yesterday, the eve of their AFC Cup match against April 25.

PHOTO: STAR

Abahani cautious of April 25

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite the absence of a couple of key players, Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani are looking forward to pulling an upset in the AFC Cup when they take on visitors April 25 SC of North Korea in the first leg playoff of inter-zone semifinal today.

The match will get underway at 6:45pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Abahani have already made a piece of history by entering the knockout stage of the second-tier club competition in Asia for the first time and the Sky Blues are now dreaming of moving into the inter-zone final. However, they must get the better of April 25 SC, who will play the inter-zone semifinal playoffs for the third successive time.

Ahead of the match, Abahani received two big blows, with Egyptian defender Alaaeldin Nasr Elsayed Eissa ruled out due to suspension and midfielder Mamunul Islam ruled out due to injury. But the club's coach Mario Lemos wants to bank on the available players, who are apparently ready to take the challenge on the back of three weeks' preparation.

"We played a few group-stage

matches without a few key players. Without Sunday Chizoba, we won against Minerva Punjab in the last match, we also beat Chennaiyin FC without Wellington Priori. And we topped group to come to this stage. There will be suspension and injury in football and some other players will get chance in tomorrow's big match as we expect all the players to be equal. And I have told my players that missing someone is not an excuse," Lemos said at the pre-match conference at the BFF house yesterday.

"The North Korean side is a good one, but we are not afraid of them. However, we can't play the same way we played in the other matches. The players will defend it differently and they are motivated," Lemos said. "I do believe we can beat April 25 but we must play our best and must be perfect. We can't allow the opposition to play. April 25 did not concede too many goals in the group stage and they played with two forwards with the attacks being made through both flanks. We will have to stop their forwards and stop them from sending crosses."

The North Korean side scored 17 goals while conceding only two goals in six group matches. Exposing

their defence will be a tough task for Abahani, who are expected to face tough challenge from the opposition forwards as well. However, Lemos has his idea of stopping April 25.

"I think the key is defending well which has been in our mind in the AFC Cup. It is a test for our defenders but we've got to be aggressive because there is no option. You've got to run more, fight more and jump more. We need to be very aggressive while defending. Attacking wise, if we can defend well and not concede any goals, I really believe we can also score because forwards like [Kervens] Belfort, Sunday, Jewel Rana, [Nabib Newaj] Jibon and Rubel Mia have quality," said Lemos.

Lemos's counterpart O Yun Son, however, does not have much idea about Bangladesh football, but he wants to leave Bangladesh with a good result by concentrating on their own game.

"It is a match of knockout stage and is very important for both sides. I don't have any idea about Bangladesh football even though I have watched highlights of Abahani's matches. We want to focus on our strategy and game plan to win the match," Son said, adding that his squad features four national team players.

MU 'disgusted' by Pogba racist abuse

AFP, London



Manchester United said they "utterly condemn" the racist abuse their World Cup-winning midfielder Paul Pogba received after he missed a penalty in the 1-1 draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers on Monday.

The 26-year-old Frenchman has missed four penalties since the start of last season -- the most by a Premier League player -- while teammate and fellow penalty-taker Marcus Rashford has converted all four of his attempts in that time.

Pogba was assailed on social media, becoming the third player in England to have received racist abuse in the past week due to missing a penalty.

United said they were "disgusted" by the abuse and "utterly condemn" it.

"The individuals who expressed these views do not represent the values of our great club and it is encouraging to see the vast majority of our fans condemn this on social media also," the club said in a statement.

"Manchester United has zero tolerance of any form of racism or discrimination and a long-standing commitment to campaigning against it through our #AllRedAllEqual initiative.

"We will work to identify the few involved in these incidents and take the strongest course of action available to us. We also encourage social media companies to take action in these cases."

Rashford tweeted his support for Pogba.

"Manchester United is a family. @paulpogba is a huge part of that family. You attack him you attack us all..." the England international said.

Chelsea's Tammy Abraham and Championship side Reading's Yakou Meite have suffered similar abuse in the past week.

Abraham missed the crucial penalty in the shootout loss to Liverpool in the Super Cup last Wednesday. The posts aimed at him were described as "abhorrent" by Chelsea and manager Frank Lampard said he was "disgusted".

Lampard also called for social media sites to do more to prevent players being abused while Abraham has said he wants to "silence the haters" with his performances on the pitch.

Chelsea banned a supporter for life in July for racially abusing Manchester City's Raheem Sterling.

Five others were excluded for periods of between one and two years for abusive language.

Ivory Coast international Meite missed a penalty in time added on for Reading on Sunday against Cardiff but his side had the match already wrapped up at 3-0.

Some of the tweets aimed at Pogba were later deleted while several accounts appeared to have been taken down.

Twitter's terms and conditions say it "takes action against behaviour that targets individuals with hateful conduct".



Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba reacts after his penalty is saved by Wolverhampton Wanderers goalkeeper Rui Patricio during their 1-1 draw in the Premier League at the Molineux Stadium on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Messi, Ibra nominated for Puskas award

AFP, Lausanne

Lionel Messi and Zlatan Ibrahimovic are the star names on the 10-player short-list announced on Monday by FIFA for its Puskas award for goal of the year.

They are joined by three women and five men, with goals scored between July 16, 2018 and July 19, 2019.

There are nominees from the Bundesliga, Spanish Liga and women's World Cup and one, a jaw-dropping shot by Billie Simpson of Cliftonville Ladies, from a Northern Ireland women's league game played on what appears to be a public pitch in front of no spectators.

Messi, who has yet to win the award, earned a seventh nomination with a delicate chip for Barcelona against Betis in Seville. Ibrahimovic netted with a balletic volley for LA Galaxy in Toronto in Major League Soccer.

The award, which was established in 2009, is named after the legendary Hungary, Spain and Real Madrid striker Ferenc Puskas.

Fans can vote until September 1 on the 10 candidates nominated by FIFA. The governing body of world football will then choose between the top three vote getters.

The winner will be announced at the FIFA Football Awards in Milan on September 23.



WTC the right move: Kohli

ICC



Test matches in recent years have got more competitive, and the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) will only make it more so, Virat Kohli, the Indian captain, has said.

Kohli's love for the red-ball format is no secret, and he is now excited by what the Test Championship has to offer.

"The games are going to be much more competitive and it brings a lot of purpose to the Test matches you play. It's the right move and the absolute right time," he said on Monday, at a discussion during the CWI/WIPA awards night, at which the Indian team were guests.

"People have been talking about Test cricket not being relevant or dying down. For me, the competition has gone up two-fold the last couple of years," he went on. "It's up to the players to take the challenge and go for victories."

"That's going to be the essence of this Test Championship as well. There will hardly be any boring draws, there will be exciting draws, because everyone will want those extra points."

England and Australia in the Ashes,

and Sri Lanka and New Zealand, have begun their Championship campaigns. Both series have seen bowlers play crucial roles, with the teams not able to pile on big totals. Kohli, whose team are preparing to take on West Indies, whose bowlers too have come into their own in home conditions, agreed that there has been a revival of sorts in bowling, and it was now up to the batsmen to match up to it.

"I don't think us batsmen have lived up to the standard," he said, stressing on the importance of the batting coming together as a team, rather than individuals doing well. "Batsmanship will always be hard at Test level, but even harder now with the Championship where every decision you make counts in the larger scheme of things."

India and West Indies begin their campaigns in the competition on Thursday. Kohli, whose side are also hoping to hold on to their No.1 spot on the MRF Tyres ICC Test Team Rankings, wants consistency from his men.

"It's about continuing the same work we've done and making sure we're consistent enough like we have been over the past couple of seasons."

Sakib Molla outshines Tamim, Rubel

SPORTS REPORTER

Unheralded archer Sakib Molla outshone his senior and experienced teammates Tamimul Islam and Hakim Ahmed Rubel to finish 24th in individual recurve junior men's event of Madrid 2019 World Archery Youth Championships in Spain yesterday.

Sakib scored 638 out of 720 points in the qualification round to finish 24th among 111 participants while Tamimul and Rubel finished 35th and 44th after scoring 632 and 628 points respectively.

Tamimul and Rubel, who are also members of the senior recurve team, had scored 659 and 662 points respectively in qualification round of Hyundai World Archery Championships in Netherlands in June, but they failed to improve their performance in the youth competition.

The trio will play the elimination round today.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh became ninth in recurve men's team event despite scoring identical 1898 points as India, who finished eighth by virtue of better 10-scoring. Bangladesh team will play the first round of elimination against 24th-ranked Australia.

In individual recurve junior women's event, Mehnaz Akter Monira scored 583 points to finish 52nd among 73 archers and she will face 61st-ranked Belgian Charlotte Destrooper in the first round of elimination.

Indian hockey lesson for women's team

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh under-21 women's hockey team began their preparation for the upcoming Junior Women's AHF Cup with a 6-0 defeat against an Indian academy side in the first of their six-match series at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The defeat was expected for the home side, who took up the sticks only last year and had no prior experience of playing international matches except for a three-match exhibition series against Kolkata Warriors in November last year.

Although the Bangladesh girls need were far from convincing in their skill, running, hitting and position sense, they kept their opponents from Sports Authority of India (SAI) academy at bay in the first quarter. They also denied

the Indian side from scoring at least 10 penalty corners.

The Indian team broke the deadlock in the 18th minute from a penalty stroke before the lead was doubled two minutes later. The visitors went into the break with a 3-0 lead.

In the third quarter, India scored two more goals and added the last one in the fourth and final quarter.


"The girls never played such competitive international match under such pressure even though they played three matches against a Kolkata side, which was comparatively weaker than them. If the girls can get rid of pressure in the remaining matches, they can hopefully do well in Junior Women's AHF Cup in Singapore next month," coach Hedayetul Islam Razib said after the match.

The second match will be played tomorrow.



Bangladesh Under-21 women hockey players vie against an Indian academy side in the first match of a six-match series at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



"MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME"

Whether for your home or the Pillars of Padma Bridge
We forge steels with the same expertise

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT for more than **12 years**

SHAH CEMENT

‘HAMZA BRIGADE’ IN CTG

33 indicted on terror charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court in Chattogram yesterday framed charges against 33 people, including Barrister Shakila Farzana, in two cases filed over their alleged involvement with Shaheed Hamza Brigade (SHB), a militant outfit busted by the Rab members in 2015.

Chattogram Anti-Terrorism Tribunal’s acting Judge Abdul Halim framed the charges in the cases filed with Hathazari and Banskhali police stations under Anti-terrorism Act, said Monoranjan Das, public prosecutor (PP) of the tribunal.

The tribunal also issued an arrest warrant against Shakila, daughter of the BNP’s former whip Syed Wahidul Alam.

“Barrister Shakila is accused in both the cases and had been on bail,” the PP said, adding that the tribunal issued the warrant cancelling her bail.

The tribunal fixed September 8 for recording testimony of witnesses in the cases, he also said.

Shakila’s lawyer advocate Abdus Sattar said they had sought some more time from the tribunal as his client was staying abroad for treatment.

Shakila was arrested along with two other lawyers -- Hasanuzzaman Liton and Mahfuz Chowdhury Papon -- on charges of funding terrorism on August 18, 2015.

Rab said the trio had deposited a total of Tk 1.08 crore in the bank account of Maniruzzaman Don, a key member of the SHB.

On February 19, 2015, Rab raided a theoretical training centre of the SHB, which was being run in the guise of an Arabic learning centre, at a madrasa in Olipur area of Chattogram’s Hathazari upazila and arrested 12 people.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Holding her 11-day-old baby girl in her arms, Khadeza sits at Bangamata Bidyaniketon, a temporary shelter for the victims of the Chalantika slum fire, in the capital’s Mirpur-7 yesterday. Recovering from a caesarean section, she is too weak to stand in long queues outside the shelter for relief. Her rickshaw-puller husband cannot help her either as he has to go out to earn money. More than 1,000 shanties were razed to ashes in the massive fire on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Why should not Minni be granted bail?

HC asks govt to explain in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain within a week why Aysha Siddika Minni should not be granted bail in a case filed over the killing of her husband Rifat Sharif.

It also fixed August 28 for hearing the rule and summoned investigation officer of the case to appear before it on the day along with the case documents.

Besides, the court asked the superintendent of Barguna police to explain why he held a press conference on July 18 saying that Minni was involved in the murder even before the investigation is completed.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman asked the Barguna SP to submit his explanation before the HC by August 28.

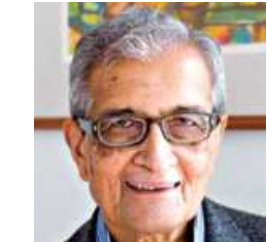
The court passed the order after hearing a bail petition filed by Minni.

During the hearing, Minni’s lawyer AM Aminuddin appealed to the HC to grant his client bail on any condition as “she is a 19-year-old woman and she will not leave the country if she is granted bail”.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hussain Bappi opposed the bail petition, saying that Minni and four other accused had given “confessional” statements to the magistrate and therefore, she could not be granted bail.

On August 8, another HC bench led by Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman refused to grant Minni bail in the case, upon which her lawyer withdrew the bail petition from the HC bench saying he would move the petition before another bench.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



‘Not proud as Indian’

Amartya Sen slams Modi govt decision

NDTV ONLINE

Nobel laureate Dr Amartya Sen has vehemently criticised the government’s move on Kashmir, saying it not only emphasised majority rule “as opposed to it sustaining the rights of all human beings”.

“I don’t think ultimately you will have any resolution in Kashmir without democracy,” he told NDTV in an interview on Monday.

Pointing out the loopholes in the government’s decision on multiple levels, the 85-year-old told NDTV: “As an Indian, I am not

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Pakistan to move ICJ over Kashmir

More arrests in J&K to deter protests; schools remain deserted after opening

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan yesterday said it would take its dispute with India over Kashmir to the International Court of Justice, after New Delhi revoked the special status of its part of the region earlier this month.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s surprise move has increased tensions with arch rival Pakistan which lays claim to Kashmir and has accused India of human rights violations in the territory at the heart of more than 70 years of hostility between them.

Islamabad reacted with fury to that decision, cutting trade and transport links and expelling India’s ambassador.

“We have decided to take the Kashmir case to the International Court of Justice,” Pakistan’s foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, told ARY News TV on Tuesday. “The decision was taken after considering all legal aspects.”

The case would centre on alleged human rights violations by India in Muslim-majority Kashmir, which both countries claim in full but rule in part, Qureshi said.

A decision by the court would advisory only. However, if both countries agreed before-hand, the ruling would become binding.

A spokesman for India’s foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. India denies committing human rights violations in Kashmir.

The development came as security forces detained 30 people overnight in Indian Kashmir’s main city of Srinagar, local officials said, seeking to keep a tight lid on protests over the federal government’s controversial.

Crowds have demonstrated frequently in the city despite a severe clampdown on phone and internet services, a ban on public gatherings

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

‘Robber’ killed in ‘gunfight’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

A suspected robber was killed in a “gunfight” with Rab at Pekua upazila in Cox’s Bazar early yesterday.

The dead Kamal Hossain Prokash alias Badsha Dakat, 33, was a listed robber in Chanua union of Chattogram’s Banskhali upazila, said Rab.

Rab conducted a drive in Mognama Ghat area of Pekua on information that a group of robbers, led by Badsha, was preparing for robbery there, claimed Major Mehedi Hasan, Cox’s Bazar company commander of Rab-7.

Sensing Rab’s presence, the criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he added.

At one stage of the “gunfight”, the criminals fled the scene leaving bullet-hit Badsha behind, he further added.

Rab rescued Badsha and rushed to Pekua Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the Rab official claimed.

The body was sent to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Rab also claimed to have recovered four locally made fire arms, 12 bullets, four sharp weapons and eight empty shells of bullet from the spot.

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

A case was filed in this connection.

Sailor’s message in bottle found 50 yrs later in Alaska



AFP, Washington

A man gathering firewood in Alaska discovered a bottle with a handwritten message inside wishing the finder “happy sailing” more than 50 years after it was dropped into the sea by a Russian sailor.

“Sincere greetings! From the Russian Far East Fleet mother ship VRXF Sulak,” it read. “We wish you good health and long years of life and happy

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3 abducted in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Armed criminals abducted three people from Bandarban’s Ruma upazila on Monday evening, said police.

The three are Basu Karmakar, 32, Nayan Das, 28, and Md Mizan, 30, of the upazila. They are drivers of “Chander Gari” (locally modified passenger vehicle).

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ruma Police Station, said some criminals kidnapped the three at gunpoint from Minjiri Mukh area when they were returning to Ruma upazila town from remote Munnam Para of the upazila.

Army and police are jointly working to rescue the victims, said the OC.

Khalilur Rahman, secretary of Jeep Owners’ Association of Ruma, said the criminals demanded a ransom of Tk 10 lakh over phone to free the abductees.

On August 5, some criminals sent a letter to the organisation, demanding

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A CNG-run three-wheeler squeezes through a gap between two buses on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in the capital’s Matuail area yesterday. Many drivers do not comply with a ban on plying of three-wheelers on highways which often leads to serious accidents. Only two days ago, eight people were killed when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a bus on Cumilla-Laksham road in Jamtoli area.

5 arrested on rape charges

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested three men for their alleged involvement in the gang-rape of a female dancer in Narayanganj.

The arrestees are Shafiqul Islam, 24, Mahmudul Hasan, 23, and Sajib Miah, 21, of the districts Sonargaon upazila, said police.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon Police Station, said the victim filed a case against five men. The three were arrested as they were named in the case.

According to the case statement, Mahmudul invited the victim to perform dance at his office. Responding to the invitation, the victim went to Sonargaon upazila along with one of her friends.

As the victim and her friend reached Darikandi area of Sonargaon, Mahmudul and his cohorts abducted them and gang-raped the woman at knife-point, the case statement

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PROJECT CARS

DAILY DRIVER PERFECTION

Few things motivate me to wake up at 7 AM on a Friday. It only happens if there is an early morning photoshoot or the once a year family picnic that mother makes everyone go to. This Friday was slightly special though, so much so that I hadn't slept the previous night because I feared I wouldn't be able to wake up on time.

This week, we shot Emad Uddin's 2ZZ-GE swapped Toyota Allion, the Toyota Saitama 60th anniversary edition to be precise. In a world of a thousand possible modifications, this car proves that less is indeed more.

Before I start talking about this particular car in question, I feel the need to waste a significant portion of my word limit by talking about the platform itself. The Toyota Premio and Allion, denoted by chassis code NZT240 from 2002 to 2006, came in by boatloads throughout the late 2000's and proved to be a national favourite, so much so that one can't go more than 500 feet without spotting one in Dhaka.

We see so many ill-maintained, battered up daily-driven work horses of this generation, finding a visually immaculate one is like finding a needle in a haystack. Over the years, the only thing the owner tweaked visually is the ride height and very recently the wheels, which means it boasts an original body kit and a very nice interior with a single Recaro bucket seat for the driver (plus a Celica steering wheel, which is one of the first hints to what hides under the hood).

The car has been in the family since 2007, and with the Allion, a young Emad discovered the fun of driving. Now, a veteran in our car scene, he still loves driving his old girl, albeit with a few tweaks along the way. The things done to it are simple, yet it presents itself so elegantly that I asked myself, do you need anything more in a daily driver? Emad commutes to and from Motijheel every day, which is the reason behind opting to keep the car automatic. Coated in a beautiful shade of silver, it shows no clear signs of being driven daily to Motijheel and back.

Onto the modifications, the car has everything done right. For suspension, it has BC Racing BR coilovers with adjustable dampening. He has stiffened up the chassis with front and rear Ultra Racing strut bars, and tightened the cornering capabilities with an Ultra Racing Rear sway bar. This makes for, as I later find out, a car that is very adept in the art of changing directions. The front brakes are from a Toyota Wish, and original rear disc brakes help it stop much better than the basic NZT240, and the owner wishes (heh, get the pun?) to upgrade to Project MU pads in the future. The car spent most of its life with the original 1.5 1NZFE that came with the car, which was later swapped out for a 130 HP 1ZZ-



FE from a Celica, and most recently a 190 HP 2ZZ-GE variant from a Celica GTS. Most swaps in Dhaka use motors and ECUs from Toyota RunX T-sports or Aerotourers, but the owner proudly says his engine and gearbox combination is taken directly from a Celica, distinguished from the rest by a slightly different exhaust manifold and throttle body. It's a common practice to buy reconditioned parts from Dholaikhal or elsewhere, but the owner cut no corners while building his car, so every part mentioned is imported from abroad.

We had spoken for a good 30 minutes when Ahbaar told us it was time to get some rolling shots. That meant it was time for me to get a ride along. We merged onto Airport Road, and

after a few quick snaps we pulled ahead of the camera car and I got to experience what this thing is packing under the hood. 8 AM on a Friday is still relatively early, with little to no traffic. I held on to the handles as Emad wove effortlessly between lanes. The 2ZZ-GE engine, even with an automatic, put down considerable amounts of torque, enough to make it faster than almost every other car on the road. The lightweight VMS crank pulley significantly improved the throttle response, and the owner says it has given him much improved fuel economy, which is much appreciated in a daily driver. There was no need of any risky driving to make the fact clear that the car changed directions as the owner instructed it to. The addition of an aftermarket air filter makes the lift engagement audibly clear and a very fun experience. The exhaust, to my surprise, was locally made. Most, if not all "Bangla exhausts" sound terrible, sans this. The car is essentially quiet at idle, and makes itself heard only when it's being stomped on. The car on throttle is super responsive and power delivery is very smooth because of the impeccable swap. The owner prioritizes handling over everything else, a belief solidified by the Michelin Pilot Sport 4S tyres wrapped around original Japanese alloys. The coilovers were set up perfectly, and throughout our journey we scraped only once on the massive pothole in front of DL Filling Station.

I asked why he chose this platform, and if he plans on any future projects or not. Emad explains, this was the car that brought him the love of driving, and slowly over the years he has perfected this car to best suit his needs. This was, and is his companion during situations that are best compared to a certain someone's now viral caption, challenging times. When necessary, he gets in his car and goes out for a drive whenever he needs a fix.

WORDS: HASEEB CHOWDHURY
PHOTOS: AHBAAR MOHAMMAD



AUTO NEWS

New Bugatti alert - Cenodieci



Inspired by the 90s EB110 supercar - the last independent Bugatti to be launched before VW took ownership and launched the modern era of the French/Italian brand - the Cenodieci (Italian for 110) is a \$9 Million hypercar based on the Chiron.

It's not a new car, rather yet another play on Bugatti highlighting its own history with a special. The 8.0 litre W16 from the Chiron returns with a 1600 HP power rating, taking this tribute piece of a hypercar to 100 km/h in just 2.4 seconds and 300 km/h in 13.1 seconds. By comparison, the average Toyota Corolla takes about 13 seconds to reach 100 km/h. Only 10 will be made and sold, and your chances of seeing one will be lower than your chances at getting with Jessica Alba. It's a fitting tribute to the car that kept the Bugatti dream alive in the 90s.

McLaren F1 "LM Specification" fetches record breaking \$19.8 Million

The McLaren F1—often lauded as the greatest car ever made—has not exactly been in the same realm of ultra-rare collectible as, let's say, the Ferrari 250 GTO series from the 60s has in recent history. Gordon Murray may have designed a ridiculously good supercar, but no amount of gold-plating and limited-numbering and top-speed-record-setting could've fetched the amounts a pre-war Bugatti or a post-war racing Ferrari could get on the auction block. Until now. Reconfirming that motorsport heritage really is the way to a fat envelope after the auction, the McLaren F1 LM has fetched a record setting \$19.8 Million. With 21.5k km on the clock, car no. 018 is only one of two LM cars modified to this spec. It's the most expensive McLaren ever sold at an auction.

