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BNP-Jamaat govt involved in August 21 carnage: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Alleging that the then BNP-Jamaat government was involved in the August 21 grenade attack, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it is not possible to carry out such an attack without the patronage of a government. "Such an incident could not have taken place in broad daylight without the patronage of the then BNP-Jamaat coalition which was in power at that time," she told a discussion at the auditorium of Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the capital.

The Awami League organised the event marking the 15th anniversary of the grenade attack.

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Flanked by senior Awami League leaders, Prime Ministers Sheikh Hasina stands on stage for a moment of silence to remember those who perished in the August 21, 2004, grenade attack on an AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue. The photo was taken at a discussion programme held at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh yesterday.

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION ATTEMPT Doomed to failure again?

Refugees not willing to go back unless demands met

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

The second attempt to repatriate Rohingyas to Myanmar scheduled for today may be futile, as many of the refugees are unwilling to go back. "We are good here. If we are to go there [to Myanmar], we must have citizenship and the right to freedom of movement," said Lalu Majhi, a Rohingya leader, echoing the views of a number of Rohingyas at Shalban Rohingya camp in Teknaf.

Some Rohingyas, under anonymity, said they had told the UNHCR that they would not go back to Myanmar if their demands were not met.

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

They argue that the situation in Rakhine is not safe and they don't have any guarantee of citizenship, freedom of movement and recognition of

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JAHA ALAM FLIGHT HC seeks info on ACC officials

Ashutosh Sarkar and Mahbubur Rahman Khan

Of the 11 investigators, 8 were promoted in January

The High Court yesterday sought to know the names and other particulars of the 11 Anti-Corruption Commission officials whose faulty investigations led to the wrongful imprisonment of Jaha Alam, a jute mill worker, for three years.

The ACC will have to furnish the details and place a report before the court by August 28, the HC said in a suo moto order after the anti-graft body informed the court that departmental proceedings were underway against the 11.

ACC counsel Khurshid Alam Khan later told The Daily Star that the commission had issued show-cause notices to these officials, but their replies were unsatisfactory. This is why the commission has filed departmental cases against them, he said, adding that they can still hold their posts while the proceedings are underway.

The matter came to light in February last year after a private television ran a report on Jaha Alam's plight. He was finally released on February 4 this year following an HC order.

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DENGUE OUTBREAK

NEW CASES IN LAST 24 HRS
1,626

TOTAL DENGUE CASES
57,995

OUTSIDE DHAKA
23,010

DEATH
47 (Unofficially 107)

UNDERGOING TREATMENT
6,278

SOURCE: DGHS

Med students lend a hand

Help doctors, nurses struggling to cope with the deluge of dengue patients at Suhrawardy hospital

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Fifth year medical student Sujit Hossain recovered from dengue just a month ago.

The student of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital saw how much the patients suffered and how doctors and caregivers struggled to cope with the huge number of dengue patients.

These motivated him to do something for the dengue patients, and since Saturday, he has been spending two to three hours every day at the hospital, lending a hand to the



interns and doctors.

Like him, around 50 fifth year students of the medical college have been providing assistance to the

doctors of the hospital since last month.

The Hospital authorities are allowing the students to assist the doctors in checking the blood pressure, pulse and temperature of patients.

"It took me around a month to be fit and start volunteering," said Sujit.

Every day, he spends around seven hours at the college and make time for the voluntary services after evening.

Another student, Abu Ryhan said, "We also motivate the patients to use mosquito nets as many of them are

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WORLD BANK ON WATER POLLUTION

Economic growth of some countries can be reduced by a third

AFP, Washington

Heavily polluted water is reducing economic growth by up to a third in some countries, a World Bank report said, calling for action to address human and environmental harm.

The report relied on what the Bank said was the biggest-ever database assembled on global water quality using monitoring stations, satellite data and machine learning models.

"Clean water is a key factor for economic growth. Deteriorating water quality is stalling economic growth, worsening health conditions, reducing food production, and exacerbating poverty in many countries," said World Bank Group President David Malpass on Tuesday.

The report found that when Biological Oxygen Demand -- an index of the degree of organic pollution and a proxy for overall water pollution -- crosses a threshold of 8 milligrams per liter, GDP growth in downstream regions drops by 0.83 percentage points, about a third for the mean growth rate of 2.33 percent used in the study.

This is because of impacts on health, agriculture, and ecosystems and a "stark indication that there often trade-offs between benefits of economic production and environmental quality, and that the externalities... can be circular," the report said.

A key contributor to poor water quality is nitrogen, essential for agricultural production but which leaches into rivers and oceans where it creates hypoxia and dead zones, and in the air where it forms nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas.

The report said that early exposure of children to nitrates affects their growth and brain development, reducing their health and earning potential.

For every additional kilogram of nitrogen fertilizer per hectare, yields may rise up to five percent, but childhood stunting increases as much as 19 percent and future adult earnings fall by up to two percent compared to those not affected. And increased salinity as a result of manmade pressures such as irrigation, stormwater runoff, leaching of fertilizer, and urban wastewater discharge is pushing down agricultural yields.

The report estimated enough food is lost to saline water each year to feed 170 million people, about the population of Bangladesh.

The authors divided their recommendations into three main areas: information campaigns to raise awareness, prevention efforts to stem some of the worst problems and investments to treat pollution once it has occurred, with more modern technologies like reverse-osmosis offering new pathways.

Johnson, Merkel to face off in first Brexit talks

AFP, Berlin

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was scheduled to visit Berlin yesterday to kick off a marathon of tense talks with key European and international leaders as the threat of a chaotic no-deal Brexit looms.

On his first foreign visit since taking office, he will seek to convince German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and on Thursday French President Emmanuel Macron, to renegotiate elements of the UK's impending divorce from the European Union -- something the EU leaders have already ruled out.

Then, at the weekend, all three will meet US President Donald Trump, a vocal supporter of Brexit and its champion Johnson, and the leaders of Canada, Italy and Japan at a G7 summit in the French seaside resort of Biarritz.

Johnson, in a do-or-die gamble, has insisted Britain will leave the EU on October 31, no matter whether it has ironed out remaining differences with the bloc or not, at the risk of economic turmoil.

The apparent hope is that the other 27 EU members will blink and make concessions to avoid a no-deal Brexit that would hurt people and companies on both sides of the Channel.

In Berlin, Johnson will be received with military honours at 1600 GMT

before his talks with Merkel.

Although chances for a breakthrough appeared slim, a Merkel spokesman said that, after the two had spoken by phone, "sitting at a table together to discuss Brexit and other European issues... is of course useful".

Johnson's tough stance has put him on a collision course with Merkel, Macron and other EU leaders who have insisted the withdrawal deal is final and stressed the need for unity among the other 27 nations.

On Tuesday, EU Council President Donald Tusk again made clear the bloc would not cave in to Johnson's demand to scrap the so-called Irish border backstop plan, which would keep Britain in the European customs union if no trade deal is signed.

The mechanism aims to avoid a "hard border" between EU-member Ireland and British-ruled Northern Ireland, which could raise the threat of renewed sectarian tensions.

However, Johnson has slammed the backstop as "undemocratic" and charged it would prevent Britain from pursuing a trade policy independent of EU rules.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar this week reiterated the EU 27 position that the withdrawal agreement struck under Johnson's predecessor Theresa May cannot be reopened.

Med students

FROM PAGE 1

unwilling to remain under the net." They also provide mental support to patients, and help the lab technicians with their tasks, he added.

Some patients do not have anyone to take their blood samples to the lab or receive their test reports from labs, he said.

"I feel content when I help with the crisis. Normally, the authorities do not allow medical students [to do these] before their internship."

Before Eid holidays, the hospital authorities dedicated two wards with 200 beds each for dengue patients. The management also dedicated more healthcare personnel at the ward to handle the rush of patients.

According to the Director General of Health Services (DGHS), 1,626 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday.

At least 57,995 people have taken treatment at hospitals with dengue this year.

Prof Dr Uttam Kumar Barua, director of Suhrawady Medical College Hospital, said he requested college authorities to let 5th year students to help the doctors.

Now around 50 students have been working there, he said.

Around fifty other 5th year students of the Mugda Medical College and Hospital also gave similar voluntary services.

"They gave the services before Eid. But the services are not needed any longer because fewer dengue patients are coming to the hospital now," said the hospital Director Amin Ahmed Khan.

According to the DGHS, a total of 2,388 dengue patients have been admitted to the Suhrawady hospital. Of them, 344 are now undergoing treatment.

WOMAN DIES

Khadija Aktar Nila, 27, a resident of Gendaria's Dayaganj, died of dengue on Tuesday night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).



A dead Bengal tigress at Sharankhola range office of the forest department in the Sundarbans. Officials of the department found the carcass yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY

Italy's kingmaker Mattarella holds talks after PM Conte resigns

AFP, Rome

Italian President Sergio Mattarella has begun talks with key players in a bid to end Italy's political limbo the day after Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte resigned.

The usually mild-mannered Conte handed in his resignation after lashing out at far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini for pursuing his own interests by pulling the plug on the ruling coalition with the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S).

The move left the eurozone's third

largest economy in a political vacuum until Mattarella decides whether to form a new coalition or call an election after talks with parties in the coming days.

Meanwhile Mattarella charged Conte with heading a caretaker administration, pending consultations on a new government which are set to begin at 1400 GMT.

Italy's constitution says that Mattarella should first consult former presidents, meaning Senator Giorgio Napolitano, 94, who was in the job from 2006-2015.

Those talks will be by telephone

as Napolitano is not in Rome, and will be followed by talks with house speakers and the leaders of political groups.

"It is irresponsible to initiate a government crisis," Conte told the Senate on Tuesday after Salvini tried to bring down the government in the hope of snap elections that could make him premier.

Salvini plunged Italy into crisis with the shock announcement on August 8 that his anti-migrant League party was pulling out of the 14-month coalition government with the M5S.

Doomed to failure again?

FROM PAGE 1

their ethnic identity in Myanmar where they have been discriminated against for decades.

As part of the latest repatriation plan, 235 Rohingya families were privately consulted by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in association with the officials of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) over the last two days, but it could not be confirmed if any of them had agreed to return.

"The consultation with the families has been recorded. These files will be sent to the higher authorities of the government. At the same time, the consultation will continue," RRRC Mohammad Abul Kalam told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Asked if the repatriation would start today, he did answer directly, but said, "We are fully prepared. It can start anytime."

Before any repatriation takes place, refugees are taken to transit camps and kept there for two to three days, but no Rohingya was taken to any of the two transit camps -- one at Keruntoli in Teknaf and the other at Ghundhum border area in Naikhangchhari of Bandarban -- suggesting that the repatriation process would not be starting today.

The process was announced by Myanmar's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Myint Thu on August 15 and scheduled to begin on August 22.

Myanmar had cleared the names of 3,450 Rohingyas from a list of 22,000 plus Rohingyas sent by Bangladesh.

In early August, Bangladesh provided the approved list to the UNHCR in Dhaka and sought its assistance in assessing their voluntariness for returning to Myanmar.

Accordingly, UNHCR and RRRC officials conducted an "intention survey" on those listed, although it could not be ascertained how many took part in it.

Diplomatic sources said China, which wants a bilateral solution to the Rohingya crisis, is mediating the repatriation process.

'A SECRET LIST'

Nearly 700 Rohingyas of camps 24, 26 and 27 in Shalban of Teknaf have signed a statement expressing concerns at the sudden repatriation plan made without their consultation.

"We are very concerned about how this secret list of names was created and why we are included in it. We

never volunteered [for] our names to go on the list," said a statement prepared by the community leaders of the camps.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the statement.

It said Rohingya leaders met a delegation from Myanmar and ASEAN countries in July and demanded that Rohingya representatives be engaged in any repatriation dialogue. The Myanmar delegation agreed to meet again in two months to continue the talks.

"While we were preparing for it [the talks], suddenly Myanmar and the UNHCR started their own repatriation plan without consulting us," said the statement.

"We want to make it very clear to the UNHCR, ASEAN and the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh that there will be no repatriation without talking to us first," it said.

Bodirul Islam, a Rohingya leader from camp 26, said the situation in the Rakhine State right now was not safe for their return.

"Clashes between the AA [Arakan Army] and Myanmar army is still going on. So, it is not safe for us to go there now," said Baron Roshid of camp 26.

Another leader, Nosima, from camp 26, said Rohingya women had been raped and killed.

"We need security. Without security we will never go back," she said.

"We need a real guarantee of citizenship, security and promise of returning to our original homelands. We must talk to the Myanmar government about these before repatriation," said Md Islam.

The Rohingyas raised similar concerns and demands even when the first round of repatriation was scheduled to begin on November 15 last year, a year after Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a bilateral deal in this regard.

To help Myanmar create conditions favourable for the Rohingyas to return, the UNDP and UNHCR signed a tripartite deal with Myanmar in June 2018, nearly a year after 740,000 Rohingyas fled military atrocities in Rakhine, which was termed as having "genocidal intent" by UN independent investigators.

The UN still maintains that the situation there is not right for repatriation.

CALLS TO SUSPEND REPATRIATION Non-government organisations and human rights bodies asked

the Myanmar and Bangladesh governments to suspend plans to repatriate Rohingya refugees until they can return in a safe, voluntary, and dignified manner.

"Myanmar has yet to address the systematic persecution and violence against the Rohingya, so refugees have every reason to fear for their safety if they return," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director of Human Rights Watch.

"Many Rohingya have said that they would like to return to Myanmar so long as they don't suffer the same abuse, indignities, and atrocities they have endured in the past," Ganguly said.

Therefore, Bangladesh should not join this "dangerous rush" to send refugees back to where the conditions might force them to flee again, she said.

"We know that thousands of Rohingyas back in Myanmar are still in detention camps," one refugee told Human Rights Watch, referring to an estimated 125,000 Rohingyas who have been confined to open-air camps in central Rakhine State since 2012.

"If those people are released and return to their villages, then we will know it is safe to return and we will go back home."

Sixty-one NGOs, including Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Concern Worldwide, Catholic Relief Services, ActionAid, Danish Refugee Council, Adventist Development and Relief Agency International, Action Contre la Faim France, World Concern, Oxfam, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children and World Vision also made similar statements.

It said discriminatory policies in Myanmar meant that Rohingya communities in Rakhine continue to face severe movement restrictions, as well as limited access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities.

Consultation with displaced communities is limited, and they remain unable to return to their original communities or another location of choice, the NGOs said in a statement yesterday.

"Achieving durable solutions requires the Myanmar government to address the fundamental issues of equal rights and ensure that all communities in the Rakhine State can live in safety, access basic services and pursue livelihoods opportunities," it added.

J&K, ARTICLE 370

It's India's internal matter

Says Bangladesh after Jaishankar's visit to Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday termed the Indian government's revoking of article 370 "an internal issue of India".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said this in a press release published on its official website 15 days into the scrapping of the article that provided special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Bangladesh maintains that the abrogation of article 370 by the Indian government is an internal issue of India," says the press release.

The statement comes a day after Indian External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar held meetings with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

"Bangladesh has always advocated, as a matter of principle, that maintaining regional peace and stability, as well as development should be a priority for all countries," the release added.

The BJP-led Indian government stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its autonomy and statehood, creating two federal territories, on August 5.

The order revokes article 370 of India's constitution, which forbids Indians outside the state from permanently settling, buying land, holding local government jobs, and securing educational scholarships.

Indo-Bangla relations on positive trajectory

Says Jaishankar; leaves for Kathmandu

UNB, Dhaka

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday said Bangladesh-India relationship was on a "positive trajectory".

"Good to see our ties on such a positive trajectory," he said before leaving Dhaka for Kathmandu in the morning.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Riva Ganguly Das saw him off at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 10:30am, said an official.

Jaishankar said he had "productive discussions" with his Bangladesh counterpart AK Abdul Momen on Tuesday.

The Indian minister met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban on the same day.

Bangladesh and India are working to find "mutually acceptable formulas" to share water of 54 common rivers keeping India's commitment to resolving Teesta issue unchanged.

Jaishankar said India's partnership with Bangladesh remains an example of what neighbours can do if they work together as two partners.

He said the Indian government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is determined to ensure that this partnership is truly a role model in South Asia and for the world.

The minister said they would like to offer all possible support to realise Bangladesh's development agenda which was in India's interest as well.

India is a leading development partner of Bangladesh as it has extended concessional lines of credit to the tune of around \$8 billion.



Medical students helping out doctors and nurses in treating dengue patients at a ward in Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BNP-Jamaat govt involved in August 21 carnage: PM

FROM PAGE 1

Hasina said she was not supposed to survive the attack and even then the government did not think so. "I know many things. Those who had carried out the attack took shelter in a place from where a call was made to know whether I was killed."

"Perhaps Khaleda Zia [then prime minister] also had kept a condolence message ready so that she could issue it soon after my death," the PM added.

At the beginning of the programme, a one-minute silence was observed to

pay respect to the memories of the massacre victims.

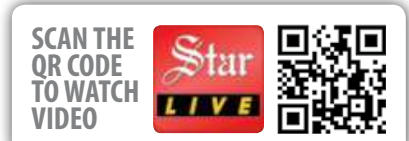
AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, advisory council member Amir Hossain Amu, presidium members

Corporation Sayeed Khokon, among others, spoke on the occasion.

The grisly grenade attack was carried out at an AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital on August 21, 2004.

Twenty-four people, including then president of Mohila Awami League and late president Zillur Rahman's wife Ivy Rahman, were killed and over 500 injured in the attack.

Hasina, the then opposition leader, narrowly escaped the blast. The AL men saved her life forming a human shield around her.





Workers of Alif Apparels Ltd staged a sit-in yesterday at Mirpur Road in Shyamoli after they found the factory closed without prior notice. Traffic movement was stopped from 8am until 11am.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE

Will seek capital punishment for Tarique Rahman: Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said they will go to the High Court seeking capital punishment for acting BNP chairman Tarique Rahman, terming him the "mastermind of August 21 grenade attack".

"We'll surely go to the High Court, as there's a scope to carry out a legal fight for the maximum punishment of Tarique Rahman," he said while talking to reporters after placing wreaths at a makeshift altar in front of the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue, marking the 15th anniversary of the gruesome attack.

Quader, also the Road Transport and Bridges Minister, further said, "Harkatul-Jihad leader Mufti Hannan in his confessional statement said they made the attack at the behest of Tarique Rahman. So, the mastermind of the killing must be awarded the highest punishment."

The minister said the BNP-Jamaat alliance regime carried out the grenade attack on Awami League's anti-terrorism public rally on this day in 2004, and then-opposition leader Sheikh Hasina was their prime target.

He said two incidents of history -- August 15 assassination of Bangabandhu and most of his family members, and the August 21 grenade attack -- are inseparable as those were carried out with the same motive.

Quader also said the working

relationship that needs to remain between the government and the opposition party was finished forever through the bomb blasts. "It won't be possible for us to forget the pain of bloody August 21 incident."

Even after that, he said, Awami League tried to normalise relations with BNP as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina invited Khaleda Zia to Gono Bhaban before the January 5 national election in 2014.

"Our leader also went to Khaleda Zia's office to console her following her son's death. The people know they misbehaved with the prime minister. On that day, BNP shut the door for dialogue in Bangladesh politics, by closing the door on the face of the prime minister."

At least 24 leaders and activists, including Awami League women affairs secretary and late President Zillur Rahman's wife Ivy Rahman, were killed and 300 others injured in the grenade attack on August 21, 2004. Sheikh Hasina fortunately escaped the attack unhurt, but her hearing was affected badly.

Nearly 14 years after the attack, a Dhaka court on October 10 last year sentenced 19 people, including the then BNP-led government's state minister for home affairs Lutfozzaman Babar to death.

Tarique Rahman, the exiled eldest son of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia and the party's current acting chairman, and 18 others were also sentenced to life in prison in the case.

ANTI-MOSQUITO DRIVE

Penal Code to be used if combing operation faces obstacle: Atiquel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Penal Code will be used to hand down punishment to any house owner who obstructs the "combing operation" to kill Aedes mosquitoes, said Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Atiquel Islam yesterday.

"From now on, if city corporation officials face any obstacle during the drive by any house owners or if they refuse to cooperate, then we will use Penal Code 1860," said the mayor at a meeting organised by DNCC, to evaluate the recent mosquito-killing and cleanliness drives, at Spectra Convention Centre in Gulshan-1.

Ward councillors of DNCC attended the meeting.

Presiding over the programme, Atiquel said, "Our officials faced obstructions during recent drives. We had to wait 45



LGD Secretary Helal Uddin, LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam and DNCC Mayor Atiquel Islam at the event.

minutes to get inside a building."

Some homeowners even did not let them use lifts, saying their lift was out of order, he said sharing experience of a recent drive.

Emphasising responsibilities of the citizens and ward councillors, the mayor said the drive should continue round the year to keep mosquitoes in check.

A magistrate of DNCC said clause 187, 269 and 270 of the Penal Code can be used to hand out jail sentences and fines for not cooperating with a public servant, or for negligent or malignant "act likely to cause infection of disease".

Speaking as a chief guest, Local Government and Rural Development Minister Md Tazul Islam said, "We will cooperate to fight against Aedes mosquitoes. We request councillors to play an active role."

He also said Aedes mosquitoes have become a menace across Asia now, and the government is trying their best to control it.

DNCC Secretary Rabindra Sri Barua was also present at the programme.

BNP smells 'AL involvement' in August 21 attack

UNB, Dhaka

BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said there is a question in public mind whether Awami League had "involvement" with the blueprint of the August 21 grenade attack.

"It [August 21 attack] was part of a deep-rooted blueprint. People wonder whether the ruling party [AL] had involvement with it," he said.

Rizvi, BNP's senior joint secretary general, came up with the remarks while speaking at a press conference at the party's Nayapalton central office. The nation is observing the 15th anniversary of the brutal attack on an Awami League rally in the city that killed at least 24 leaders and activists of the party and injured 300 others.

Sheikh Hasina, the then opposition leader, luckily escaped the attack but her hearing was affected badly.

Nearly 14 years after the gruesome grenade attack, a Dhaka court on October 10 last year sentenced 19 people, including the then BNP-led government's state minister for home affairs,

Lutfozzaman Babar, to death.

Tarique Rahman, BNP's current acting chairman, and 18 others were also sentenced to life in prison in the case.

Rizvi claimed that the investigation into the grenade attack case was not fair and impartial. "The neutral investigation was obstructed, and we repeatedly talked about it in the past."

He said Tarique Rahman's name was not in the charge sheet submitted during the caretaker government's rule on August 22, 2007, accusing 22 people.

The BNP leader alleged that Tarique's name was included in the supplementary charge sheet of the case when Awami League came to power.

He questioned why the investigation officer of the case did not find Tarique's involvement in the grenade attack during the 1/11 regime.

"Tarique Rahman was implicated in the case with a political motive. Had there been rule of law, justice and good governance, the real culprits would have been punished," Rizvi observed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Make technical courses must at secondary schools

JS body recommends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended for making technical courses mandatory at all secondary schools.

"We have recommended for making technical courses mandatory for all students sixth grade to tenth grade at all general stream secondary schools," committee member Fazle Hossain Badsha told The Daily Star after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He said they made the recommendation with a target of developing skilled and efficient human resources for the country.

Badsh added that the committee also instructed authorities concerned to increase their monitoring on educational institutions, about completion of syllabus in due time.

At the meeting, the committee also held detailed discussion on International Mother Language Institute Bill-2019.

Standing committee chairman Afsarul Ameen presided over the meeting, that was also attended by its members -- state minister for education Mohiubul Hasan

Chowdhury, lawmakers AKM Shajahan Kamal, Abdus Sobhan Miah, and Golam Kibria Tipu.

Mohiubul Hasan Chowdhury said introduction of mandatory technical courses at all general-stream secondary schools was an education ministry plan which is under implementation.

"After discussion on our plan, the committee supported it," he added.

Education ministry officials said the government has plans to expand technical and vocational education at all schools and madrasas.

To this end, the education ministry is set to introduce Secondary School Certificate (vocational) at 640 schools and madrasas from next year.

It is also planning to introduce a compulsory technical course for students of sixth grade at all 30,000 schools and madrasas from 2021, top officials of Technical and Madrasa Education Division (TMED) said.

They added that such courses will be offered to students up to eighth grade gradually in following years.

Parliament's 4th session to begin on Sep 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourth session of the 11th Jatiya Sangsad will begin at 5pm on September 8.

President Abdul Hamid called the session yesterday exercising the power bestowed upon him as per clause (1) of article 72 of the constitution, according to a press release of the parliament secretariat.

Before the House goes into session, the business advisory committee of the Jatiya Sangsad is scheduled to hold a meeting at parliament with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair to fix the duration and businesses of the upcoming session.

Duration of the fourth session is likely to be short, sources at the parliament secretariat told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Visitors go through photos displayed at "One Click One Story Photography Festival" organised by Photographers Club Bangladesh at Drik Gallery yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



It's time to return to a regular diet after the red meat extravaganza during the holidays. Here's how you can do it:

1. Make use of seasonal fruits and vegetables in cooking or eat them as snacks and salads.
2. Cook meat in a different way for a change. Grill or oven-bake some chicken.
3. Keep your digestion system in check. Eat foods that are rich in fibre and make sure you drink lots of water.

DHAKA TODAY

LECTURE

In Memory of Bangabandhu
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Time: 4pm

EXHIBITION

Evergreens Bonsai Society 2nd Annual Bonsai Exhibition
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
Time: 3pm-8pm

MEMORIAL PROGRAMME

Shotoborsher Pothe Bangabandhu
Venue: National Auditorium, Gallery 5, Shilpakala Academy
Time: 12pm-8pm

THEATRE

Desire Under the Elms
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Time: 6:30pm

SEMINAR

Deradicalization of Youth Among Displaced Children
Organiser: Young
Venue: House 8, Dhanmondi 4/A
Time: 5pm

BEAUTY WORKSHOP

Blow Drying
Organiser: Sheba.xyz Beauty
Venue: DevoTech Technology Park Level 6, House 11, Road 113/A, Gulshan 2
Time: 10am

THEATRE

Domer Madar
Troupe: Natyam Repertory
Venue: Experimental Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 7pm

DEATH OF LAWYER IN PANCHAGARH JAIL HOSPITAL

No proof of murder but probe report finds mismanagement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The judicial committee formed to inquire into the death of Advocate Palash Kumar Roy in Panchagarh Prison Hospital has not found any proof of murder but has noticed some mismanagement and irregularities in the hospital.

Palash -- a lawyer of Dhaka Bar Association -- who was in Panchagarh jail in connection with a defamation case, allegedly set himself on fire on April 26 at the prison hospital. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit on April 30.

The judicial committee formed by the High Court in May this year has handed over its probe report to the HC last month through its registrar's office, and the report was produced before the HC during hearing of a writ petition yesterday.

After going through the probe report, the HC bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Md Badruzzaman said "apparently,

this is a case of suicide" and asked the office concerned to send the probe report to the home secretary and inspector general of prisons.

The bench also ordered the home secretary and inspector general of prisons to submit their statements over the probe report to the court by October 15.

Earlier in the day, writ petitioner Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman read out from some parts of the probe report saying that there was unabated use of gas lighters in Panchagarh prison, there was no fire extinguisher, close circuit television (CCTV) camera and jail superintendent, a diploma nurse was discharging the duties of a doctor and a murder case accused was working at the surgical department of the prison hospital.

The writ petitioner also said it took 24 hours, after Palash Roy set himself on fire, to arrange his treatment.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

BIRTH CENTENARY OF BANGABANDHU

Celebration fund to be spent under direct purchase method

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will spend the fund for the celebration of birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under direct purchase method (DPM).

Cabinet committee on economic affairs yesterday approved a cabinet division proposal in this regard at a meeting chaired by Agriculture Minister Mohammad Abdur Razaque in the secretariat.

Officials of cabinet division told The Daily Star that the government will celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation at home and abroad, beginning from March 17, 2020 for next one year.

For this, the National Implementation Committee for the Centennial Birth Anniversary Celebration will spend necessary funds to arrange various events.

Government has allocated Tk 100 crore in this fiscal's budget for the celebration.

The implementation committee will appoint an event management firm to organise the events.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Khulna Bastuhara colony waterlogged for five days

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Rainwater has not receded from Khulna city's Bastuhara colony even after five days, causing immense suffering to its 10,000 residents.

Due to incessant rain, two-third of the city went under water on Friday night. Although water went down from the city's other areas by Saturday noon, most places of the colony are still submerged.

Visiting the area yesterday, this correspondent found the roads under water. Many were forced to stay indoors. Women and children were the worst sufferers.

The residents were wading through ankle-deep water. Most of the shops were opened but there were sparse customers.

The residents said the colony gets waterlogged even after a brief rain. Despite repeated promises pledged by public representatives, no initiative has been taken to reduce waterlogging, they alleged.

Talking to The Daily Star, Habibur Rahman, a resident, said there was knee-deep water on Saturday afternoon.

"A canal flowing through the area is filled with garbage. So, it cannot drain the water. Besides, two narrow sewers are in similar state," said Habibur.

Baby Begum, another resident, said several roads of the colony were repaired two years ago, but drainage system is yet to be improved. "The floors inside my house had remained flooded since Monday. During the time, we kept valuables including the stove on the bed."

"My children cannot go to school due to the water," she added.

Saddam Hossain, another resident, said the canal and drains in the area have not renovated for years.



Md Mahafuzur Rahman, councillor of Ward No-9, said the colony is situated in a low-lying area where the sewers are narrow. Rainwater moves towards the colony from the adjacent areas, he added.

"I will take an initiative to resolve the crisis after consulting with the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) mayor," said Mahafuzur.

Md Ziaur Rahman, assistant waste

management officer (B-zone) of KCC, said they cleaned the drains after the downpour but the area is still under water because of being low-lying.

The roads in the area have no drains on both of their sides, said the KCC official. Besides, the sewers cannot be kept clean because the residents always dumped garbage in those, he added.

AUG 21 ATTACK

Khaleda can't evade responsibility: info minister

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia cannot evade the responsibility for the grisly August 21 grenade attack.

"The attack was made led by Tarique Rahman with the knowledge of his mother BNP chief Khaleda Zia," he told reporters after placing wreaths at a makeshift altar in front of Awami League central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka.

As per the confessional statement by government officials, the minister said the then Directorate General of Forces Intelligence tried to investigate the incident, but Khaleda rebuked them. "So, she's liable for the attack, and she can't evade the responsibility."

Hasan, also the publicity and publication secretary of AL, said the August 21 grenade attack is not only a tragic incident but also a disgusting one in the life of the nation.

He said the then BNP-Jamaat-led government obstructed the investigation into the incident and its trial at every step. "Even, police charged batons on those rescuing the injured on that day to help the attackers flee the scene."

The minister alleged that the BNP-Jamaat clique is still conspiring to turn Bangladesh into a militant state. "To foil such a plot, the verdict of the August 21 case must be executed."

He also urged the country's people to remain alert about the evil activities and the plots of the BNP-Jamaat.

Dhaka, Washington discuss ways to address mutual concerns

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and the United States have discussed ways to address the areas of mutual concerns, including countering radicalisation and recruitment in the region.

The two countries also discussed the importance of respecting human rights and the rule of law with an effective counterterrorism strategy.

US Department of State's Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism John T Godfrey visited Bangladesh from August

18-19 and discussed the issues with Bangladesh government officials and other partners.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller and Godfrey met Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque to discuss partnering with Bangladesh on CT/CVE initiatives, said the embassy yesterday.

Godfrey also met Bangladesh's Anti-Terrorism Unit and its Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime Unit to review implementation of bilateral CT/CVE programmes, related to law enforcement and the judiciary.

BNP smells

FROM PAGE 3

Describing the August 21 attack as a tragic incident, he claimed that those who conspired against the then BNP government might have carried it out.

Reacting to ruling party leaders' remarks accusing BNP for the grenade attack, Rizvi said, "Pilkhana carnage occurred during Awami League's rule. Is Awami League responsible for the incident?"

As his attention was drawn to the information minister's comment that Khaleda Zia was involved with the August 21 attack, he said they can say anything as they are now in power but people know the truth.

Parliament's

FROM PAGE 3

The third session, which was also the budget session, began on June 11 and was prorogued on July 11 after 21 working days. The 11th parliament formed through the December 30, 2018 national election went into its maiden session on January 30 this year.

DFID allocates GBP 102,625 for Mirpur fire victims

UNB, Dhaka

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated GBP 102,625 to support those affected by a massive fire at Jheelpar Chalanika slum in the capital's Mirpur area.

This new allocation aims to provide non-food items, mosquito nets, hygiene items, financial support, education, and psycho-social support over a period of 45 days, said the British High Commission in Dhaka on Wednesday.

Almost all 3,000 shanties of the slum -- set up on around 25 to 30 bighas of government wetland -- were gutted by the fire on the night of August 16.

Some 24 firefighting units brought the fire under control after frantic efforts, which had spread to several nearby buildings in Mirpur-7.

No proof of murder

FROM PAGE 3

Following the writ petition, the HC on May 8 this year formed the judicial committee, led by the chief judicial magistrate of Panchagarh, to inquire into the death of Advocate Palash Kumar Roy.

The court asked the committee to submit the report before it in 30 days and also issued a rule asking authorities concerned of the government to explain why their failure to give protection to Palash inside the jail should not be declared illegal.

Deputy Attorney General Bipul Baghmar represented the state.

Fake liquor-making

FROM PAGE 5

Among the arrestees, Ekramul and Swapan used to run homeopathy pharmacies, and supplied spirit to the gang from their shops, while Nasim used to deliver the adulterated liquor to different areas on his motorbike, said Deputy Commissioner (West) Faruk-Ul-Haque of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP).

Imran is the maker of adulterated liquor using the spirit, chemicals and flavours, he added.

Addressing a press conference at CMP Headquarters in Dampara, DC Faruk said four persons including the three who died on August 15 brought a bottle of liquor from Nasim and later consumed it at the house of one Biswajit Mallik.

"The gang first collected empty bottles of foreign-brand alcohol from different bars and liquor shops in the city, and then refilled the bottles with the mixture of spirit and different chemicals to look like the original product, and put fresh labels on the bottle printed from the press," said

the DC.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mostafizur Rahman of Akbar Shah Police Station said police started an investigation about the source of liquor after the death of three people in Akbar Shah, and found a clue about Nasim and arrested him from the same area on August 20.

Later, based on his confession, police arrested Ekram and Swapan from Hazari Lane area while Imran and Jahed were detained from Andarkilla, said OC Mustafiz. "The labels of different liquor brands were printed from the presses at Andarkilla and Pahartali areas," said OC Mustafiz.

Police official Mustafiz said the gang used to spend Tk 200-300 for each bottle and they usually sold every bottle for about Tk 1500 to 4000.

DC Faruk said during primary interrogation, Nasim said the gang has been involved in the business for four years.

OC Mustafiz said the gang destroyed the consignment of the liquor batch, after the death of the three.

Auto-rickshaw driver returns

FROM PAGE 5

The phone belonged to Mahmudul Hasan, an executive magistrate.

Hanif handed the phone over to Mahmudul, who appreciated the effort greatly. "He [Hanif] tried his very best to return the smartphone to me," said Mahmudul.

The Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur,

Asib Ahsan, presented the auto-rickshaw driver with a flower bouquet and gift hamper. "Nothing is parallel to honesty. His example should be followed by everyone," said the DC.

"Many can afford to replace a lost smartphone, but the data inside it is more important and cannot be recovered easily," Hanif said.

Celebration fund to be spent

FROM PAGE 3

The year-long celebration will include inaugural and concluding ceremonies; city beautification; arrangement of workshops, seminars, conference, cultural events and exhibitions at home and abroad; making documentary and publication, and creation of mementos.

The committee will also buy non-consulting services through outsourcing process.

On July 6 last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at a joint meeting of Awami League Advisory Council and Central Working Committee, made the announcement of celebrating 2020 as "Mujib Year".

Hearing on death references

FROM PAGE 5

A special court in Dhaka delivered the verdict in the cases 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 38 accused were also sentenced to life in prison for causing grievous injuries to the survivors.

On January 13 this year, the HC accepted the appeals for hearing and also stayed part of the trial court verdict that fined the convicts of the cases.

The HC will hold the hearing on the death references and appeals after relevant procedures are completed.

Whose road

FROM PAGE 5

ASM Kabir, executive engineer of LGED, meanwhile told this newspaper that it was not possible for them to take responsibility to their designated share of the road [from Mayur Bridge to Joy Bangla intersection], as it did not fit the classification criteria for it to be under LGED's supervision.

"If the KDA chairman writes to the high authority of LGED and sanctions money, then we can repair the road," said ASM Kabir.

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Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) invites sealed quotations from interested parties/individuals to purchase a used vehicle (Toyota Axio Sedan Car). Interested bidders are requested to visit IWM website <www.iwmbd.org> for details.

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Sealed tenders are invited from the bona-fide contractors/manufacturers/dealers/distributors/ suppliers for supply of the following items. The detail specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

SL No	Name of the items	Quantity	Schedule Price (Non-refundable)
1	Cooling Tower	01 Set.	Tk.3000
2	Tiles Fitting & Fixing Works of Jhama Fountain (12000 Sft.)	01 Lot.	Tk.3000
3	Air Handling Unit 100 RT	01 No.	Tk.1500
4	Semi-Automated Chemistry Analyzer (Re-tender)	01 No.	Tk.1000

Interested bidders may obtain Tender Schedule from the Purchasing Department on submission of an application on their respective letterhead up to **September 16, 2019** during office hours. Tender will be received up to **02:30 pm on September 17, 2019** and will be opened on the same day at **03:00 pm** in presence of bidders, if any.

Tender must be supported by an Earnest Money amounting to Tk.400,000 (four lac only) for SL No 01 and 5% of quoted price for SL No 2 to 4 in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favor of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008, Extn: 4164

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in any of the following tenders, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below:

- Civil, Electrical & Networking works at present premises of our **Daudkandi Branch, Cumilla.**
- Civil, Electrical & Networking works at present premises of our **Bhanga Branch, Faridpur.**
- Supply, installation & commissioning of Air Coolers at our (i) **Lala Bazar Branch, Sylhet,** (ii) **Bamna Branch, Barguna** & (iii) **Gaibandha Branch, Gaibandha.**

Please visit our website - <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase their Tender document by **29 August, 2019** duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer in the Tender Box by **01 September, 2019** (before 11.00 A.M).

Abu Habib Khairul Kabir
General Manager

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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Position Vacancy Announcement

Position: Project Management Specialist (Family Planning), FSN - 11

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of **Project Management Specialist (Family Planning)**, in the Office of Population, Health, Nutrition & Education (PHNE).
Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: September 14, 2019.
For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit USAID/Bangladesh website: <http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers> and www.bdjobs.com
D-206

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Magura Sadar, District: Magura
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.5557.000.99.060.19-787 Date: 21/08/2019

e-Tender Notice

Notice No. 04/2019-2020 (LTM)

e-Tenders are invited under the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

SI No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Tender/proposal documents last selling date and time
1.	e-Tender/NBIDNNGPS/MAG/MAG/2018-2019/W 1.04436	348531	1. Const of classroom of Bayna Asia Khatun Primary School.	15/09/2019 & 16:00

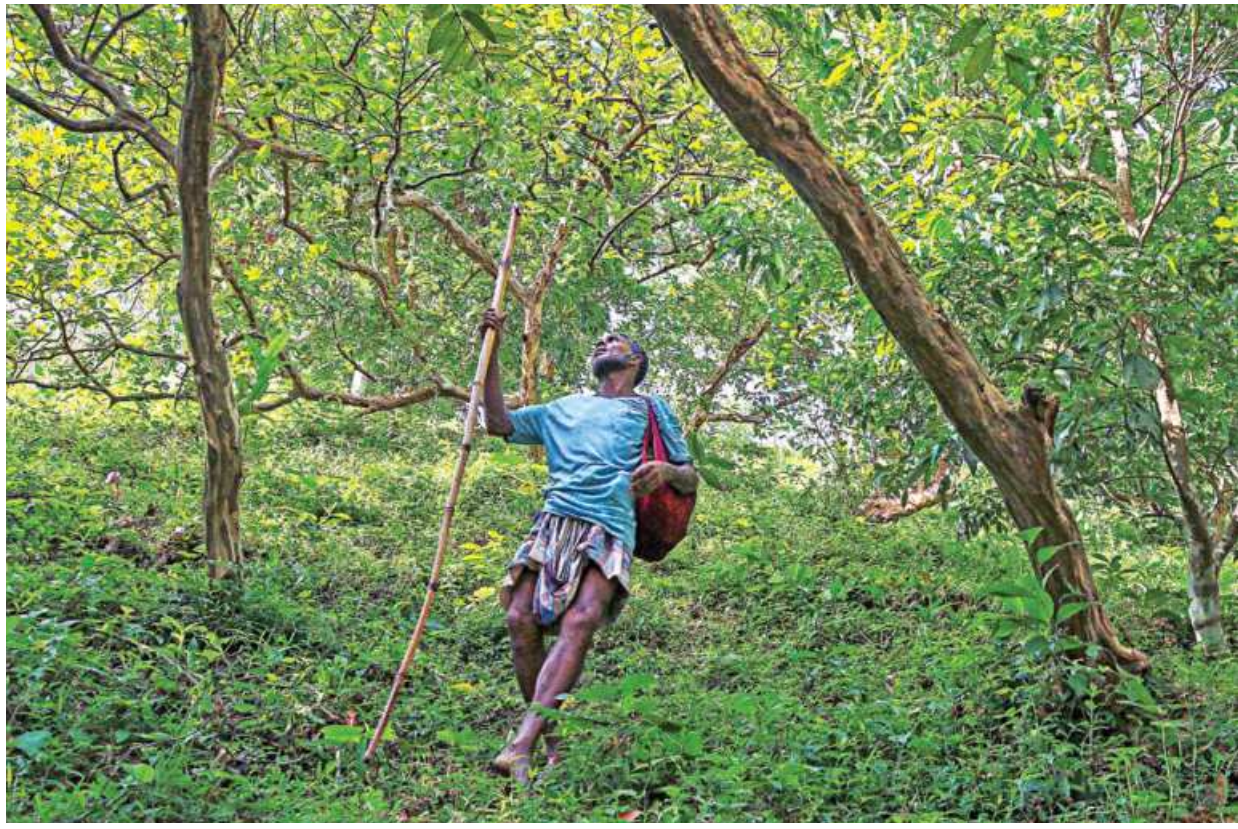
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Habibur Rahman
Upazila Engineer
Magura Sadar, Magura
ue.magura-s@lged.gov.bd

GD-1390



It's guava season, and growers of the fruit are busy picking the ripe ones in Chattogram's Chandanaish upazila. A grower is seen meticulously putting the picked guavas in his sack, top right. He will join others who will be carrying the fruits to the wholesale guava market beside Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway to sell them, bottom right. The photos were taken from the upazila's Shopnonagar and Kanchonagar on Tuesday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



ACC files cases against district registrar, surveyor in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed two cases against five persons, including a district registrar and land surveyor, on charge of embezzling Waqf state land worth Tk 130 crore and amassing wealth worth Tk 64.24 lakh beyond known sources of income and concealing information.

The accused are Md Lutfur Rahman, Nilphamari district registrar; Trisha Bhattacharia, advocate and deed writer of Court Hill of Chattogram; Md Jakir Hossain, deed receiver; Md Ataul Karim Osmani, witness of deeds; and Md Abdul Gafur, land surveyor of Rangamati District Administration.

ACC Assistant Director (AD) of Chattogram-1 Humayun Kabir filed a case with ACC's Chattogram office accusing Abdul Gafur of amassing wealth worth Tk 64.24 lakh.

Deputy Director (DD) Shahin Ara Mamtaz also filed a case accusing Lutfur Rahman and three others of embezzling 1184 decimals of Waqf state land, belonging to Hazi Gani Sowdagar, in 2012.

DD Lutfur Kabir Chandan said upon receiving information, the anti-graft watchdog has started investigation against the five to find any irregularities during their service.

"As part of our next course of action, the accused will be arrested in connection to those cases," Lutfur said.

Read more about Bangabandhu to foster nationalism

Speakers urge youngsters at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will not be able to move forward and progress if its citizens do not nurture the ideologies of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and uphold the spirit of the Liberation War, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They urged youngsters to read more books and articles about Bangabandhu -- not only to know the founder of the nation better, but also to foster nationalism and the spirit in them.

Ekattorer Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Committee, a pro-liberation organisation, held the discussion at National Museum auditorium in the capital on the occasion of 44th death anniversary of Bangabandhu. Speaking at the event, Shyamoli Nasrin

Chowdhury, vice-president of Nirmul Committee, said many on various occasions chant the slogan "Joy Bangla". But how many of them truly grasp the meaning of the slogan, she wondered.

"This generation needs to read more about Bangabandhu, and the spirit of Liberation War will grow among them," Shyamoli said.

"This country will not run without the ideologies of Bangabandhu and the spirit of Liberation War," she added.

Shahriar Kabir, president of Nirmul Committee, said the root of anti-liberation forces still remains in the country, although many of them died or were hanged.

We have to stop their activities before uprooting them, he added.

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASES

Hearing on death references may start this year: law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the High Court hearing on the death references and appeals of the August 21 grenade attack cases may start this year as their paper books will be prepared within two to four months.

"The work for preparing the paper books of the August 21 grenade attack cases has already started. We are trying so that the hearing of the death references and appeals of the cases starts as soon as possible," he said while talking to reporters at his secretariat office.

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 examined by the HC for confirmation of the punishment.

Yesterday, the law minister said, "I can say that the relevant process for preparing the paper books have already started. The prosecution will see to it so that the paper books of the August 21 grenade attack cases are readied quickly. The paper books of these cases will be quite big as they have 225 witnesses."

Replying to a question, the minister said the government is working to bring all the fugitive convicts of August 21 grenade attack cases, including BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman, back to the country to execute the court verdict.

"There are some complexities in bringing the fugitives back and the government is trying to resolve the problems in this regard," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Auto-rickshaw driver returns lost phone

Gets reward from Rangpur DC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hanif Mia, an auto-rickshaw driver from Rangpur's Dangirpar, found a smartphone on the street in front of the Deputy Commissioner's residence at around 7:30am on August 13.

He frantically searched for the phone's owner in nearby areas, but failed. He could not determine the identity of the owner either, as the phone was locked.

But where there's a will, there's a way. After a few days, Hanif took the phone to one Abdul Awal, a master's student of Carmichael College. Awal couldn't unlock the phone, but he took out the memory card and tried to identify the owner from there.

From a few pictures on the phone, they realised that the phone must belong to someone from the DC office.

Last Sunday, Hanif took the phone to the DC office in search of its owner. Within 30 minutes, he found out that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

DEATH BY ALCOHOL POISONING

Fake liquor-making gang busted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram police yesterday busted an organised gang that manufactures adulterated liquor and sold them using fake labels of foreign brands, arresting five people from different parts of port city in possession with liquor-making materials.

Law enforcers claimed that three persons who died in city's Kaiballadham area of Akbar Shah on August 15 -- fell sick after drinking toxic alcohol made by the gang.

The arrestees are Nasim Uddin, 23; Ekramul Haque, 23; Swapan Pal, 51; Imran Faisal, 21; and Jahedur Rahman Arju, 30.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Nurul Abedin passes away

CITY DESK

Md Nurul

Abedin, former secretary and chairman of BIWTA, died at United Hospital on August 20 at the age of 78, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Azimpur Chhapra mosque after Zohr prayers yesterday. Later, he was buried at Azimpur graveyard.

Anwar Ali's death anniv

CITY DESK

Today marks the 31st death anniversary of Dr Syed Anwar Ali, a freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, prayers will be offered at his Banani grave in Dhaka.

Anwar Ali, a founder of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, was also one of the broadcasters of the proclamation of independence of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 26 in 1971 from Kalurghat in Chattogram.

Two boys killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Two boys were killed in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Joypurhat, a sixth-grader was killed after a truck hit him on Joypurhat-Dhamuirhat road in the town's Khanzanpur area.

The deceased -- Tasnimul Islam, 13, son of Bellal Hossain from town's Adarshapara area -- was a student of Khanzanpur High School.

Protesting the incident, students of the school blocked the road for an hour.

In Kurigram, another boy was killed after a bus hit him on Kurigram-Bhurungamari highway at RDRS Square in Nageswari upazila.

The deceased was identified as Rayhan Kabir, 10, son of Shahidul Islam from Banurkhamar village in Nageswari municipality.

Police said Rayhan died on the spot. Similar protest was held on the highway, disrupting traffic for one and half hours.

The driver managed to escape. Police seized the vehicle, said Rawshan Kabir, officer-in-charge of Nageswari Police Station.

Youth hacked in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A youth was indiscriminately hacked by some masked miscreants at Comilla Victoria Government College's intermediate campus on Tuesday evening.

The victim is Supriyom Roy Pritul, 21, from Puratan Chowdhuripara of Cumilla town.

Pritul was taken to Cumilla Medical College Hospital after the incident and was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. His condition is critical.

His father Sonjoy Roy said, "The incident occurred when Pritul was visiting the college campus. The attackers were masked, so it was pre-planned."

Anwarul Haque, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station, said, "After hearing about the incident, we sent police there immediately. The family is yet to lodge a complaint." The attackers had already fled by the time police got there.

Whose road is it anyway?

Khulna bypass road in poor state as authorities duck responsibility

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Authorities' indifference, as well as lack of foresight and responsibility has left the Khulna city bypass connectivity road in a sorry state, at the expense of local residents and inter-district buses passing through it.

The asphalt on the surface of the 50-foot wide road has long been gone, and large potholes have emerged on the road, and due to a lack of drainage, rainwater often accumulates on it, creating a thick layer of muck. Passengers of buses and pedestrians have a hard time using the road, while vehicular movement also becomes extremely slow.

Kazi Md Nurul Islam, president of Khulna Motor Workers Union, told the Daily Star that buses to 18 districts -- including Dhaka, Barishal, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi and a number of upazilas in Khulna ply from Sonadanga bus terminal.

"Every day, at least 10 to 15 minor accidents occur due to the poor condition of the road," he said, adding, "We have been seeking a solution to this for years but none of Khulna Development Authority (KDA), Khulna City Corporation (KCC), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) or district administration have paid heed to repair the road."

GM Alamgir Kabir, a banker who lives in the neighbourhood, said, "Traveling along this road is outright dangerous. At least two to three thousand people use it every day amid risk of accidents, since there is not even any footpath here."

There are three privately-owned educational institutions along the road -- a high school, a college and a university. This correspondent found a large number of students commuting on the road, on foot and on other vehicles.

BAD PLANNING

KDA sources said construction of the 2.16km road from Sonadanga bus terminal to the Joy Bangla intersection of the Rupsha bridge highway was completed in June 2013, at a cost of Tk 20.5 crore.

However, no renovation or repair work has been done on the road since.

Kazi Sabirul Alam, chief engineer of KDA and project director of the road, told The Daily Star that around 800 metres of the road -- from

Sonadanga bus terminal to Mayur bridge -- was handed over to the estate department of KCC in December 2013. Besides, KDA sent a letter to LGED the same year to take charge of another portion of road from Mayur Bridge to Joy Bangla intersection.

"Now it is the responsibility of the two authorities to repair the road," said Sabirul Alam.

Asked why the road has no drainage facilities or footpaths, he said at the time of construction, they did not consider that the road would become so busy.

WHO'S THE CUSTODIAN?

Although KDA claims to have handed over the road to respective authorities, neither KCC nor LGED have held up their end.

Mashiuzzaman Khan, Executive Engineer of KCC claimed that they were not informed by their estate office that the road was under their jurisdiction, until recently.

"We have already dumped sand and brick to make the road suitable for movement," he added.

He also said a project to construct drains on the road was being discussed. "The road will be renovated soon after the drain is constructed."

However, upon a visit to the spot on earlier this week, this correspondent found the road to be in pretty bad shape.

Merely a hundred steps from Sonadanga Model Police Station, a big hole on the middle of the road has become a headache for roadside shop owners and pedestrians.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Buses to and from 18 districts -- including the capital -- enter and exit Khulna city through the road, that is neither suitable for vehicular movement, nor pedestrians'. PHOTO: STAR



বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

প্রধান কার্যালয়ঃ ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

www.bdbl.com.bd

ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর পদে নিয়োগের পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর পদে চুক্তি ভিত্তিক নিয়োগের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

- আবেদনকারীকে ব্যাংকিং পেশায় সক্রিয় কর্মকর্তা হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ১৫ (পনেরো) বছরের কর্ম অভিজ্ঞতা এবং ব্যাংকের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক/সিইও এর অবাধিত পূর্ববর্তী পদে অথবা উভয় পদ মিলিয়ে কমপক্ষে ০১ বছর ০৬ মাস কর্ম অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

- স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ন্যূনতম স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে। অর্থনীতি, ব্যাংকিং ও ফিন্যান্স কিংবা ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন বিষয়ে উচ্চতর প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষা অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।

- আবেদনকারীর স্বাধীন প্রদান ও আদায় দক্ষতা এবং ব্যাংকের কার্যবলীর নিবিড় পরিবীক্ষণ ও ব্যাংকের হিসাব সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে পারদর্শিতা বিশেষ যোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।

- ১৫/০৫/২০১৯ তারিখে সর্বোচ্চ ৬০ (ষাট) বছর বয়সের প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

- চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগের মেয়াদ হবে সর্বোচ্চ ০৩ (তিন) বছর এবং বেতন-ভাতাদি বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পর্ষদ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হবে।

- অগ্রহী প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্র, জীবন-বৃত্তান্ত, শিক্ষাগত/পেশাগত সনদপত্রের ফটোকপি, ২ কপি রঙিন পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি এবং যোগাযোগের বিস্তারিত ঠিকানা সহ হার্ডকপি ও সফট কপি উভয়রূপে চেয়ারম্যান, পরিচালনা পর্ষদ, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড বরাবর নিম্নের ঠিকানায় প্রেরণ করতে হবে, যা অবশ্যই ০১/০৯/২০১৯ তারিখ রবিবার দাপ্তরিক সময়ের (সন্ধ্যা ৬ঃ০০টা) মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে।

ইতোপূর্বে ২০/০৫/২০১৯ তারিখে দৈনিক যুগান্তর এবং The Daily Star পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রেক্ষিতে এ পদের জন্য যারা আবেদন করেছেন, তাঁদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর নিয়োগের জন্য গঠিত সার্চ কমিটি প্রার্থীদের যেকোনো আবেদন গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

কেবল সংক্ষিপ্ত তালিকাভুক্ত (short listed) প্রার্থীদের চূড়ান্ত বাছাই প্রক্রিয়ায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আহ্বান করা হবে।

ঠিকানাঃ মোঃ জহুরুল ইসলাম, কোম্পানী সচিব, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড,

প্রধান কার্যালয়ঃ ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

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জিডি-১৩৮৮

মোঃ জহুরুল ইসলাম

কোম্পানী সচিব

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 22, 2019, BHADRA 7, 1426 BS

Jaishankar's visit

Vague responses to two crucial issues

THE Indian external affairs minister's maiden visit to Dhaka, was not one that garnered high expectations as it is considered to serve the protocol of formally bringing an invitation to our prime minister from her Indian counterpart and completing the preparatory work for it. Even so, we cannot help but feel disappointed by Mr S Jaishankar's visit if not by what was said but more so by what remained unsaid.

Two issues need to be mentioned here—the case with regard to water sharing agreements and the issue of the NRC—two issues of great concern for Bangladesh. While Mr Jaishankar expressed India's desire to find a "mutually acceptable" formula to share water from 54 upper riparian rivers, he was rather vague regarding the Teesta water sharing treaty. When asked about it he merely said that there was no change in India's commitment to the position it had taken. The last time we checked, the two countries could not sign a deal during former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in 2011 because West Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had vehemently opposed the deal. And in 2015, the then Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said that there would be no deal without the West Bengal government on board. Is this the position Mr Jaishankar is referring to?

His response "it is an internal matter of India" with regard to the National Register of Citizens in Assam that has left out around four million Bangla-speaking people at risk of losing citizenship and facing possible expulsion from India, is rather confusing. What will be the fate of the four million people who are excluded? Will they be pushed into Bangladesh? We raise the question because statements from Indian leaders, including the home minister, all but indirectly hinted so. Also, the cut off year being 1971, leaves little doubt of what may happen.

The Indian external minister's stress on easing the process for people's visits to the countries, assurances to address the border killing issue, readiness to provide assistance to the Rohingyas in Bangladesh and enthusiasm regarding enhancing India's economic partnership with Bangladesh were some of the more positive outcomes of the visit and we thank him for them.

We look forward to our prime minister's visit to India and hope that her meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the contentious issues and result in sustainable solutions that will give a genuine boost to the cordial relations the two countries share. Given our extremely warm relationship with India, we have great expectations from the upcoming summit.

Farmers deprived of fair price

Fingers pointed at officials, middlemen

AGRICULTURE and food security, both of which have been cornerstones of government policy, have resulted in robust crop production in the country. Yet, we find that farmers in Sunamganj's haor areas have not been getting the benefit of the various procurement policies that the state has in place. Allegedly, middlemen have been making use of fake farmer cards to buy paddy. This malpractice, along with others, is apparently depriving genuine farmers of the benefit of selling paddy as listed farmers and getting the government-fixed price of Tk 1,040 per maund.

Although only seven percent of paddy growers are to be enlisted in the government procurement, the enlistment process is handled by representatives of local government bodies like union parishads. The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) then arranges lotteries and selects farmers from whom the paddy will be procured. Farmers allege that there is foul play, i.e. only farmers with party links are shortlisted to be eligible to participate in the lottery. Although this has been denied by the authorities, one cannot rule it out because there is no monitoring mechanism available at present.

Since only 25,000 out of an estimated 384,000 farmers in Sunamganj get enlisted to supply paddy at government rate, the rest are forced to sell their crop in the open market at about Tk 520-650 per maund. What it all boils down to is that a fraction of farmers is benefiting from government procurement of paddy and the rest are left to their own devices. Middlemen, wholesalers and mill owners can, and do, offer prices that are nearly half the rate offered by the authorities, and this means that the price per maund of paddy is worth less than 1 kg of Hilsa.

If we take into account that there is politics in choosing which farmers qualify to sell paddy to the government and the existence of fake farmer cards, it is also possible that farmers will start losing interest in growing paddy next season. That will have serious ramifications for food security in the country, and it is time the DAE looked into these allegations seriously.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Are we really growing?

Despite Bangladesh's high economic growth, both the agricultural and industrial sectors have been unable to create enough jobs, which is raising serious questions about the significance of the country's growth.

Economic growth and economic development are not synonymous. The former is the increase in the production of goods and services within a nation, for a specific period of time.

Economic development emphasises on both qualitative and quantitative growth of the economy. It is denoted by an increase in the per capita income of every citizen, with the quality of living standard being a major indicator of it. Therefore, economic development should be given more focus for Bangladesh to truly progress. Balanced and uniform development is more necessary than just achieving high economic growth. Our experts should come up with policies that would ensure the trickling down of our growth to even the lowest quintile of individuals in our economic pyramid.

Md Zillur Rahaman, by email

Slums: Whose problem is it anyway?



TASNEEM TAYEB

THE recent fire incident at the Chalantika slum in Mirpur has perhaps been the kindest to the victims: claiming no lives, only their life's possessions. The fire that broke out

around 7:20pm on August 16, 2019, engulfed more than a thousand shanties, leaving thousands of people homeless. It took 24 firefighting units hours to reign in the insatiable flames. A lot of the slum dwellers had been away to their native villages to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha, serendipitously escaping the blazing fires. Concerned authorities have also been quick to contain the situation and provide relief to the affected people, with DNCC operating treatment facilities for the victims.

According to a UNDP report, slum dwellers account for more than 33 percent of the capital's population. For these rootless millions, life can be precarious, and rife for exploitation. For instance, despite poverty being their calling card, shanty dwellers actually pay inflated rents for their cramped, fragile and at times fatal accommodations. The report cites a 2017 study by Bangladesh University that reveals that slumlords on average earn Tk 47 per square foot per month for the accommodation provided, almost twice the amount a resident has to pay for a formal, decent accommodation in even upscale areas such as Dhanmondi.

The shanty residents also pay exorbitant amounts to get basic utility services such as electricity, gas and water. Oftentimes, the costs are covered by the governments, the risks—the fatal risks of makeshift infrastructure—are borne by the residents, while the benefits are pocketed by the slumlords.

Take the recent fire incident at Chalantika slum for example. Although the exact cause of fire is yet to be ascertained, it has been suggested that the fire spread fast due to faulty gas supply mechanism. The slumlords had been illegally supplying gas to the residents through plastic pipes. According to a report published in this daily, Rezaul Karim, assistant director of the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Dhaka, has this to say about the incident: "We found illegal gas connections in the slum when we were conducting search operation [on August 17]. The gas was supplied through plastic pipes. The plastic pipes melted in the heat, releasing the gas and helping the fire spread faster to adjacent shanties."



PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Dwellers inspect the remains of their possessions after a fire engulfed Mirpur's Chalantika slum last week.

According to a report published in *Prothom Alo*, the slum dwellers had each been paying Tk 500 for this faulty and illegal gas connection, which amounts to Tk 75 lakh per month. Unfortunately, since the gas was being provided illegally, not a single penny reached the utility providers—Titas Gas in this case.

According to the same report, almost Tk 1.5 crore was being paid every month by the slum dwellers for gas, electricity and water connection. The money was allegedly being collected by the henchmen of two political hotshots of the ruling party, who divided it between themselves.

It wouldn't take too much of a leap of faith to assume this case to be fairly representative of the goings-on of the nearly 3,400 slums of Dhaka. According to a report published by this daily in 2017, there were at least 10,000 illegal gas connections in Korail slum, which were being provided by two syndicates. They collected more than Tk 5 million every month from the shanty residents. Galvanised Iron (GI) and plastic pipes have been used to supply gas to the residents, which increases the possibility of fire hazard manifold. Korail slum has witnessed multiple fire incidents in recent years, with some attributed to gas explosions.

Apart from such obvious risk factors, sanitation and hygiene, security, and unhealthy living conditions are also part of the myriad problems slum dwellers face day in, day out. At all times, their perilous existence hangs in the balance, stuck between a rock—the insatiable hunger of their willing hosts—and a hard place—the threat of eviction in a moment's notice.

In the midst of all these issues, one wonders why successive governments in the last few decades have not taken measures to provide concrete shelter to the slum dwellers. After all, these people form a significant workforce, part of the reason why our economy enjoys its low-cost advantage to this day. If nothing else, these are enfranchised citizens of our country, guaranteed by our constitution to live "free from exploitation", part of "a society in which the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens."

Not that the government did not undertake projects to address the plight of slum dwellers. In 1998, the government did initiate the well-intentioned Tk 341 crore Bhashantek Rehabilitation Project in Mirpur, which was meant to provide 7,560 flats for the urban poor. The project was never quite the resounding success

it was hoped to have been. Financial irregularities, mismanagement, and corruption took their toll, and soon the project had to be shelved, and along with it the possibility of a sustainable and affordable housing for the urban poor. As tends to be the case, it is they who would ultimately pay the price.

It is a strangely cyclical life, the boom of the bright city lights and the bust of the bright city lights, followed by the boom of exploitation, eviction and mortality. There are many possible solutions that have been tried, to varying degrees of success, around the world—solutions we could learn from. But looking at them, we see a common thread that holds all such shanties together—a confluence of vested interests that has a built-in machine designed to systematically exploit millions of vulnerable households for the profit of a few, feeding this vicious cycle in perpetuity.

It is a complex problem, but perhaps the solution starts with a simple step: accepting ownership of this challenge as a society, and demanding the requisite will from our public representatives to strike a blow that will not just dent but also shatter this hungry machine.

Tasneem Tayeb is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is @TayebTasneem.

Rohingya children staring at a bleak future

DAVID SKINNER

13-YEAR-OLD Fatima (not her real name) is acutely aware of the importance of school. She fled Myanmar two years ago with nothing. She now lives in the world's biggest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar with her parents, two sisters and grandfather. She has faced difficulties most children her age never will. She wants to be a teacher, but not just any teacher. She wants to teach girls because when girls are educated, they teach others.

In August 2017, over half a million Rohingya children were forced from

solidarity, the people of Bangladesh gave them sanctuary and a sense of security that they had lacked in Myanmar. The world came together to support the people of Bangladesh: individuals, aid agencies, governments and the UN system mobilised to make sure that child refugees and their carers had somewhere to live and the opportunity to exercise their basic rights.

Because of this mobilisation, the tragedy of a forced exile did not lead to a humanitarian disaster. A large forest area in Cox's Bazar was cleared, makeshift shelters were erected, children were fed and outbreaks of disease were controlled.

But life for Rohingya refugee children like Fatima remains bleak. She is so eager to learn but has no opportunity when it comes to secondary or tertiary education. By only being able to provide a rudimentary primary-level education in the camps, we are failing Rohingya refugee children, robbing them of the chance to serve their communities and indeed the world at large. We are robbing Fatima of her dream to become a teacher. It's not acceptable.

The shelters children live in are temporary, made of bamboo and plastic sheeting. They wouldn't survive a strong wind, let alone a cyclone. One in 10

ago have also had their lives turned upside down. A quiet, rural network of villages and small market towns has had to deal with the arrival of a million people. Homes and villages surrounding the refugee camps are much more susceptible to the impacts of flooding and landslides because of the degradation of the surrounding forest. Healthcare services that were already at full capacity prior to the crisis are now overloaded. Resentment is on the rise. Children from the host community are uncertain about their futures too.

Yet two years on we are no closer to a solution, no way out, no avenue for the 600,000 children living in the camps in Cox's Bazar. The prospect of a safe, voluntary and dignified return to Myanmar is remote. No third country is coming forward to offer resettlement. There is no prospect of a significant, settled relocation within Bangladesh.

Rohingya children are said to be turning into a lost generation—a cliché often associated with long-term refugees. But they are not lost. The world knows where they are. They need support now to ensure they can learn, that they are safe, and they are healthy. They must not be forgotten. To do so would not be acceptable.

Rohingya children must also have a sense of hope: something to suggest that they will one day be able to fulfil their aspirations. The government and people of Bangladesh have done a great global good in sheltering the Rohingya population the last two years. They need continued support from across the world.

But long-term solution to this crisis lies in Myanmar. Conditions must be created to support the Rohingya's safe and voluntary return to their homes. For these conditions to exist, perpetrators of crimes against the Rohingya must be held accountable. Second, the Government of Myanmar must stop the conflict in Rakhine. Third, in line with Article 7 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, Rohingya children should have a clear and unambiguous nationality.

The lives of all children in Cox's Bazar—Rohingya and Bangladeshi—have been affected by this crisis. We owe it to Fatima to give her a chance in life, to support her in realising her dreams; and not become a victim of a conflict she had no part in.

The world must do better.
David Skinner is working as the Team Leader for Rohingya Response at Save the Children in Bangladesh.



Rohingya children stand in a queue at a registration camp in Cox's Bazar.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

their homes. It was the biggest mass displacement of people since the Rwandan genocide in 1994. The Rohingya children told us that they have witnessed rape, torture and killing. Some were raped and tortured themselves; many saw their friends and family getting killed before their eyes. All they could was run while their homes burned.

With very little, they made their way across the border from Myanmar to Bangladesh. In a remarkable act of

Although a major health emergency was averted, more than a million refugees continue to suffer.

Save the Children has been working in Cox's Bazar providing support to the most vulnerable people, both refugee and Bangladeshi children, in health, nutrition, hygiene, education and—perhaps above all—child protection. To date we have reached more than 400,000 children with our life-saving interventions.

children are still malnourished. Fears of trafficking, drugs and violent crimes in the camps make children feel unsafe. Simple tasks like fetching water or going to the latrine after dark can be dangerous as children navigate through the poorly lit camps with little in the way of security. This is not acceptable either.

But it's not just Rohingya refugee children who need our help. The children in the communities who welcomed the Rohingya two years

Setting standards in the real estate business



MARK NOSWORTHY

ALONG with the rapid development of the country, the real estate sector of Bangladesh is also expanding steadily. The sector is on the rise due to

the growing demands for housing, expanding middle-class and increasing per capita income. But the country lacks real estate benchmarking, which is a standard of measurement for financial characteristics of property.

Real estate benchmarking has been designed to help investors better avoid reckless speculation. Generally, this refers to the comparison of potential real estate investment properties against a predetermined framework of measurement.

According to the regulations of Bangladesh Bank, an individual customer can secure a maximum housing loan of Tk 12 million. The process of getting a home loan has also become more convenient than in previous years. Concerned authorities are now offering housing loans even in the suburbs, districts and upazilas. Now the question is: how can people ensure the maximum utilisation of their home loans?

The performance of the real estate market is difficult to measure in Bangladesh as information is scarce and many transactions are kept confidential. It is important to be able to compare costs within and across markets, which is only possible in a real estate sector that has benchmarking. But people cannot do this in Bangladesh as the country has no specific method for real estate benchmarking. The situation results in



Dusk settling over Dhaka's skyline.

the harassment of many people.

In the USA, both at the operational level and at the corporate strategy level, benchmarking of facilities is frequently related to the area of space occupied. The common benchmarks adopted relate the cost of service provision per unit of area occupied; it can also indicate some measure of staff or business productivity per unit of area. The USA also has a number of published methods of measuring property areas that are used to benchmark corporate real estate.

If people have knowledge about a property, including its price and facilities, it becomes easier for them to decide what they want to do with

it. But in most cases, this doesn't happen in Bangladesh. It's natural that prices of assets will vary depending on location. But here, both commercial builders and individual owners demand prices without considering the value of their properties. They take different amounts of money, whatever they can get from different clients, even if the property types are similar and located in the same area. They also take rents from their tenants in a similar fashion. Rent may differ to some extent due to interior designs. But it has been reported that tenants in the same building, with the same facilities of similar apartments, sometimes pay different rents. This

PHOTO: AHNAF SABER/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

is happening due to the lack of real estate benchmarking.

Real estate benchmarking helps a real estate investor or owner to realise their ideal number for each indicator, which the investor can use to evaluate whether a property is worth investing in. It gives investors precise equations that allow them to judge property value based on how much it's worth right then and what kind of profits it was able to generate in the past. The results of these calculations are known as benchmark indicators. In the same way, benchmarking will enable tenants to decide in which areas they could find their desired residences according to their

affordability.

If there was a real estate benchmarking standard in Bangladesh, many problems could be avoided. By discussing the issue with representatives of private organisations, land owners and related government bodies, concerned authorities can finalise a method of real estate benchmarking in Bangladesh.

Benchmarking of real estate management is required for efficient management of assets to support the core business. Management activities of benchmarked facilities are required to have common measure upon which to base comparisons. Survey reports say that a significant proportion of these measures relates to a property's location. They include better transportation and communication facilities, proximity to educational institutions and workplaces, and the residential environment of the locality. So these things should be considered while finalising a method of benchmarking in an area.

In this situation, players in the real estate sector online services can play an important role in establishing real estate benchmarking in Bangladesh.

They can make people realise the advantages of real estate benchmarking and arrange a meeting among all concerned authorities, who can finalise the process and set a method of benchmarking for the sector.

If benchmarking is established here, it would be much easier to develop the real estate sector. It can be a way to establish annual performance goals of the country. Concerned authorities can use benchmarking to set the stage for strategic actions to meet these goals.

Mark Nosworthy is the CEO of Bproperty.com, a Bangladeshi real estate service.

Seeing life anew

SHIFTING IMAGES



MILLA ALI

AS some of you may have noticed, I have been absent from the writing scene for about six months. No, I haven't retired from column writing—rather it has been a forced hiatus. Forced by an eye condition that struck without any prior warning. The affliction that stole part of my right eyesight came

stealthily and silently—a white fog refusing to be dislodged obstructed my vision.

Following a battery of tests and scans of intricate eye vessels it was diagnosed that I had experienced retinal bleeding. The treatment involves a monthly injection in the eye. Is it painful? May be it is, but the trauma of what might happen otherwise, deters me from noticing the pain. Actually, I learned a valuable lesson: the threshold of pain tolerance seems to increase when faced with a serious challenge.

Fortunately, the brain compensates with one eye and I am able to conduct my normal business, including driving and reading. What keeps me awake at night, however, is not what I have already lost but, what I might still lose. Anxious thoughts cloud my mind. Will I be able to see the smile on my grandchildren's faces or enjoy the beautiful sunset by the seaside? What about the two unfinished books lying on my bedside table? Struggling with a hidden resentment familiar to anyone with an illness or disability, I kept asking myself: "Why me?"

My doctor—a retina specialist at Johns Hopkins—is a cut and dried person. I do not get any pep talk from her. But she emanates a sense of confidence and competence that is more important than bedside manners. She tells me that I will probably regain most of my right eye



vision with time. But the outcome still lies in the realm of probability!

My husband who is old school keeps telling me that I must continue to think positive and be thankful that I still have 20/20 vision in my left eye. The question that irked me initially was where should I position my expectations on the spectrum of hope to despair! I finally attained my emotional equilibrium by doing what most people do when groping in the dark (literally and metaphorically). I am praying and meditating. Although not a ritualistically religious person, prayers always provide me spiritual solace. This time it helped me look at

the world with renewed interest. Each morning I wake up and draw the curtains to absorb the scenic view outside my window. The play of light and shade on the trees, the red cardinal birds so special to Virginia and the colorful petunias that my husband has lovingly planted... things that I took for granted now appear special. My granddaughter's happy expression when wearing her ballerina dress and the Marvel characters that my two grandsons draw for me have taken on a new significance.

Interestingly, I am paying more attention to people who have surmounted their difficulties with grace and equanimity. A friend of mine lost

her 31-year-old son to a motorcycle accident, but still laughs and comforts me. Another is tending to a husband who is an Alzheimer patient in his last stages, but continues to take an interest in others' problems. Perhaps the hardest was when a close friend who supported me through the early weeks of my predicament was unexpectedly diagnosed with cancer. Seeing her manage her adversity with calm composure, I have stopped asking: "Why me?"

My condition has also made me more sensitive to the obstacles and challenges that less fortunate people are dealing with. The mother struggling with her autistic child at the grocery store or the young man on crutches limping his way in the mall makes me pause and say a prayer for them. I have started counting my blessings—access to good healthcare and above all being surrounded by supportive family and caring friends.

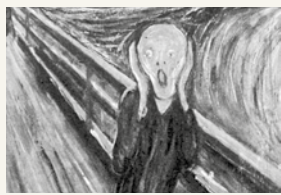
True, there is little possibility of realising my dream of reaching the top of the summit in Machu Picchu, but I can still walk up a modest hillock and gaze at the azure sky dotted with drifting white clouds. And on a clear day while driving down George Washington Parkway the shimmering blue waters of the Potomac still appear as beautiful as before.

As a musician, I have learnt an important lesson from the entire experience. When we lose our best voice due to a calamity and can no longer hit the high notes, perhaps we should figure out a way to sing on a lower octave and use it to our advantage!

So, dear readers, I am staging a comeback—the time has come once again to write about many things ... "shoes and ships and ceiling wax and cabbages and kings"... and Trump, Kashmir and Brexit!!

Milla Ali is a Rabindra Sangeet exponent and a former employee of the World Bank.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



August 22, 2004

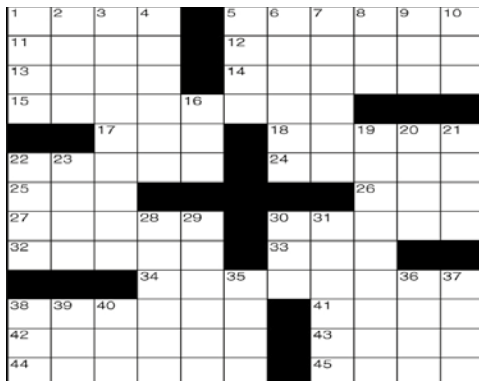
IN OSLO, NORWAY, A VERSION OF EDVARD MUNCH'S "THE SCREAM" AND HIS WORK "MADONNA" GETS STOLEN FROM THE MUNCH MUSEUM

Art thieves stole the paintings at gunpoint and nobody to this day knows why they did it. They were again recovered two years after the incident

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ACROSS | to | 8 Crew tool |
| 1 Karaoke need | 34 Deserving | 9 Remain unused |
| 5 Select | 38 Singer Newton-John | 10 Hosp. parts |
| 11 The Emerald Isle | 41 Traveled by horse | 16 Possess |
| 12 Fix | 42 Cash in | 19 Crush, maybe |
| 13 Catching need | 43 Chef's need | 20 Cain's brother |
| 14 Tips off | 44 Fans' place | 21 Past due |
| 15 Female hormone | 45 Spring period | 22 "Fernando" group |
| 17 Evergreen shrub | | 23 Before long |
| 18 Sherpa's home | | 28 Late hour |
| 22 Pale | DOWN | 29 Said no to |
| 24 Curacao's neighbor | 1 Viral phenomenon | 30 French friend |
| 25 Frilly wrap | 2 Eye part | 31 Sentry duty |
| 26 Parrot or puppy | 3 First flight site | 35 Scots' toppers |
| 27 Bent downward | 4 Main course | 36 Unspoiled sport |
| 30 Cobbler fruit | 5 Outcropping | 37 Auto ding |
| 32 Low joint | 6 Western capital | 38 Hosp. parts |
| 33 Has permission | 7 Starting bid | 39 Rent out |
| | | 40 Lupino of films |

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

TATA SQUABBS
 AJAX TURBOT
 CAKE RENEWS
 OREGELS
 SHAWL MAY
 STRAY SPACE
 POOR SOKRA
 ADOPT SNEER
 ROT ROADS
 FAUX RED
 ETHICS OOZE
 VIOLET NORA
 ENTERS OMAN

BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



BABY BLUES

by Kirkman & Scott



NEWS IN brief

Kabul wedding blast toll hits 80

Kabul, Afghanistan
The death toll from an Islamic State attack on a Kabul wedding at the weekend has reached at least 80, an official said yesterday...

Saudi eases travel curbs on women

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Saudi Arabia on Tuesday began implementing a landmark reform allowing women over the age of 21 to receive passports and travel abroad without permission from a male "guardian"...

Australia to join US in Gulf mission

Sydney, Australia
Australia will join the US-led mission to protect shipping through the Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions with Iran, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced yesterday...



Members of the Syrian Civil Defence, also known as the "White Helmets", carry away in a blanket the body of a victim following a reported air strike on a makeshift clinic in the area of Tallmannis in Syria's northern Idlib province, yesterday.

G7 should be G8
Trump backs Russia's return in the club of world powers

Alexandria, Egypt
US President Donald Trump expressed support Tuesday for Russia's return to the G8, saying it would be "much more appropriate" for Moscow to be in the club of world powers...

Trump scraps visit after Danes say Greenland not for sale

Washington, DC
US President Donald Trump Tuesday postponed a planned visit to Denmark after Danish officials insisted its autonomous territory of Greenland was not for sale...

China threatens sanctions

Beijing, China
China yesterday blasted a huge planned US arms shipment to self-ruled Taiwan and threatened to sanction firms involved in the sale of F-16 fighter jets...

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PLANNED SALE OF 66 US F-16 FIGHTER JETS TO TAIWAN

China threatens sanctions

Beijing, China
China yesterday blasted a huge planned US arms shipment to self-ruled Taiwan and threatened to sanction firms involved in the sale of F-16 fighter jets...

Washington, DC
The approval of the sale comes as Washington and Beijing face off in tough trade negotiations that economists say are hurting both of the superpowers...



Sudan swears in ruling council

Khartoum, Sudan
Sudan took further steps in its transition towards civilian rule yesterday with the swearing in of a new sovereign council, to be followed by the appointment of a prime minister...



Protesters hold posters as they take part in a silent rally at Yuen Long MTR station in Hong Kong, yesterday.

Record number of fires ravage Brazil rainforest in 2019

Sao Paulo, Brazil
Nearly 73,000 incidents recorded; deforestation blamed
The number of forest fires in Brazil surged in the first eight months of 2019, official data show, as President Jair Bolsonaro faces growing criticism over rampant destruction of the Amazon...

Indonesia deploys more troops after Papua unrest

Manokwari, Indonesia
Indonesia's Papua was hit by fresh unrest yesterday as more than 1,000 security personnel were sent to the restive region after violent protests that saw buildings torched and street battles between police and demonstrators...

Everest region bans single-use plastic

Nepal
Single-use plastics have been banned in the Everest region to reduce the vast amounts of waste left by trekkers and mountaineers, Nepali authorities said...

Australia's Cardinal Pell loses child sex abuse appeal

Vatican
Disgraced Cardinal George Pell lost his appeal against child sex abuse convictions yesterday, prompting relief from victims who fought to bring one of the Catholic Church's most powerful men to justice...

2,359 tigers killed and trafficked since 2000

India
More than 2,300 endangered tigers have been killed and illegally trafficked since the turn of the century, according to a report published Tuesday...



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WHAT'S ON

TRIBUTE TO MAD

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
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: August 26 - 28
Time: 10 am - 7 pm

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

Art Exhibition
Title: Muhurtama solo art exhibition by Shamsat Tabreez
Venue: Dwp Gallery, Lalmitia
Date: July 27 - August 22 (except Mondays)
Time: 5 pm - 9 pm



Masum Hossain



Masum Hossain in performance with the other artistes at Kathak Yatra in Kolkata. PHOTOS: COURTESY

Tariq Anam Khan to reinvent himself in 'Makeup'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

An actor who always presents himself in different kinds of roles is Tariq Anam Khan, a household name in Bangladesh. In his latest endeavour, *Makeup*, the actor reinvents himself. The film, which is to be directed by Anonno Mamun, will see the veteran

actor play the role of a superstar in films. *Makeup* will also feature Ziaul Roshan as the lead actor. "If the story and character are interesting, there is a lot of joy in working," says Tariq Anam Khan. Besides *Makeup*, he is acting in the much anticipated *Gangchil*, as well as the soon to be released *Shaap Ludu* and *Peyarar Shubash*.

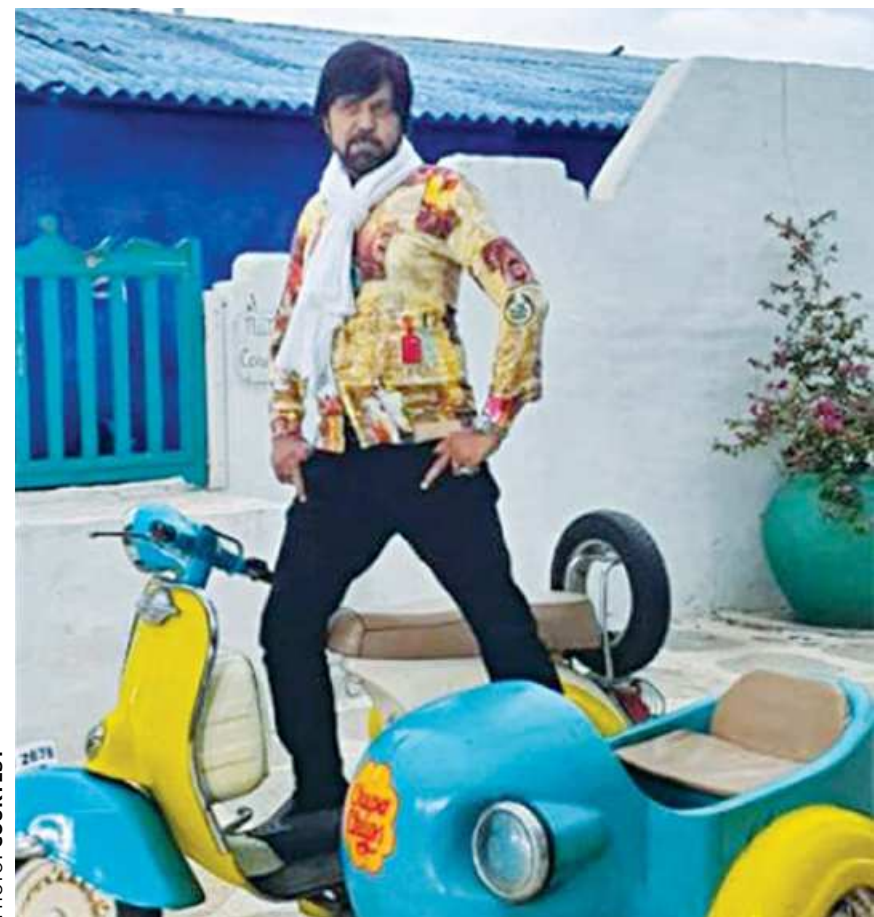


PHOTO: COURTESY

Dreams dwelling in dance

SHABABA IQBAL

Passionate about dancing, Masum Hossain completed his MA in Kathak from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, in 2018. A scholar at Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Kolkata, Masum also did his BA and MA in History from Dhaka College (under National University), Bangladesh.

From a young age, he learned Kathak under the tutelage of renowned dancer Munmun Ahmed. Pandit Krishan Mohan Mishra from Delhi was Masum's guru throughout a three-year specialisation course on Kathak. During his time at Rabindra Bharati University, he did a two-year special course under the guidance of Madhumita Roy in Kolkata. He also completed a certificate course on dance from

Bulbul Academy for Fine Arts (BAFA). He has been working as a dance trainee and assistant to Munmun Ahmed for the last twelve years.

Masum is a dance teacher at BAF Shaheen English Medium School and he also teaches at Dhaka City Cooperation Cultural Center and Bangladesh Shishu Academy. "I would like to extend my gratitude to the authorities of BAF Shaheen English Medium School, Dhaka City Cooperation Cultural Center and Bangladesh Shishu Academy, for supporting and encouraging me, as I went for my education at Rabindra Bharati University," says Masum.

He is hugely inspired by his gurus, all of whom play integral roles in his flourishing career in the field of Kathak. He is also grateful to his family and his

wife, Fahima Akter, for their unwavering support over the years.

Masum won the UNESCO Club Cultural Award-2005, organised by National Association of UNESCO Club in Bangladesh. He also won the gold medal in the Inter-College Cultural Competition 2009, organised by Dhaka College (under National University). He also performed as a Kathak dancer at the Bengal Classical Music Festival in 2016.

Masum opened up about what he values as a professional dancer. "I strongly believe that we must set a foundation for Bangladeshi art and culture to thrive. We can learn so much from Kathak, be it history, music, literature, respect or discipline," he asserts. "We must take it as our responsibility to make sure that our traditions

and values carry on to the future generations of artists."

He was also one of the dancers of Helena Waldmann's *Made in Bangladesh*, a Kathak dance performance about the workers in Bangladeshi garment factories, which created quite a stir across the globe. From Dhaka to India to Europe, the team of *Made in Bangladesh* travelled to many locations.

In addition, Masum enthralled audiences with his spectacular performance titled, *Kathak Yatra*, at ICCR, Kolkata, for the first time this year. The performance was organised under the banner of Masum's own institution, *Parampara Nrityalaya*. He was accompanied by Biswajit Ghosh on vocals, Sandeep Neogi on sitar, Subir Thakur on tabla, Manab Parai on bol pandhant and Shouvik Paul on flute.



The artworks at the exhibition.

PHOTOS: SHAMS ASIF

Young artists make a statement at 'Reverie'

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

An exhibition titled, *Reverie*, concluded at Drik Gallery on August 20. The exhibition solely focused on empowering young artists and opening doors to those who would typically not get the platforms to showcase their work. It was organised by Ehteshamul Bari and Akash Chowdhury, two A-level students who are also artists. They met at a previous exhibition where both of them were participating artists. Chowdhury and Bari felt that it is really difficult for those without experience to find the platforms they need to grow as artists. With an objective to create more opportunities for budding artists, they brought together 46 participants through word of mouth and social media for *Reverie*.

The artworks on display ranged from pencil and charcoal sketches to paintings in water colour, acrylic and oil. From traditional natural landscapes to bold expressionistic strokes, the artworks may have been created by young people, but their voices were loud in expressing themselves. In each piece, it was palpable what the artist was influenced by. Some works were definite results of living in the

contemporary era with aspects of pop culture incorporated in them while others spoke of an idealistic loyalty to tradition. Several of the artworks indicated an artist daring to break the rules while also learning them.

"The incentive to organise this exhibition grew stronger due to an unfortunate incident that took place last summer," says Bari. "As an A-level student, I had picked art as one of my subjects. Before sitting for the test, we got to know that certain influential artists had approached British Council to discontinue this exam in Bangladesh. Thankfully, since all the examinees protested, we were able to sit for the exam." It is indeed disheartening to see that instead of lifting the youth up, the influential and the established in the field of art are rather focused on closing doors for the talented new generation.

A splendid youthful energy was present both in the atmosphere and the exhibited artworks at the gallery. The age range of the exhibitors was between 15 to 20 years. It is important that organisers like Bari and Chowdhury keep doing what they love, so that a new generation of creators continue the process of enriching the arts and culture of our country.



Discussion on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman held at Central Public Library

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

A discussion on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, titled, *Amogh Mohamanob Er Roktorin Shopho* was organised by Shilpilo on August 20, at the Central Public Library.

The programme was presided over by Prof Dr Rafiqul Islam,

and moderated by poet Osman Goni, Director General, Shilpilo. The session was inaugurated by State Minister of Cultural Affairs, KM Khalid. Freedom fighter and renowned artist Shahabuddin Ahmed attended the event as the chief guest. A moment of silence, in honour of artist Mohosina Ali and novelist Rizia Rahman, was

also held.

Economist Prof Dr Abul Barkat, Abdul Mannan, incumbent Member of Parliament, and linguist and researcher Prof Dr M Maniruzzaman attended the event as special guests.

Prof Abul Barkat and Shahabuddin Ahmed both spoke

about Bangabandhu's glorious leadership.

As a tribute to the Father of the Nation, Syed Ashraf Haque recited his poem on Bangabandhu. Over 80 other renowned artists, poets, politicians, and freedom fighters were in the audience during the programme.



The panellists at the discussion.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD

'Iti, Tomari Dhaka' to participate in three film festivals

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After making successful rounds at fifteen different international film festivals across the globe, Bangladesh's first anthology film, *Iti, Tomari Dhaka*, is set to participate in three more festivals.

The critically acclaimed film will be screened at Global Cinema Festival Siliguri 2019, which began yesterday. *Iti, Tomari Dhaka* will next be shown at Sakhalin International Film Festival 2019, which will begin on August 23 in Russia. Later, it will be screened at Singapore South Asian International Film Festival, which is set to begin on August 30.

With eleven exceptionally promising young directors from Bangladesh, Impress Telefilm's *Iti, Tomari Dhaka* is an assortment of shorts, with Dhaka as its central theme. The film was last shown at the Durban International Film Festival last month.



A still from 'Iti, Tomari Dhaka'.

One held

FROM PAGE 16

When the girl started screaming, her neighbours rushed there and rescued her. But Dilu managed to flee the scene.

Later that night, the victim's mother filed a rape case against Dilu with Pagla Police Station of Gafargaon.

Police held Dilu around 11:00am yesterday and the girl was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for medical tests, said Md Shahinuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Pagla Police Station.

In Jashore's Sharsha, father of a nine-year-old girl yesterday lodged a case against his neighbour on charge of attempting to rape his daughter.

The accused is Abdul Hamid, 40.

The girl's mother said her daughter was playing in front of their home on Tuesday afternoon. Hamid, luring her with sweets, took her to his home and tried to violate her.

Hamid's family members were not at home at that time.

When the girl started screaming, her family members rushed to the spot and rescued her. But Hamid fled the scene and went into hiding.

Talking to The Daily Star, Sukhdeb Roy, officer-in-charge of Bagachara police outpost, said they were trying to arrest Hamid.

Our Mymensingh and Benapole correspondents contributed to this report.

Ex-Goalanda OC

FROM PAGE 16

Besides, the court fined Zakia Tk 1 lakh, in default of which she will have to suffer three-month more in prison.

After the placing the verdict, the court cancelled the duo's bail and sent them to prison with conviction warrant to serve jail term.

To add to this, the court directed the concerned authorities to confiscate wealth of the duo that include 186.25 decimals of land in Dhaka's Rampura and Narayanganj's Bandar upazila, a flat in Dhaka's Gulshan and a deposit of Tk 25,000 with Gulshan branch of Standard Chartered Bank.

According to prosecution, Saiful acquired the illegal wealth during his deployment at different police stations across the country and his wife assisted him to do so.

On August 4, 2009, the ACC served a notice asking Saiful to submit his and his family members' wealth statement.

Receiving the notice, Saiful submitted a wealth statement of Tk 52,423,350 on September 29 the same year.

During investigation, the ACC found that the ex-OC concealed wealth from the statement.

On top of that, the couple set up two filling stations, a Chinese restaurant and bought a microbus with the illegal money, the ACC added.

The ACC pressed charges against the couple on January 20, 2011.

The charges were framed against them on August 4, 2011.

Over 100

FROM PAGE 16

134 people while about 115 were missing, bringing the death toll of Mediterranean migrants to over 600 this year.

That put 2019 on course to be the sixth year in a row with more than 1,000 deaths, UNHCR spokesman Charlie Yaxley said at the time.

Court sells

FROM PAGE 16

Guo, who claims to be a corruption whistle-blower and has lived in the US since 2014, is wanted by Chinese authorities on a series of charges, including fraud and bribery. Many of his assets in China have been frozen or repossessed by the government.

According to the online listing, only two bidders signed up to participate in the auction, though more than 150,000 people registered to watch the sale online. Bidding was open for 24 hours, with only two offers for the building made in that time.

The property eventually sold for just under 5.19 billion yuan (\$734 million), only 5 million yuan (\$708,000) above the opening bid.

The buyer has been identified as Beijing property firm Yucheng Zhiye, according to a statement released by its parent company, BBMG Corporation. And the group may have secured something of a bargain: The auction listing claims the tower is worth over 7.4 billion yuan (\$1.05 billion) -- more than 40% above the selling price.

Guo claims that the property is worth even more. In a video uploaded to YouTube on Wednesday, he said the winning bid was only 10% of its estimated value.

With a combined floor space of more than 1.5 million square feet, the skyscraper currently serves as the China headquarters for American technology firm IBM. It was designed to resemble a dragon's head, with a further four towers representing the creature's body and tail.

Pangu Plaza's other buildings -- which contain offices and a self-described "7 Star Hotel" -- were not included in the auction.

Beijing says holding UK's Hong Kong consulate employee

AFP, Beijing

An employee of Britain's consulate in Hong Kong who went missing earlier this month is being held in China, Beijing confirmed yesterday.

The incident comes as relations between Britain and China have become strained over what Beijing calls London's "interference" in pro-democracy protests that have wracked Hong Kong for three months.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular press briefing the detained man had been "placed in administrative detention for 15 days as punishment" by Shenzhen police for breaking a public security law.

Geng said the employee was from Hong Kong and therefore the issue was an internal matter.

"Let me clarify, this employee is a Hong Kong citizen, he's not a UK citizen, which is also saying he's a Chinese person," Geng said.

The man, named by his family as Simon Cheng, travelled to Shenzhen, a megacity on the China-Hong Kong border, for a one-day business meeting on August 8.

That night, Cheng returned via high-speed train and sent messages to his girlfriend as he was about to go through customs.

"We lost contact with him since then," the family said in a Facebook post.

Geng said the employee had

violated the Public Security Administration Punishments Law -- a law with broad scope aimed at "maintaining public order in society" and "safeguarding public security", as well as making sure police and security forces act within the law.

The ongoing protests have raised fears of a Chinese crackdown in some form.

The unrest was initially triggered by a controversial law that would allow extradition to the mainland, but has since broadened into a call for wider democratic reforms.

Beijing has repeatedly warned Britain -- the former colonial ruler of Hong Kong -- against any "interference" in the protests, which erupted 11 weeks ago and have seen millions of people hit the streets calling for democratic reforms.

"Recently the UK has made many erroneous remarks about Hong Kong," Geng said at the press briefing yesterday.

"We once again urge the British side to stop gesticulating and fanning flames on the Hong Kong issue."

With Beijing attempting to shape the narrative of the unrest in Hong Kong, Chinese authorities have increased their inspections at the Shenzhen border, including checking the phones and devices of some passengers for photos of the protests.

The mainland metropolis of Shenzhen sits behind China's "Great Firewall" --which restricts access to

news and information -- while Hong Kong enjoys liberties unseen on the mainland.

China promised to respect the freedoms in the semi-autonomous territory after its handover from Britain in 1997, including freedom of speech, unfettered access to the internet and an independent judiciary.

Beijing also faced criticism in the past for detaining foreign nationals amid ongoing diplomatic spats.

Ottawa has urged Beijing to release two Canadian citizens detained in December amid escalating diplomatic tensions between the two countries.

Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor were detained amid a diplomatic crisis sparked by the arrest of Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer for Chinese tech giant Huawei, in Vancouver on a US extradition bid.

Former diplomat Kovrig and consultant Spavor were picked up in China on suspicion of espionage days after her arrest, in a move widely seen as retaliation.

Friends of the missing employee staged a protest outside the British Consulate in Hong Kong on Wednesday afternoon to pressure the UK government to "save Simon".

"Hong Kong people are still fighting to oppose the extradition bill, yet something like this happened without such a bill," organiser Max Chung told AFP.

HC seeks info on ACC officials

FROM PAGE 1

But even as Jaha Alam, now 32, languished in jail for a crime he did not commit, eight of these 11 officials were given promotion effective from January 24.

The promotion order came even after ACC's own internal investigation found they all miserably failed to do their job.

Their elevation to higher positions, although it was part of their regular promotion, has breed discontent and resentment within the ACC.

"This sets a bad example. It shows how someone can get away with such blunders and even be rewarded after that," said an ACC official, asking to remain unnamed.

ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood declined to comment on the matter, only saying, "We will go by the rules and court's decision."

Under section 40 of the ACC Service Rule of 2008, these officials could face several penalties, including demotion, postponement of their promotion, forced retirement and even termination.

Their promotion raised serious questions particularly because ACC's own investigations found that Jaha Alam had to lose three years of his life in prison because these officials "erroneously incriminated" him in over two dozen money laundering cases involving Tk 18.5 crore.

"It seems that the mistake of identifying Jaha Alam as Abu Salek [the actual suspect] happened because

of the investigation officials," said the report placed before the HC on July 11 this year.

During investigation, none of these officials visited Jaha Alam's house to confirm his identity, the report said, adding that some bank officials and introducers of Abu Salek's bank accounts misled the investigators.

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

The eight officials are Selina Akhtar Moni, Masudur Rahman, Debrata Mandal, Meftahul Jannat, Silvia Ferdous, Muhammad Joyal Abedin, Rafi Md Nazmus Sadat and Saiduzzaman.

After promotion, Selina, Masudur and Debrata became deputy directors while Meftahul, Silvia, Joyal, Sadat and Saiduzzaman became assistant directors. All of them have been tasked with important departments such as money laundering and special investigation.

Saiduzzaman was later suspended over negligence and misconduct in a separate investigation.

Two other officials -- Deputy Director Shekh Mesbah Uddin and Assistant Director Sumitra Sen -- hold the same post.

Contacted, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said, "Such

rewards to inefficient officials send signal of a bad precedence."

HOW DID HE LAND IN JAIL?

The whole saga began in September 2010, when a money laundering case was filed with the Mottijheel police against one Abu Salek and his associates over misappropriation of Tk 18.5 crore from Sonali Bank's Cantonment branch.

According to the case statement, the laundered money was then transacted to different accounts of 33 branches in 18 public and private banks.

In 2012, the ACC filed 33 cases over the incident after it took charge for further investigation. A total of 12 ACC officials were appointed as investigation officers of the cases.

Of the 33 cases, Abu Salek was named in 30. Later, his name was dropped from four more cases. In the end, he faced 26 cases that were investigated by 10 ACC officials.

Taking charge as investigation officer for two of the 26 cases, Selina Akhtar Moni asked the bank officials to produce Abu Salek before her.

In December 2014, bank officials produced Alam as Salek before Selina.

Without any field visits or cross-checking the authenticity, Selina pressed charges against Alam, identifying him as Salek.

The other investigating officers did the same and placed charge sheet against him in the rest 24 cases.

Jaha Alam was eventually arrested in 2016 and was sent to jail.

J&K tensions spike

FROM PAGE 16

Highlighting the growing international concern, a senior US official, who has just returned from a visit to the region, called on India Tuesday to quickly release detainees and restore basic liberties.

"We continue to be very concerned by reports of detentions, and continued restrictions on the residents of the region," the State Department official told reporters.

"We urge respect for individual rights, compliance with legal procedures and an inclusive dialogue," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials in France said that President Emmanuel Macron would bring up Kashmir with Modi when the two meet in Paris ahead of the G7 summit.

Earlier this year India and Pakistan again came close to all-out conflict over the region after a militant attack in Indian-held Kashmir in February was claimed by a group based in Pakistan, sparking tit-for-tat air strikes.

India has bristled at any suggestion of foreign mediation and strenuously denied a claim by Trump last month that Modi had invited him to act a peacemaker.

It was also left seething when the UN Security Council held its first formal meeting on Kashmir in nearly half a century last week, saying it would not accept "international busybodies... tell(ing) us how to run our lives."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told Modi in a phone call

on Tuesday that the Kashmir dispute must be resolved between India and Pakistan alone, Downing Street said.

An Indian statement said Modi had raised with Johnson the "violence and vandalism perpetrated by a large mob against the High Commission of India in London" on August 15.

Several thousand people had protested in London that day over India's Kashmir move. Police separated them from a smaller pro-Indian counter-demonstration and made at least one arrest.

Clashes are common between Indian security forces and militants opposed to Indian rule, with tens of thousands of people killed in the past 30 years, most of them civilians, adding to public resentment towards New Delhi.

But the latest gun battle in the north Kashmir's Baramulla district, reported by Kashmir police yesterday, id the first since the August 5 move.

"One terrorist killed... Arms and ammunition recovered. Our colleague SPO (special police officer) Billal attained martyrdom. SI (subinspector) Amardeep Parihar injured in the incident is being treated at Army Hospital," Kashmir Zone Police said on Twitter.

A later tweet said that the dead militant was identified as a local man "affiliated" with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

LeT is a UN-listed militant organisation based in Pakistan and is accused by India and Washington of masterminding the four-day Mumbai attacks in 2008.

Trump accuses Jewish Democratic voters of 'great disloyalty'

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday Jewish Americans who vote for Democrats display "either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty," sparking accusations that he is promoting and politicizing anti-Semitism.

His comments, which drew fierce rebuke from Jewish groups, came amid his ongoing dispute with Democratic Muslim congresswomen Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, both of whom support a boycott of the Jewish state for its treatment of the Palestinians.

"Five years ago, the concept of even talking about this -- even three years ago -- of cutting off aid to Israel because of two people that hate Israel and hate Jewish people -- I can't believe we're even having this conversation. Where has the Democratic party gone?" Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

"I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

Israel last week barred Omar and Tlaib from entry on the grounds that

they support the boycott against the country, and after Trump urged the Jewish state to block the two.

Trump's comments prompted condemnation from Jewish groups, which charged the president with anti-Semitism by questioning the loyalty of Jewish citizens, part of a longstanding trope accusing Jewish people of dual allegiance.

"It's unclear who @POTUS is claiming Jews would be 'disloyal' to, but charges of disloyalty have long been used to attack Jews," tweeted Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League.

"It's long overdue to stop using Jews as a political football."

Executive Director for the Jewish Democratic Council of America Halie Soifer echoed the sentiment, saying the president "has no right to tell Jewish Americans he knows what is best for us or to demand our loyalty."

"Trump needs a reality check -- we live in a democracy and Jewish support for the @GOP has been halved in the past four years," she tweeted.

Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders also took to Twitter to denounce the president's words.

Zimbabwe bans third opposition protest

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwean police outlawed anti-government protests that had been scheduled to take place on Tuesday in Gweru, the country's third largest city, the main opposition MDC said.

The march, organised by the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), is the third demonstration to be banned in less than a week.

In a statement the MDC described the move as not just "a ban on civilian politics, but a de facto state of emergency."

"The prohibition orders that are being used to stifle and throttle democratic space are in themselves unconstitutional," it said.

MDC Vice President Tendai Biti said in a tweet that "the regime's actions are effectively banning the MDC and suspending the constitution."

But, he promised, "we will soldier on peacefully and constitutionally."

Police have already banned marches in the capital Harare and Bulawayo, the country's second largest city.

The protests aim to highlight the worsening economic conditions in the southern African country.

Riot police patrolled the streets of Gweru on Tuesday where some shops kept their shutters down, according to witnesses.

On Friday, police using teargas and batons scattered demonstrators who defied the ban in Harare, leaving 12 people wounded.

The European Union, Australia, Canada and the United States have called on the authorities to exercise

restraint and proportionality.

The "intimidation, harassment and physical attacks on human rights defenders, trade union and civil society representatives, and opposition politicians -- prior to, during and following the demonstration in Harare on 16 August -- are cause for great concern," their envoys said in a rare joint statement issued in Harare.

But the government lambasted the statement saying it was dismayed by the reaction of the Western countries' envoys.

"Government is taken aback by the intrusive and judgemental tone of the statement," said government spokesman Nick Mangwana in a statement.

Zimbabwe's government is trying to mend relations with the West after decades of isolation over human rights abuses under veteran leader Robert Mugabe who was ousted in a military-led coup in 2017.

Mangwana said government believed that any efforts to re-engage Zimbabwe with the West "should not be in any way prescriptive, coercive or manipulative".

Mugabe's successor, Emmerson Mnangagwa, won elections last year on a pledge to revive the country's sickly economy.

But many Zimbabweans say things have gone from bad to worse with shortages of bread, fuel and medicines. Inflation is now running at triple figures.

According to the UN, about five million Zimbabweans, or a third of the population, are in need of food aid.

UN postpones anti-torture conference in Cairo after criticism

AFP, Cairo

The United Nations has postponed a conference against torture due to be held in Cairo after fierce criticism of Egypt's rights record, a UN spokesman said Tuesday.

The two-day event on "Defining and Criminalising Torture in Legislation in the Arab Region" was set to open in the Egyptian capital on September 4, in collaboration with the country's National Council for Human Rights.

Local and international rights groups slammed the decision to hold

the event in Cairo, citing alleged torture by Egypt's security forces.

"We have decided to postpone the conference and reopen the process of consultation with all relevant actors... before making a final decision on when and where to hold the conference," said Rupert Colville, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Colville said the decision followed "growing unease in some parts of the NGO community with the choice of location, and we understand and are sensitive to this."

On Monday, EuroMed Rights said it declined an invitation to attend the conference citing "deep reservations about the decision to hold this conference in Egypt, a country where torture is systematically practised by the security forces."

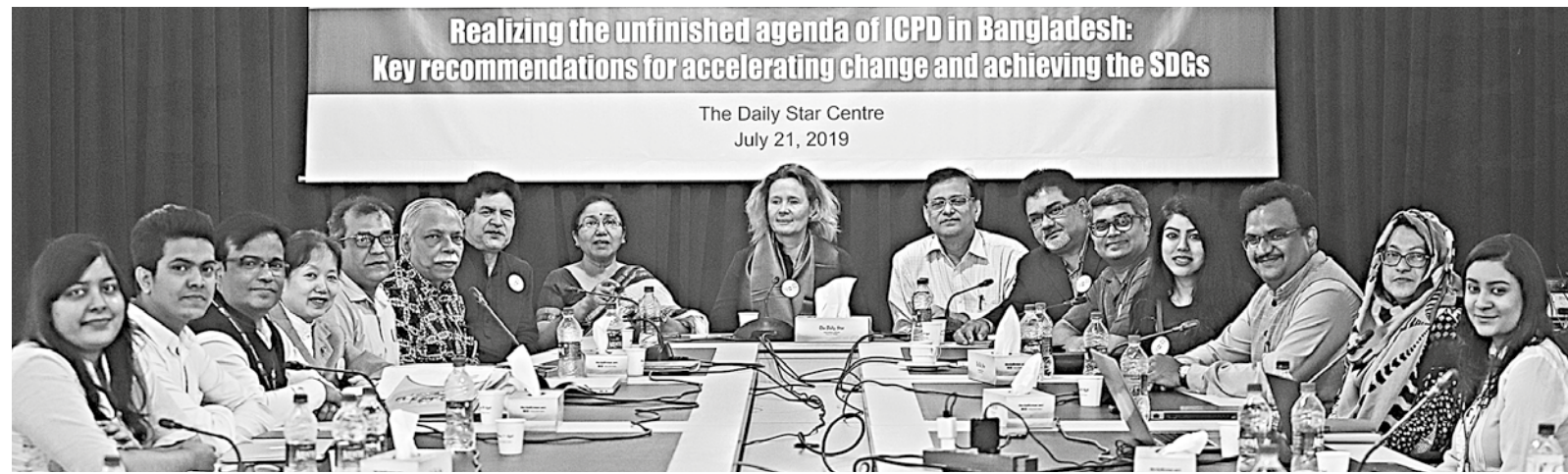
Egyptian authorities have repeatedly denied torture allegations in prisons and detention facilities.

Egypt has waged a severe crackdown on dissidents since the 2013 military ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, following mass protests against his rule.



Realising the unfinished agenda of ICPD in Bangladesh

Key recommendations for accelerating change and achieving SDGs



The Daily Star and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh jointly organised an Expert Group Meeting titled "Realising the unfinished agenda of ICPD in Bangladesh: Key recommendations for accelerating change and achieving SDGs" on July 21, 2019. Here we publish a summary of the discussion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Put in necessary efforts to integrate a comprehensive package of sexual reproductive health and rights into the national policies and programmes.
- Take up initiatives to recruit an increased number of midwives, skilled birth attendants, nurses and doctors so that no woman gives birth without medical help.
- Ensure accessible and affordable safe, modern contraceptives for all, including urban slum dwellers and young people.
- Take necessary legal and policy measures to end child marriage, end sexual and gender-based violence and end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls.
- Take necessary initiatives so that old and young people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, indigenous people feel valued and contribute to society.
- Generate better quality and disaggregated data to improve the overall data management system in the country.
- Increase domestic funding for basic social services for achieving ICPD and SDGs.
- Take up necessary initiatives to strengthen South-South cooperation to increase global evidence-based advocacy, exchange of knowledge and expertise, capacity building, technical cooperation for reproductive health, commodity and security.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor & Publisher, The Daily Star



The 25th anniversary of the ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) is a momentous occasion to assess what Bangladesh has done so far and what we need to do

for the future regarding population issues. It seems that earlier, we were very intense on population-related issues and achieved remarkable success, but now we have become a bit more relaxed about it. Population can be both a burden and an asset. A big population can do wonders, but there needs to be a balance between population numbers and the ecology that supports it. In Bangladesh, we are currently experiencing a population density problem. Quantitative assessments have shown that there is reason for genuine concern at the number of people we can healthily sustain. Qualitative evaluations have revealed our shortcomings in different key population-related issues such as skills, education, health services, human rights, youth unemployment, violence against women and labour wages. Hence, population issues should be placed at the core of our planning process. We need to look at population with all its challenges and prospects and move beyond focusing on how to control it.

Dr Asa Torkelsson, Country Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh



The ICPD meeting and Programme of Action taken in Cairo in 1994 brought a shift from viewing population in the sense of control to allow people to make their own reproductive choices. At that very moment, we identified the agenda and the ambitious plans needed in terms of maternal health, family planning, and addressing gender-based violence. This year we have the opportunity to see, worldwide, how well we have done against the goals we set, and what more needs to be done. I believe our upcoming ICPD+25 meeting in Nairobi will be an opportunity to re-energise global commitment towards the unfinished agenda and achieve Agenda 2.

ICPD's vision is well-reflected across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an accelerator to leaving no one behind. We hope there will be several pre-conference meetings for the Nairobi Summit where world leaders and governments and other parties will meet to come up with new commitments for the remainder of the time. We have the high-level political forum (HLPF) in September to galvanise support for ICPD. The HLPF will meet under the auspices of the UN General Assembly at the level of heads of state and government to follow up and review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs. This will also mobilise further support for action to achieve them.

Dr. Mainul Islam, Chairperson and Project Director, Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka



In the last 25 years since the ICPD meeting, Bangladesh has made substantial progress in several key areas such as economic growth, poverty reduction, gender parity in primary school, under-five mortality reduction and gains in life expectancy at birth. In terms of Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the rate has decreased from 3.4 children per woman in 1994 to 2.3 children per woman in 2014. However, challenges persist due to some regional variations in TFR and the use of contraception.

Among the major challenges, child marriage is on the top, which is adversely affecting employment, education, decision-making and overall empowerment of women and girls. Early pregnancy and adolescent fertility rate is at 31 percent (BDHS, 2014), compared to 33 percent in 1994, which implies that we have not progressed much in this aspect. Unmet needs for family planning among women aged between 15 to 19 stand at 17 percent, which is quite high. Prevalence of partner violence in marriages is 80.2 percent compared to 87.2 percent in 2011, which does not imply a significant reduction. The percentage of skilled birth attendants

has increased (42.1 percent in 2014), but maternal mortality ratio is still high which need to be reduced from its current level of 176 (UNFPA SWOP) to 70 per 100,000 live births to meet the SDGs. Our demographic trends are more diverse with a large youth population and an increasingly ageing population. Youth unemployment rate (11 percent) for people aged 15-29 has doubled since 1994. Half of the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) group consists of women.

Rapid urbanisation is happening in Bangladesh (35.9 percent in 2017). However, it is bringing adverse effects in terms of population mobility and displacement, which in turn are hampering health, housing and transport. Migrants, particularly women in urban areas, are facing numerous challenges in terms of sexual and reproductive health issues. We have good policies, but we need to consider whether these policies are connected with the SDGs and aligned with the ICPD framework.

Session 1
Leaving no one behind: Key catalysts for Bangladesh to achieve SDGs

Dr Sathanarayanan Doraiswamy, Chief, Reproductive Health, UNFPA Bangladesh and moderator of the session



Health is a critical indicator of sustainable development. Bangladesh has achieved significant gains in the last four decades, but still, a lot needs to be done, particularly on the issues of universal access to sexual reproductive health and rights.

SDG 3 makes specific reference to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights through at least three specific targets: reducing maternal mortality to 70 per 100,000 live births; universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights with specific focus on family planning and reducing unmet needs of family planning; and linkages to universal health coverage and how financial protection is a critical piece in ensuring access to sexual reproductive health and rights.

We all know that health is both a means and an end for the SDGs. Hence, the achievement of the 16 other SDGs will help achieve SDG 3, which would, in turn, assist Bangladesh immensely in achieving the other SDGs.

Professor Dr. Barkat-E-Khuda, Dr Muzaffer Ahmad Chair Professor, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management



In Bangladesh, we see sharp inequities in terms of access to healthcare depending on a person's location, wealth status, gender and education. Therefore, the issue of "leave no one behind" arises.

To ensure universal access to reproductive health and rights, we need to think outside the box. The one-size-fits-all approach will not work. Thankfully, the government and the ministry of health are awakening to the idea that we need to adopt a client-segmented and need-based reproductive health approach. Yet, I do not see much enforcement of the idea in the planning documents and much less implementation of it.

The essence of ICPD and SDGs is to promote the quality of their lives. Therefore, you cannot have reproductive health as a standalone programme. It is connected with all the other aspects of life such as food safety, job creation, gender equality and environmental issues. We need a coordinated programme adopting a holistic approach.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC



I think there is a serious issue of "mission confusion" regarding the population issue in Bangladesh among the policymakers and lawmakers. We are not sure whether the population is an asset or

a burden. Originally, the idea behind family planning was that overpopulation could be a burden. However, since the shift to the idea of the population as an asset, family planning, at the institutional level, has not been getting appropriate budget and policy attention. I believe we cannot just depend on experts for solutions to this confusion. We need to hear

the voices of the people at the grassroots. If we could end this mission confusion, it would be of great help for the formulation of the right policy regarding ICPD.

Urban health is a core policy area where solutions must be found that would address the overarching goal of "leave no one behind" and, at the same time, look at health as the health of the environment. Right now, there is a "mission confusion" about who will look after the urban health sector. The Municipality Act 2009 has given the ministry of local government jurisdiction over urban health. Thus, the health ministry is, actually, not allowed to address the urban poor. There are no counterparts to community clinics, union health centres or Upazila health complexes in the urban context. The private health facilities have monetary issues, and therefore, everyone cannot afford it.

One may think that the idea of "leave no one behind" is only about ensuring access. However, it should be about leaving no one behind from quality services. The quality aspect must be highlighted in our development plans. Coverage, which is not effective would not be of help to us. We do not have a proper understanding of the indicators for good quality. We should develop these indicators listening to the demands of people at the grassroots.

Dr Nazrul Islam, Programme Director, Partners in Population and Development (PPD)



Different segments of the population have different needs. Do we have enough resources to cater to each segment according to their needs? Moreover, there are hard-to-reach areas such as Chittagong Hill Tracts

and haor areas where it is really difficult to provide health services. Although the slums are within the city, we have not been able to reach these places and provide proper health facilities. To live up to the spirit of leaving no one behind, we have to reach the population in all areas.

Asif Ibrahim, Director, BGMEA

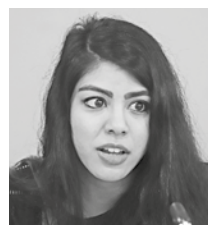


The labour law has made it mandatory to provide childcare facilities, up to six years, for the garment workers. We do have healthcare facilities in most factories, but not all of them provide childcare services up

to the age of six. Collaboration is needed between development partners and NGOs to provide these services. The nature of the RMG industry is such that it is really difficult to take time out from day-to-day production activities for training workers on sexual and reproductive health issues. Using modern communication technologies can be a solution in this regard. We are talking to various smartphone manufacturers to make low-cost smartphones available for the workers so that they can use e-wallet services. We can run awareness campaigns on sexual and reproductive health issues through these smartphone devices. We are also open to the idea of health insurance for the workers.

As RMG is the largest employer of women in Bangladesh, the ICPD programmes need to be redesigned in partnership with the sector.

Munia Zain Islam, Programme Manager, Telenor Health Bangladesh



There have been rapid technological advances in terms of mobile technology. Why are we not leveraging that in Bangladesh? People should be able to use their phones for issues like doctors'

consultations and family planning. At Telenor Health, Tonic is being used by about 500,000 people for health consultations.

I believe Bangladesh is ready for a full-scale introduction of health insurance. Although there are some grey areas in the health insurance industry, ways to form partnerships between public and private sectors can be found. We need updated clinical services in a more non-traditional setting. Currently, telemedicine is an area where our technological advances are taking us.

Dr Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary) General Economic Division, Ministry of Planning, Bangladesh



I do not see any confusion in the mission of the government regarding the population issue. Earlier our slogan was "two is enough, one is better". Now, it has changed to "two is enough, whether boy or girl". This implies that the government has not abandoned the idea of managing our population. Still, there is a genuine concern about the population density in Bangladesh. We are also concerned about other population-related issues such as unemployment, child marriage, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, maternal mortality, stunting and malnutrition. However, we really need to go a long way to achieve the SDGs.

The Eighth Five-Year Plan will be more action-oriented; we will have strategies and clear targets for every sector. We will have attainable macro unit targets. We should particularly focus on ICPD recommendations. One of the recommendations is to adopt a target (related to coverage)-oriented approach to reach potential users with unmet need. Secondly, we should focus on increasing savings ratio to ensure education and job creation both in the formal and informal sectors. We will devise ways to increase our national savings as an investment is related to savings. The third recommendation is to provide adequate schooling along with improvement in quality service to reduce neonatal mortality. Improving the quality of education will be one of the top priorities in the Eight Five-Year Plan. The fourth recommendation of ICPD is policy formulation regarding shifting income from the agriculture sector to the service and industrial sector.

Shaheen Anam, Executive Director, Mamusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)



Earlier there were huge campaigns regarding family planning which are somehow missing now. They need to be started again with the same intensity. However, only providing contraceptives and

door-to-door services will not bring down the population. It has to be followed up by quality education, reproductive health services and, most importantly, the improved position of women in the family as well as a society where men and women are equal partners in decision-making about the size of the family. There is still a negative perception about women in our society. Security of girls is another major concern. These lead to child marriage and violence against women. We need to bring a huge shift in this attitude. SDGs are all connected to each other. Everything hinges upon SDG 16, which talks about ensuring justice and strong institutions. Unless we make all the service-providing institutions accountable, strong and transparent, we will not be able to achieve SDGs.

Jin Anrong, International Programme Coordinator, PPD



We need to focus more on postpartum haemorrhage, which is a major cause of maternal mortality in Bangladesh. Media can play a big role in creating awareness about this critical issue.

Session 2
Inequalities in Bangladesh: Bridging gaps, mapping the way forward to achieve SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)

Mahboob-E-Alam, National Programme Officer and Chief, Population Planning & Research (PPR), UNFPA, Bangladesh and moderator of the session



Our Honourable Prime Minister made a promise in the London Summit that rate of child marriage below the age of 15 will be brought down to zero and child marriage below the age of 18 will be reduced by one-third by 2021, and by 2041 there will be no child marriage. Despite efforts by UN organisations, development partners and NGOs along with

the government, the rate of child marriage is still very high (59 percent). Over the last one decade, the figure has not changed much.

In 2017, Bangladesh ranked 47th out of 144 countries in the Global Gender Gap index. According to BBS, 72 percent of married women have reported having experienced physical violence. According to the findings of research studies of UN Women, ILO, other development institutions and BRAC University, women in Bangladesh are facing violence both at home and outside. Despite achieving significant progress in the development indicators, Bangladesh continues to rank high in gender-based violence, and we need to figure it out what needs to be done to reduce it.

Dr Mohammad Mainul Islam

If we cannot prevent child marriage, Bangladesh will not be able to achieve half of its development goals. Our study shows that there are multiple factors behind the high prevalence of child marriage in Bangladesh. One important factor is a social perception of a child at the grassroots level. In rural areas, the majority of the people think that when a girl crosses 13 or 14 years of age she is no longer a child and she should be married off. Lack of security is another major reason behind child marriage. There are other factors like poverty, climate change, religious views, lack of educational facilities that are contributing to the prevalence of child marriage in the country. Lack of proper implementation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act is a big concern. Since the enforcement of the Act, we have not seen any study on its impact on child marriage.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman
Comprehensive Sexuality Education needs to be made mandatory for both boys and girls. Adolescent pregnancy is a bigger concern than child marriage because it causes health damages to both the mother and the child. The two issues should be dealt with separately.

Dr Barkat-E-Khuda
Child marriage is not uniform across the country. It is higher in Chattogram and Sylhet regions. I do not think that child marriage and adolescent pregnancy can be dealt with separately. Once a young girl gets married, the automatic pressure of bearing a child comes along.

Asif Ibrahim
The laws regarding violence against women are there, but proper implementation of the laws is lacking, and this is where we must improve.

Shaheen Anam
The new law on child marriage has some loopholes. It allows the marriage of girls below age 16 under certain circumstances. However, it is an achievement that the new law has made child marriage a criminal offence, and there is punishment for violating the law. We also need to discuss whether consummation of marriage means that the marriage is not annulled even if the bride is a child. It is very difficult to implement the law where the major stakeholders like family, religious leaders, union parishad representatives are not part of the prevention process. Creating a social movement is very important to bring an end to child marriage.

The rate of conviction for rape is only 2 percent in Bangladesh, denoting is a prevailing culture of impunity on the issue of violence against women.

It took almost three decades to get the domestic violence prevention act. It is almost impossible to implement it. There are so many complicated issues regarding this law.

We need to recognise the unpaid care work of women. We also need to talk about the influence of drugs and pornography. These are the two huge reasons behind violence against women in the country.

Shamsul Alam
Strong academia, civil society and the media can make the government bring change on any issue. Therefore, all should play their respective roles. Only then will we be able to achieve our development goals.

Dr Nazrul Islam
As long as the ICPD agenda remains unfulfilled, achieving the SDGs by 2030 will be really difficult. Therefore, the 25th anniversary of ICPD will be used to harness momentum to advance the implementation of the ICPD agenda. It is expected that the global community will commit to the three zeroes: zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet family planning needs and zero violence.

Poultry boon for Hosne Ara

SHYKH SERAJ

A few days back I went to Uttar Choukirpar in Natore to meet a successful woman entrepreneur who together with her son has done miracles in poultry. The woman started poultry farming 18 years back to bring back good times for her family with only 10 'Sonal' variety of chicken. With hard work now she has 5,000 parent stock of Sonali breed. Her poultry farm is named after her son, Nesar Ahmed Jeeshan, 'Jeeshan Poultry Hatchery'. Hosne Ara and Jeeshan are now operating all the works of the farm together. They're both producing poultry chicks with modern hatchery system, which has made it quite successful. The most important thing is they have spread the message of success among the ultra-poor women who now have a hope in life.

A significant amount of the country's animal protein is met by poultry. It is undoubtedly true that the sector still survives facing so many obstacles. Although, poultry farmers have many complaints, some are still working well and standing firm in this sector. Mrs Hosne Ara is one of those rare people. But, it is not only hard work that has made this possible. It is also strategies that she and her son took to get the best outcome. While I was roaming around Hosne Ara's farm, it remind me of the 80s, especially of poultry success by another woman, Mrs Zaman. Many of you would probably recall her great deeds in the sector when I featured her on Bangladesh



Entrepreneur Hosne Ara at her poultry farm in Uttar Choukirpar area of Natore.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

Television's Mati O Manush (Soil & People) back then. What I can tell you about Hosne Ara is, she's a simple homemaker with an extraordinary ambition that eventually helped her entire family.

"How was it when you first started your farm," I asked Hosne Ara.

"The poverty was terrible. My son brought me 10 Sonali chicken and said why don't we start it together?" she replied with a happy smile on her face.

"I didn't know we would work so well and made it even better gradually," she added.

"Did you get any loans from the bank?" I asked.

"Yes, an amount of Tk 50,000 (USD 592) from the Krishi Bank, when they saw the prospect," she replied.

Now, as I said earlier, Hosne Ara has 5,000 parent stock of Sonali chicken under big poultry shades and she's producing 3,600 eggs on an average. She can also produce around 94,000 layer chicks.

"I have a capacity of producing 1,00,000 poultry chicks," she told me.

"In the past, we only had incubators made

of wood and those were very difficult to work with. But now we have ultra-modern Chinese incubators," she added.

Dear readers, Bangladesh's poultry sector is moving onward to export eggs and poultry meat by 2024 and nearly closing the gap between the domestic demand with a growing supply of both eggs and meat. It's also true that the poultry farms are growing at a faster rate of 15 percent a year. These great stories of the growth of Bangladesh's poultry sector were reported and prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The poultry sector supplies 36 percent of total protein intake through meat and egg consumption. Yearly, 95 eggs are eaten per capita, while consumption of chicken stands at 6.5kg, says USDA. The report also says, the sector having Tk 35,000 crore (Nearly USD 4.15 billion) investments is expected to double in the next decade. The March 20, 2019, report also says its export market is principally the Middle East. It adds, the country will require 17 billion eggs, 2 million tonnes of poultry meat, 85.8 million day-old chicks and 7.9 million tonnes of feed to meet the demand by

2021. Against the current annual demand of 17.13 billion eggs, the country is producing 15.52 billion, according to Department of Livestock (DLS).

Let's go back to Mrs Hosne Ara's farm. She has Chinese and Indian incubators at her farm. The hatchery is in full swing here. It's a great commercial farm that shows the prospect for even further success.

"What is your monthly profit amount," I asked Hosne Ara.

"On an average, excluding all costs, it's nearly Tk 7,00,000 (USD 8,297)," she replied.

'Jeeshan Poultry Hatchery' clearly identified the exact demand and set a strategy to deliver eggs and poultry chicks. This is how they've been working for the last 18 years with the right strategy always top on their checklist. As they have understood the market pretty well, they didn't have to suffer for loss. The man behind all these right plans are dealt by her son Jeeshan. He has worked hand in hand with her mother to make this farm a big one.

"So, you're the strategy-guy, what's your investment planning," I asked Jeeshan.

"It's very important to invest in

poultry," he replied.

"And how do you exactly see it," I asked him again.

"The key part is we have 18 years of experience and prediction to go for egg and poultry chick production," he added.

"Explain more," I requested.

"We just can invest any time. We need to know when the market certainly has a demand for eggs and poultry chicks. We always need to keep a check on the market and that's the main area of our concentration," explains Jeeshan.

"And, what about the hatchery," I asked.

"If the market isn't going well, we reduce production. No one should just start a hatchery just because they have money. They need to understand the market first and then invest," wisely adds Jeeshan.

Jeeshan is hugely committed to this farm because his mother has titled this farm after his name. It gives even more responsibility, he says. That's why he goes deep into the analysis and always comes up with a good solution.

In the village, Mrs Hosne Ara has inspired many unemployed youths, especially the ultra-poor women to start their poultry farms. I talked with some of the woman entrepreneurs.

"How many chickens you have in your farm?" I asked.

"I have 50 of them and I was inspired by Hosne Ara," she replied.

"How did you come to poultry farming?" I asked another woman.

"I was motivated by Hosne Ara," she replied.

"I just started my farm and hope to make money in a short time," says a beginner.

Dear readers, worldwide, there will be 35 percent more demand for animal protein in the next 20 years. Poultry will see the largest increase, about two percent, while expansion for eggs will be 1.6 percent. The cost of poultry production varies significantly from region to region. Hosne Ara is the change maker according to every one of the village. She wants to go further and wants to see all the women in her village self-sufficient. Agricultural success depends on labour, strategy and honesty. Indeed, success doesn't come in a day. It takes a long time to reach the peak and to reach the highest level one must have patience. Hosne Ara has all these qualities and that's the story of her success. Additionally, she has great support from her son who's much capable and has great understanding and knowledge on the poultry sector. Hosne Ara's farm is a great example for any poultry entrepreneur in the country and those who are still thinking about how to prosper in this sector can follow Hosne Ara's significant work.

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively. He is an Ashoka and Bangla Academy Fellow. He also received highest award for agricultural journalism from the United Nations, FAO A.H. Boerma Award, Gusi Peace Prize (Philippines) and many other prestigious accolades at home and abroad. At Channel i, he's the Founder Director and Head of News. He's also Director and Host of Channel i's popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



Drug addict kills mother-in-law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A drug addict youth stabbed his mother-in-law to death and injured his minor son allegedly over a family feud in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim, Halima Khatun, 50, was wife of Saudi expatriate Mohammad Sayem Uddin of Danapatuli Panchimpara village.

Quoting the deceased's family members, Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station Abu Bakar Siddiq said Aruna Begum, daughter of Sayem Uddin, was married to Habibul Islam, 25, son of late Kamal Uddin of Monoharpur village, about seven years ago.

After the marriage, Aruna, mother of a three-year-old boy, came to know that Habibul is a drug addict, which triggered a family feud between them.

As a sequel, Habibul often used to torture Aruna that forced her to return to her parents' house with her baby boy recently.

Since then Habibul often went to his in-laws' house and used to hurl abusive words to Aruna and her family members, the OC added.

Around 12:00noon, Habibul again went to Aruna's house and locked in an altercation with his mother-in-law Halima.

At one stage, Habibul stabbed Halima with a knife indiscriminately, leaving her severely injured, the OC said, adding that Habibul's son Ananda Hossain, who was in Halima's arms, also sustained injuries during the attack.

Hearing screams, neighbours went to the spot, rescued the injured duo and took them to Kishoreganj General Hospital where the doctors declared Halima dead while the kid is now undergoing treatment at the hospital.

After the incident, locals caught Habibul and handed him over to police.

Two kids drown in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Two minor boys from the same family drowned in a pond at Narikelbaria village in Bagherpara upazila of Jashore yesterday noon.

The deceased were identified as Saad, 3, son of Jamal Uddin, and his cousin Al Amin, 4, son of Syed Ali of the village.

Quoting the victims' family members and neighbours, police said the incident took place when the two kids were playing on the bank of a pond nearby their house and slipped into the water around 1:30pm.

Later, some villages found their bodies floating in a pond, rescued the duo and took them to Bagherpara Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared them dead, Officer in Charge of Bagherpara Police Station Jasim Uddin said.



The priests of Kantajew temple at Kantanagar in Dinajpur's Kaharol upazila carry idols from the altar to take it on boat to the temple of Dinajpur Rajbari, some 22 kilometres away, to keep there for around three months on the occasion of Janmashtami, the birthday of Hindu Lord Sri Krishna. The yearly arrangement, a three-century-old tradition, attracts a large number of devotees.

PHOTO: KONGKONKARMAKER



A NOVEL PROTEST: Villagers have planted paddy saplings on this mud road in Razibpur union of Ishwarganj upazila of Mymensingh, apparently in a bid to draw the attention of the authorities concerned as the three-kilometre way from Kashiganj to Momrempur remains a nuisance for people of five villages in the area.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Man held for stabbing wife dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Police yesterday detained a man in Bogura Sadar upazila for stabbing his wife to death in early hours the same day.

Rakibul Hasan, 20, son of Abu Zafar, from Baropur Modhyapara village in the upazila, was apprehended in Matidali Bimanmor area of Bogura town around 11:30am.

Police said they seized the knife used in the crime from outside Rakibul's house with information gleaned from him.

Around 12:30am, Rakibul fled the house after stabbing his wife Maya, 18, daughter of Tofazzal Hossain from Shibganj upazila, said police quoting locals.

Before the stabbing, the two were engaged in a terrible quarrel, they said, adding that the couple had a turbulent marriage since they married one and half years ago.

Maya was taken to TMSS Medical College Hospital in Thengamara, where she died around 9:00am.

Her body was sent to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital for autopsy, said Rezaul Karim, inspector (investigation) of Bogura Sadar Police Station, adding, "Process is underway to file a case."

Two Bandarban abductees escape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Two of the three people abducted on Monday evening by armed criminals from Bandarban's Ruma upazila escaped last night, said police.

The escapees are Nayan Das, 28, and Mohammad Mizan, 30, said Ruma police Station Officer-in-Charge Nazrul Islam.

He also said whereabouts of the third abductee, Basu Karmakar, still remains unknown.

"A group of 'Mogh Bahini' kidnapped them at gunpoint from Minjiri Mukh area on Monday evening when they were returning to Ruma Sadar upazila from remote Munnam Para of the upazila," the OC said.

Later, the criminals demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom from their family members over phone, the OC added.

The three abductees are drivers of locally modified passenger vehicles, locally known as "Chander Gari".

On August 5, some criminals sent a letter to Jeep Owners' Association of Ruma, demanding Tk 30 lakh, said Khalilur Rahman, secretary of the association.

Meanwhile, on yesterday morning, a rally was held in Bandarban town, demanding immediate arrest of those responsible for disturbing peace and harmony in Bandarban by killing and abducting hill people.

Alleging police obstruction in organising the rally at the directive of ruling party men, the speakers also demanded arrest of the ruling party politicians who have been aiding and abetting the criminals.

Among others, Kazi Mujibur Rahman, former secretary of Awami League's Bandarban unit; freedom fighter MA Wahhab and col (ret'd) Mohammad Ayub spoke at the rally.

Six people were killed and another was kidnapped in Bandarban in the last three months. Most family members of the victims claimed involvement of "Mogh Bahini" in the crimes.

GAIBANDH'S SAGHATA UPAZILA Flood affected schools need repair to resume proper functioning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The recent flood badly hampered academic activities in 43 institutions of Gaibandha's Saghata upazila.

The institutions including 35 government primary schools, six high schools and two madrasas had to be closed due to the flooding.

Following the recession of floodwater, several of them started functioning after long three weeks while many others are yet to resume classes due to damage of education materials, furniture and entrance roads.

"Attendance of students at my school is still thin as proper sitting arrangement is yet to be restored. The entrance road went under water and strong current damaged it. The ground is yet to be fit for playing," said Jahangir Alam, headmaster of Amadirpara Government Primary School.

The flood caused damage worth over Tk 3 lakh to the school, he said.

"My textbooks were destroyed in floodwater, as our dwelling house went under six-foot-deep water and we took shelter at another place," said Farida Akhter, a student of Class IV.

Azizur Rahman, upazila primary education officer of Saghata, said they have already received reports on flood-induced damage from the affected educational institutions and forwarded it to higher authorities with recommendations to initiate renovation work on priority basis for smooth running of classes.



Amadirpara Government Primary School is one of the 43 institutions badly affected by the recent flood in Saghata upazila of Gaibandha.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HOQUE

Illegal market on 76-decimal pond demolished in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A joint mobile court of Brahmanbaria district administration and Department of Environment on Tuesday demolished a market that was built encroaching on a large pond on Court Road in the town.

About 72 illegal shops and four tin-shed structures were dismantled in the drive led by Additional Deputy Magistrate of Brahmanbaria Mohammad Shamsuzzaman.

On August 2, The Daily Star ran a report on encroachment of ponds in Brahmanbaria town with the headline 'Waterbodies disappearing in Brahmanbaria town'.

Executive Magistrates Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Tanima Afrad, Md Jubair Hossen, Saffat Ara Sayeed, Proshanto Baidya, members of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model

Police Station and a team of Rapid Action Battalion-14 assisted the mobile court.

Last month, a market with corrugated iron sheet structures was built after filling up the 76-decimal pond, donated by former Zaminder Anando Mohon Chowdhury, locally known as Anando Babu, for constructing a Hindu temple, by an influential family related to a former deputy minister of the government.

According to land records, the pond is a donated property. But four brothers including Anisur Rahman Anis, Faruk Ahmed and Golap Mia -- all from the former deputy minister's family -- claimed its ownership.

Additional Deputy Magistrate Mohammad Shamsuzzaman said the category of the property was changed illegally from pond to homestead a year ago.



BCL man sued for beating newsman

The victim claims he was attacked for report on drug dealer's arrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A local journalist was beaten yesterday allegedly as a sequel to publication of a report on the arrest of a Chhatra League leader with drug.

The victim Faruk Ahmed, Bancharampur upazila correspondent of the daily Manabkanto, filed a written complaint with Bancharampur Model Police Station regarding the matter.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Md Rasel, organising secretary of Ruposhdi union unit Chhatra League and his five cohorts with drugs, and the Manabkanto ran a report on it in the August 20 issue.

As a sequel to publishing the news item, a group of people led by Md Alauddin, general secretary of Brahmanbaria's Bancharampur upazila Chhatra League, attacked Faruk at Protapanj Bazar of the upazila and injured him severely, Faruk mentioned in the written complaint.

The attackers also broke his camera, he added.

Faruk told The Daily Star that a team of Rab-14 Bhairab camp on early Monday detained Ruposhdi union Chhatra League leader Md Rasel and his five cohorts with 65 bottles of wine from Ruposhdi village.

"Rab provided this news to us through email and it was published by the Manabkanto. I was attacked for publishing the report," he said.

Contacted, Chhatra League leader Md Alauddin said, "We have no knowledge of occurrence of this type of attack on anyone."

Salahuddin Chowdhury, officer in charge of Bancharampur Model Police Station, said necessary legal action will be taken after investigating the written complaint.

Third grader hospitalised with pregnancy

Victim's mother files rape case against unknown individuals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A schoolgirl's mother filed a rape case on Sunday after finding out that her daughter was 25 weeks pregnant.

The case was filed against unknown individuals with Hajirhat Police Station in Rangpur Sadar upazila after the third-grade student's pregnancy was confirmed at a hospital where she was admitted with illness recently.

She is still undergoing treatment at the hospital, said a nurse there.

According to the case statement and locals, the girl's mother used to bring along her child to her workplace at a local agricultural farm where she had been working as a maid for the past three years.

After the news of the girl's pregnancy broke out, Tofazzal Hossain, 55, a staff member of the farm, who was being viewed by locals as a suspect of the crime, died by suicide on August 16.

His family members refused to make any comment over the reason for his death or speculations about his role in the girl becoming pregnant.

Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station, said the case was a complicated one and they were carrying out its investigation with due diligence.

They could not make any comment on the case as the investigation was ongoing and they would disclose their findings to the public after the investigation was complete, the OC also said.

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
অনুযায়ী সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ
পরিচালনা পরিষেবা

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chattogram Laboratory
Department of Environment
Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram
Email: ctglab@doe.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
2	Agency	Department of Environment.
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Department of Environment, Chattogram Laboratory, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram.
4	Invitation for	Procurement of 60 KVA Diesel Generator for continuous power supply to the Laboratory Research machineries (GC-MS/MS, LC-MS/MS) used in the Chattogram Laboratory, Environment Department.
5	Invitation Ref No. & date	22.02.1500.186.07.001.18-258 date: 20/08/2019

KEY INFORMATION

6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

7	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Fund (2019-2020).
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

8	Tender selling date	From 25/08/2019 to 15/09/2019 on office working time.
9	Tender closing date and time	16/09/2019 at 12:00 hrs.
	Tender opening date and time	16/09/2019 at 12:30 hrs.
10	Name & address of the office(s)	Address:
	- Selling tender document (principal)	Director, Department of Environment, Chattogram Laboratory, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram.
	- Receiving tender document	Director, Department of Environment, Chattogram Laboratory, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram.
	- Opening tender document	Conference Room, Department of Environment, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

11	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall submit the following documents: 1. Attested copy of a valid trade license, 2. Attested copy of TIN, 3. Attested copy of a VAT registration certificate, 4. Bank solvency certificate, 5. Experience certificate & 6. Liquid assets as per STD.		
12	Brief description of goods	Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of Brand New 60 KVA soundless Diesel Generator complete set.		
13	Brief description of related services	Supplying, Installation & Commissioning of soundless Diesel Generator.		
14	Price of tender document (Tk)	500/- per set (non-refundable).		
15	Identification of goods	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in days
	60KVA soundless Diesel Generator Set.	Department of Environment, Chattogram Laboratory, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram.	40,000/- (refundable, Bank Guaranty or Pay Order)	21 (twenty-one) days

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

16	Name of official inviting tender	Mohammad Nurullah Noori.
17	Designation of official inviting tender	Director
18	Address of official inviting tender	Department of Environment, Chattogram Laboratory, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram.
19	Contact details of official inviting tender	031-2566017 031-2566017 ctglab@doe.gov.bd
20	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

Mohammad Nurullah Noori
Director

GD-1387



Nimai Das of Belkuchi upazila in Sirajganj hooked this giant boal (a species of catfish), weighing around 16 kilogrammes, from the Jamuna river yesterday. He along with his brother-in-law Poltu Basak later took it to Tangail town and sold it for Tk 17,000.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল
রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা

সংশোধনী দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ সালে (1) MRI Machine এবং (2) Angiogram Machine (Cath Lab) ক্রয়ের জন্য স্মারক নং- কে-৯ পু-১/১৫৪৫-১০(অংশ-১)/২০১৯-২০২০/৪০০০(৪), তারিখ ০৭/০৭/২০১৯খ্রিঃ মোতাবেক সৈনিক ইত্তেফাক এবং দি ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকায় এবং সিপিটিইউ ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সকল বিষয় বাহাল রাখিয়া Tender closing date & time; Tender opening date & time এবং Section-2 Qualification Criteria এর ITT32.2 নিম্নরূপভাবে সংশোধন করা হল।

Sl. No.	Previous description of goods	Previous date & time	Sl. No.	Revise description of goods	Revise date & time
1.	Tender closing date & time	At 12.00 Noon on 22/08/2019	1.	Tender closing date & time	At 12.00 Noon on 29/08/2019
2.	Tender opening date & time	At 12.30pm on 22/08/2019	2.	Tender opening date & time	At 12.30pm on 29/08/2019
For MRI Machine		Previous Tender Security	Revise Tender Security		
1.	ITT32.2 The amount of Tender Security shall be	30,000.00 USD	1.	ITT32.2 The amount of Tender Security shall be	30,000.00 USD or equivalent Taka
For Angiogram Machine (Cath Lab)					
1.	ITT32.2 The amount of Tender Security shall be	15,500.00 USD	1.	ITT32.2 The amount of Tender Security shall be	15,500.00 USD or equivalent Taka

তারিখ: এমদাদুল হক
পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)
পক্ষে-পরিচালক
কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা
ফোন: ৮৩১২০৭৫ ফ্যাক্স: ৯৩৪২২৯৭

ক্রিঃ- ১৩৮৯



INITIAL VIEW

Russell Domingo, the newly appointed head coach of Bangladesh, aims to build a good relationship with the players initially. He talked about gaining their trust as an important aspect of his plans with Bangladesh during his first press conference in Mirpur yesterday.

Domingo, a major factor in whose appointment was that he would be able to give the sufficient time to players and on developmental aspects of cricket in the country as mentioned by the Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan, also talked about keeping an eye on the domestic circuit that would help him identify future prospects and develop them.

The South African also mentioned that he needs to have trusted colleagues around him who could help him with their insights. He hoped for good input from selectors and also emphasised on communication with High Performance coach Simon Helmot.



Having taken the reins in a time of transition, with the ever-bankable seniors now looking a touch vulnerable, new Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo (C) will have to start off by getting consistent results from the next generation of performers like Soumya Sarkar (L). PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

CHALLENGES

There has been talk of having more players in the pipeline who can offer more rotational options when needed. Domingo will be expected to enrich the pipeline by spending more time with the future prospects and grooming them.

It would be a tough challenge for Domingo to deal with all the expectations of the board members and the fans.

Bangladesh are yet to bounce back from their disappointing World Cup campaign as the Tigers were handed a 3-0 ODI thrashing away in Sri Lanka last month. And with Bangladesh not playing in their favoured format -- ODIs -- this year, Domingo is set for a tough start.

With the introduction of the World Test Championship and a revamped system that makes it harder for Bangladesh to qualify for the 2023 World Cup, Domingo will find it even tougher to live up to expectations.

Tough start beckons Domingo

SPORTS REPORTER



Russell Domingo appeared overwhelmed when greeted by a room full of reporters when the newly appointed Bangladesh head coach came in for his first press conference in Mirpur yesterday. In the full-house reception, there was a hint of the level of expectation the South African will have to live up to during his tenure as coach of the national team of a cricket-crazed nation.

Such was the case with Domingo's two immediate predecessors -- Chandika Hathurusingha and Steve Rhodes. Rhodes, who Domingo replaced, could not deliver what he had promised initially after taking charge of the Tigers back in June 2018. The Englishman had started with a view to building towards the 2019 World Cup and may have dreamt a bit too big -- sketching a bold picture of seeing the Tigers lined up in the last four of the World Cup. And the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) also did not take long to part ways with the Englishman who -- as has been mentioned by the BCB when they terminated Rhodes' contract

before it's agreed duration -- had failed to live up to expectations.

It was rather a different story with Hathurusingha. The Sri Lankan commenced his journey as the Tigers' head coach back in May 2014 with a goal-oriented approach as he had put his focus on establishing the best possible environment around the team to ensure better results.

This time, however, Domingo spoke of taking it rather slow. He begun with an immediate goal of building a good rapport with players as he mentioned that gaining the players' trust was an important aspect of his plans.

The South African will however begin with a rather tougher ask than either Rhodes or Hathurusingha. Firstly, the 44-year-old is set for a tough start as he will not have the opportunity to guide the Tigers in ODIs -- their favoured format -- at

all this year. Domingo's first assignment is the one-off Test against Afghanistan starting from September 5, which will be followed by a triangular T20I series featuring Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan.

RUSSELL DOMINGO
BANGLADESH COACH

From South Africa where, if you get to a press conference ahead of a big game you might get eight to nine reporters. I never seen so many as reporters in my life. I got to the airport yesterday and there were hundreds. It always strikes me that the passion for cricket in Bangladesh. It is the thing that attracted me to this part of the world.

Moreover, he will not have the full complement of seniors who have eased the entry of the last two coaches. Tamim Iqbal

has taken a break from the two upcoming home series, and finding a suitable replacement for one of the best batsmen in the country will be the South African's first headache. No ODIs until March next year also means having to do without the most influential dressing room presence in Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, whose era is nearing an end anyway as the timing of his retirement now dominates news more than his exploits on the field. That, and the recent 3-0 ODI thrashing in Sri Lanka

last month leaves the team in a state where a rotation policy will have to be used to unearth new players.

Domingo, who seemed a bit surprised and also concerned about Bangladesh's lack of opportunities in Tests, will also have to toil to get the best out of the team in this format. "Bangladesh played their last Test six months ago. It is a long time. I think it is hard to improve if you don't play enough Tests. I think with the [World] Test Championship, the team will get a chance to focus more on Tests. Bangladesh often play two-match Test series, others play three or four-match series. There is so much focus on white-ball cricket," said Domingo during the press conference yesterday.

There is no denying that being a coach of any country is challenging and it is truer when the team is Bangladesh -- a nation that has fans and board members with high expectations. Rhodes and Hathurusingha had a lot of challenges too, but the fact that they had a more settled Bangladesh side with the seniors in fine fettle may have made things a bit easier for them. With Domingo, however, it seems he will have a tough initiation as Bangladesh coach.



CHARL LANGEVELDT

Can Langeveldt hit the right spot?

SPORTS REPORTER



There are once again high hopes from the Bangladesh pacers as new fast bowling coach Charl Langeveldt took over duties with the aim to reform the Tigers' pace bowling attack.

The fast bowling department has been one of the most vulnerable parts of the Bangladesh team over the years and remains the biggest area of concern for the team management.

There were signs of improvement during Champaka Ramanayake's tenure in 2008, when the likes of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and a few other pacers made big strides.

Then, another high-profile fast bowling coach was appointed in the form of Zimbabwe's Heath Streak to give the Bangladeshi seamers that extra punch and at one point during early 2015 it looked like the pace bowling department started to rise.

Hoping to take the fast bowling department to a new level, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) followed up Streak's era by roping in Courtney Walsh, one of the all-time great fast bowlers.

However, despite the huge expectations during the West Indies legend's four-year tenure as the Tigers' bowling coach, Walsh seemed helpless for various reasons: whether it was a lack of consistency from pacers, their bashfulness due to the language barrier or even a lack of exposure for seamers due to limited opportunities.

Former South Africa pacer Langeveldt seems to have done his homework when it comes to the language barrier and interacting with players to bring out their best and said that he was going to be working on a one-on-one basis to understand each cricketer's mentality.

"It [the language barrier] is a challenge that I had in Afghanistan. After working there I found that if you work one-on-one with a player, he tends to open up a bit more. From my experience in Afghanistan, a player tends to say yes even if they don't understand something. So, I will look to work one-on-one with players and make sure if someone doesn't understand, I can get someone to explain... slow down, don't speak too fast and listen to what he has to say," Langeveldt said yesterday during his first interaction with the media since being appointed.

"Even if they want to speak about their families and gets comfortable, you will get to understand them and it also prompts them to come to my room and try to talk. I know it's a challenge but I am looking forward to it."

Although the word 'consistent', which was also a mantra for Walsh, was echoed by Langeveldt too, he pressed the issue of bowling well away from home.

"The new ball is important in ODI and Test cricket, especially in these conditions. The test for me is to find seamers who can bowl outside Bangladesh, who can bowl in conditions of South Africa or Australia. If you look at India, they have three seamers and they can win games in South Africa and Australia. We have to find pacers like that, who can compete at home and abroad."

When asked about replacing Walsh as bowling coach, the 44-year-old former Protea pacer said that he had a different method to coaching and would be looking to prepare another Mustafizur Rahman or Taskin Ahmed for the future, which he is taking as a challenge.



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson inspects the P. Sara Oval pitch during practice in Colombo yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

NZ look to exploit SL's Oval weakness

AFP, Colombo

New Zealand will be hoping to add to Sri Lanka's poor record at their own Oval ground and level the series in the second and final Test starting Thursday.

Unlike the spinner's paradise at Galle and the batting haven that is the P. Sara Oval -- the only ground in Asia where Don Bradman played -- favours seam bowlers.

Sri Lanka have been often exposed here by quality seam bowlers and one up in the two-match series, they will have New Zealand's Trent Boult and Tim Southee -- and possibly Neil Wagner -- to contend with.

In the last 10 years, Sri Lanka have played seven games at The Oval and lost five, including once to New Zealand. In that game seven years ago, Southee claimed eight wickets while Boult finished with seven.

"We have some fond memories from last time, and we managed to win that," New Zealand wicketkeeper B.J. Watling said at a pre-match media briefing on Wednesday.

"The boys like to talk about their wickets and there's a few stunning catches from memory as well. Having good memories is always good, but it is a new game, a new day, and we need to be switched on," Watling added.

Left-arm quick Wagner claimed nine wickets in New Zealand's last Test match and was unlucky to miss out in Galle as conditions heavily favoured spin. He is expected to make a return possibly at the expense of Mitchell Santner.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will leave out off-spinner Akila Dananjaya, whose action was reported to be suspect for a second time by match officials after the Galle Test. Dilruwan Perera has been drafted into the squad and is expected to play

Victorians rally against rule changes

SPORTS REPORTER



The Comilla Victorians yesterday refused to accept the decision to refurbish the regulations of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) during the ongoing meetings between the tournament's governing council (GC) and franchises.

Earlier this month, the GC announced that they would set fresh rules as the tournament is to start a new four-year cycle.

Following the last edition of the BPL, the BCB had claimed that the edition was the best among the six seasons.

"My question is why would I change the model if it has been claimed as

the most successful one? Why not continue with it? The BCB president [Nazmul Hassan] said that the BPL would not have any change to its rules and we want to honor his statement. We want continuity of a successful model," said Comilla Victorians owner Nafisa Kamal after the meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"It is being said that there will be a new cycle but that doesn't mean the rules have to be changed. We can always have the old and core rules in new the cycle and, if needed, make a few changes only," she added.

The GC's recent decision to withdraw the local players' retention policy and name everyone in the players' draft or auction alongside

their refusal to acknowledge direct local signings has irked the majority of franchises as Shakib Al Hasan's move from Dhaka Dynamites to Rangpur Riders is still pending approval.

"We had signed Mushfiqur [Rahim] during the [2019] World Cup. Tamim [Iqbal] is said to have signed Khulna [Titans] before the World Cup. Why was it not an issue then? We could have had better preparation if we were informed then. Now, all of a sudden, just because of one issue they cannot change the whole system," Nafisa said.

Two-time champions Comilla also pressed the issue of revenue sharing and Nafisa informed that Comilla had been unable to break-even in any of the seasons so far.

Yasir, Nazmul make it 1-1 for HP

SPORTS REPORTER



The BCB High Performance team bounced back from a dismal performance in the first match of a three-match one-day series by beating their Sri Lankan counterparts

by two wickets in the second one-dayer at BKSP yesterday.

The home side put up a much-improved batting display after the 186-run defeat in the first game at the same venue as a 120-run third-wicket partnership between Yasir Ali and Nazmul Hossain helped them overhaul Sri Lanka's 273 with two wickets and three balls to spare.

Yasir Arafat, however, deserved some credit as his two sixes in three deliveries made the equation -- scoring 20 runs from last two overs -- easier.

The two teams will travel to Khulna today to play the series deciding the third and final one-dayer at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium on August 24. The first four-dayer of a two-match series will also take place in Khulna.

Back to yesterday's match, Yasir exhibited his big-hitting credentials as he smote five sixes and three fours during a 93-ball 85 which netted him the player-of-the-match award. Nazmul smashed 77 off 88 balls, which featured nine fours and a six.

Shiran Fernando and Jehan Daniel claimed two wickets each. Earlier, Sri Lanka rode on two half-centuries from Padhun Nissanka (55 off 57 balls) and Kamindu Mendis (65 off 81 balls) to set a challenging target for the home team.

Shafiqul Islam was the most successful bowler with three wickets for 51 runs while Nayeem Hassan took two wickets for 35 runs.

Pak to play 3 Tests in Eng in 2020

REUTERS, London

England will host the West Indies and Pakistan in a total of six Test matches from June-August 2020 as part of the inaugural ICC World Test Championship, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Wednesday.

England begin their 2020 programme with three Tests against the West Indies, with the first match starting at The Oval on June 4, followed by matches at Edgbaston and Lord's.

A three-Test series with Pakistan starting July 30 at Lord's will be followed by three T20s against the same opponents and three ODIs against Ireland.

What to WATCH

TEN 1
West Indies v India
First Test, Day-1
Live from 7:30pm

SONY ESPN
Sri Lanka v New Zealand
Second Test, Day-1
Live from 10:30am

SONY SIX
The Ashes
England v Australia
Third Test, Day-1
Live from 4:00pm

MOST DIFFICULT YEAR FOR RONALDO

Cristiano Ronaldo told Portuguese television on Tuesday that "2018 was the most difficult year on a personal level." Ronaldo had to deal with rape allegations last year after former model Kathryn Mayorga filed a complaint in September alleging she was sexually assaulted by the footballer in 2009 in a Las Vegas hotel room. The case was dismissed in a Nevada court in June, though the filing did not say if Ronaldo had agreed a settlement. He denies the accusation, although he has reportedly acknowledged that he paid Mayorga in an earlier settlement. "When people question your honour, it hurts," he said on Tuesday. "It hurts a lot mainly because I have a big family, a wife and an intelligent child who understands a lot of things."

—AFP



Abahani players celebrate Sohel Rana's opening goal during their 4-3 win in the first leg of the inter-zone semifinal playoffs of the AFC Cup against April 25 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

ABAHANI 4 - 3 APRIL 25

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Advantage Abahani after 7-goal thriller

SPORTS REPORTER

Six-time Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani took a slight advantage in their bid to reaching the inter-zone final of the AFC Cup after a thrilling 4-3 win over April 25 SC in the first leg of the semifinal playoffs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sohel Rana and Nabib Newaz Jibon scored one apiece in the first half while Sunday Chizoba bagged a brace after the break for the Sky Blues, but a dogged April 25 SC kept coming back at them. Abahani, though, would hope they can keep the North Korean side at bay when they travel to Pyongyang for the second leg on August 28.

Despite the absence of a couple of key players, Abahani looked motivated and pressed hard from the outset, coming close to taking the lead twice within the first five minutes after having survived a first-minute attack from April 25 SC.

Striker-turned-left-back Saad Uddin and Haitian forward Kervens Belfort threatened to take the lead in the third and fourth minutes, but Saad saw his powerful shot from the edge of the box

drift away from the target while Belfort's close-range attempt was kept out by April 25 goalkeeper An Tae Song.

Belfort was again denied by Song in the 12th minute before the visitors had two shots off target in the 18th and 25th minutes respectively.

The hosts, eventually, broke the deadlock in the 33rd minute, with Belfort running deep down the left flank and whipping in a cross which was cleared by an April 25 defender. But the ball fell to unmarked Jibon, who moved diagonally before back-heeling it to Sohel Rana and the midfielder drove a stunning left-footer from 25 yards to send some 3000 Abahani fans roaring.

The lead, however, lasted only two minutes as the visitors scored in exactly the same fashion after taking advantage of a vacuum at the Abahani defence, with O Hyok Chol back-heeling the ball to Choe Jong Hyok, who hammered home a canon-like shot from the edge of the box.

Abahani, though, restored the lead three minutes later when Jibon, receiving a through-pass from Wali Faisal, fired home from a one-on-one situation after getting the ball inside the

box, courtesy of a fortunate deflection.

April 25 looked more aggressive after the break and levelled the margin in the 54th minute when Rim Chol Min, availing a defence-splitting forward pass, beat Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel easily.

Despite Abahani struggling to stop April 25 forwards with as many as six defensive players, the home side took a stranglehold in the game, courtesy of two quick goals by Sunday through counter-attacks.

Defender Tutul Hossain Badsha released a long ball behind April 25 defence and Sunday received it to place it past the left side of goalkeeper Song to restore one-goal cushion in the 57th minute. The Nigerian made it 4-2 four minutes later after receiving the ball from Belfort and making space on his right side with two defenders in front of him before smashing it to the near post.

April 25 fought back to reduce the margin in the 77th minute when Par Song Rok headed home a cross from Choe Jong Hyok over goalkeeper Sohel, and threatened to take a point from the home side but they were denied by the woodwork in the stoppage time.

India look to extend dominance

First Test against West Indies begins today

AFP, North Sound



India look set to extend their decade-long dominance over West Indies when the first match of a two-Test series starts at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here Thursday.

Having swept the T20I series 3-0 and taken the ODI contest 2-0, Virat Kohli's India are bursting with confidence going into their first Test match since the historic series triumph in Australia at the start of the year.

In contrast, the West Indies have gone off the boil since dominating England in the home series in the Caribbean six months ago and then going toe-to-toe with the same opponents in the subsequent ODI series.

A whitewash in the tour-ending T20 skirmish, followed by the removal of controversial head coach Richard Pybus and a disappointing World Cup campaign has left Jason Holder's men with much lost ground to reclaim.

And on the evidence of the limited-over leg of India's visit, and especially Kohli's irresistible form with the bat, it will be asking a lot of the West Indies to get the better of the tourists and claim a first Test match victory over India for more than 17 years.

However, if the home team can recapture the Holder-inspired dominance of England achieved earlier this year, there is hope that they will be able to match up to an Indian team well prepared for the longer version of the game.

It remains to be seen whether Indian selectors will include Rohit Sharma in the middle-order and whether the exciting young talent of Rishabh Pant will keep experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha in the dressing room.

Spinner Ravi Ashwin, 'Man of the Series' when India dominated the home side in the Caribbean three years ago, could find himself on the sidelines with Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav seen as prime contenders for the specialist spinner's role.

A change of policy in preparation has seen the pitch in Antigua, and indeed all Test match venues in the Caribbean, being more fast bowler-friendly since the start of last year.

'Here to win, not bruise'

Third Ashes Test starts today

AFP, Leeds



Australia coach Justin Langer has told his side to avoid being drawn into a bouncer battle after Steve Smith was ruled out of the third Ashes Test against

England.

Star batsman Smith suffered delayed concussion symptoms after being hit on his neck by a 92 mph bouncer from England fast bowler Jofra Archer during the drawn second Test at Lord's.

His absence from the third Test at Headingley starting Thursday leaves Australia with a huge hole to fill.

Smith marked his return to Test cricket after a 12-month ball-tampering ban with innings of 144 and 142 during Australia's 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston that put his side 1-0 up in the five-match series.

He also made 92, having retired hurt after being hit when on 80, at Lord's where Marnus Labuschagne, Test cricket's first concussion substitute, made a brave fifty in the second innings after being hit flush on the grille of his helmet by Archer.

World Cup-winning fast bowler Archer struck several telling blows on a Test debut that yielded five wickets.

Australia also have plenty of fast-bowling firepower at their disposal in Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc.

But Langer insisted his side would not be sidetracked from their goal of becoming

the first Australia side in 18 years to win an Ashes series in England.

"We know what our plans are to beat England," Langer told reporters at Headingley, where the third Test starts on Thursday. "It's not an ego game."

"We're here to win the Test match, not to see how many bruises we can give. That's not winning Test matches, trust me. You can't get out with a bruise on your arm. I'm sure the bouncer will still be part of every bowler's armoury, if it helps us get batsmen out then we'll use it, otherwise we'll keep sticking to the plan."

England are still without James Anderson after their all-time leading wicket-taker broke down with a calf injury after bowling just four overs at Edgbaston.

"It's not unlike England losing James Anderson, he's arguably their best bowler," said Langer.

"If you take your best players out it always has an impact so we have got to make sure that all the other guys, our senior players and our younger players, all step up and fill what are the almost unfillable shoes as he is almost the best player in the world."

Smith and England opener Rory Burns apart, both top-orders have struggled in the face of some quality fast bowling.

England batsman Jason Roy has passed a concussion test after being hit in the nets ahead of the third Ashes Test against Australia at Headingley.

Afghanistan squad revealed

STAR SPORT DESK

The Afghanistan Football Federation, on Tuesday, named the 23 players for the joint qualifiers of the 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup, with head coach Anoush Dastgir drawing on players far and wide for his squad.

With players based from Cyprus to Canada and the Maldives to Melbourne, there are few parts of the globe unrepresented in Dastgir's side, who will face Qatar in Doha on September 5 before taking on Bangladesh on September 10 for their home game in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Afghanistan's squad members ply their trade in a total of 14 nations, with the Germany-based quartet of Zubayr Amiri, Abassin Alikhil, Hassan Amin and uncapped goalkeeper Hellal Hosseini making it the most common home, ahead of the Afghan Premier League, which provides three players, all from champions Toofan Harirod.

Maldives-based defender Zohb Islam Amiri is the oldest man in Afghanistan's squad, with his 32 years of age making him older than even head coach Dastgir, who is only 29.

Afghanistan are currently 149th in FIFA rankings while Bangladesh are 182nd.

China call up Elkeson

AFP, Shanghai

China named Elkeson in their squad Wednesday for their opening World Cup qualifier with the Brazilian poised to become the first without Chinese ancestry to play for the country.

The move has divided Chinese football fans and experts, however, as coach Marcello Lippi attempts to guide the nation to only their second World Cup.

Lippi has long complained about a dearth of attacking options and has moved to plug the gap with the 30-year-old striker, who will use the Chinese name Aikesen.

The move to naturalise the Brazilian comes after China similarly gave a passport to London-born midfielder Nico Yennaris.

The Beijing Guoan player has taken the Chinese name Li Ke and made his debut for Lippi's side in June this year.

Elkeson has scored more than 100 goals in a bout 150 games in the Chinese Super League.

APOEL hold Ajax

AFP, Paris

Ajax finished with 10 men on Tuesday but moved closer to the Champions League group stage with a 0-0 draw away to APOEL in Nicosia in a playoff round first-leg match.

The game was goalless but packed with incident.

Ajax, a four-time winner of the competition and a semifinalist last season, dominated possession and created a string of promising situations. But the lively home attack, with 22-year-old Jordanian Musa Suleiman showing some eye-catching form, created the most dangerous chances.

Ajax conceded a string of free kicks in the second half and Noussair Mazraoui

paid the price when a flailing tackle on Uros Matic earned him a second yellow card with 10 minutes to play.

Veteran striker Klass Jan Huntelaar, who came on with 12 minutes left, had a clear opportunity to win the game in added time, but the 36-year-old's tame chip was cleared. "We gave the ball away too easily and we must improve next week," said Ajax attacker Dusan Tadic. "I expect the same compact defensive zone from APOEL in the second game. But we need to play much better."

While Ajax were disappointed with an away draw, Nicholas Ioannou, APOEL captain, was happy with his team's chances. "We played really well," he said. "We defended very well and had some good chances at the other end to score."

Neville calls for social media boycott

AFP, London

England women's manager Phil Neville believes football players should boycott social media in the wake of Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba becoming the latest high-profile figure to suffer racist abuse online.

Pogba was targeted after his penalty was saved in United's 1-1 draw at Wolves on Monday just days after Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham suffered similar abuse.

"I think we probably have to take drastic measures now as a football community - I've had it with my players on social media, the Premier League stars and the Championship have had it," said Neville on Tuesday. "I just wonder whether as a football community we come off social media. Because Twitter won't do anything about it, Instagram won't do anything about it - they send you an email reply saying they'll investigate but nothing happens."

"I've lost total faith in whoever runs these social media departments, so let's send a powerful message: come off social media (for six months."



Ajax defender Daley Blind (L) vies with APOEL midfielder Musa Suliman during their Champions League qualifier playoff first leg at the GSP Stadium in Nicosia on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP



England fast bowler Jofra Archer stretches during a training session at Headingley yesterday ahead of the second Ashes Test against Australia which starts today.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ribery arrives in Tuscany

AFP, Milan



French winger Franck Ribery arrived in Italy on Wednesday to complete a medical ahead of signing a two-year contract with Serie A club Fiorentina.

"Welcome legend," the Tuscany club wrote on Twitter with a photo of the 36-year-old wearing the club's purple colours and holding a Fiorentina scarf.

The former French international has left Bayern Munich as a free agent after 12 seasons with the German giants during which he won 23 trophies.

Ribery's new deal was rubber-stamped late Tuesday and the veteran winger will undergo a medical before his presentation on Thursday.

Both Ribery and his wife Wahiba posted photos on social media on Wednesday on board a private jet, and were greeted by hundreds of fans on their arrival.

The French player said that former Bayern forward Luca Toni had convinced him to move to Italy.

"I'm happy, I'm here with my family," said Ribery.

"I talked for a week with Fiorentina. I also spoke with Luca Toni. He told me that Fiorentina is a great club and the city is beautiful."

"And I also like Italian and I speak it a bit even though I have to improve. Thank you all."

Ribery has reportedly agreed a two-year deal worth between 4 million and 4.5 million euros (\$4.4m-\$4.9m) plus bonuses.

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

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

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

MATARBARI POWER PLANT
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SHAH CEMENT

Indian gangs smuggling yaba into Bangladesh

Claim detectives after arresting an Indian in the capital

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Several Indian syndicates are smuggling yaba pills from Myanmar and then sending them into Bangladesh through their carriers.

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) revealed this following the first ever arrest of an Indian national for yaba possession in Bangladesh.

DB officials said they unearthed at least two cases in which two Indians were found to have entered Bangladesh and engaged in selling the crazy pills to local dealers.

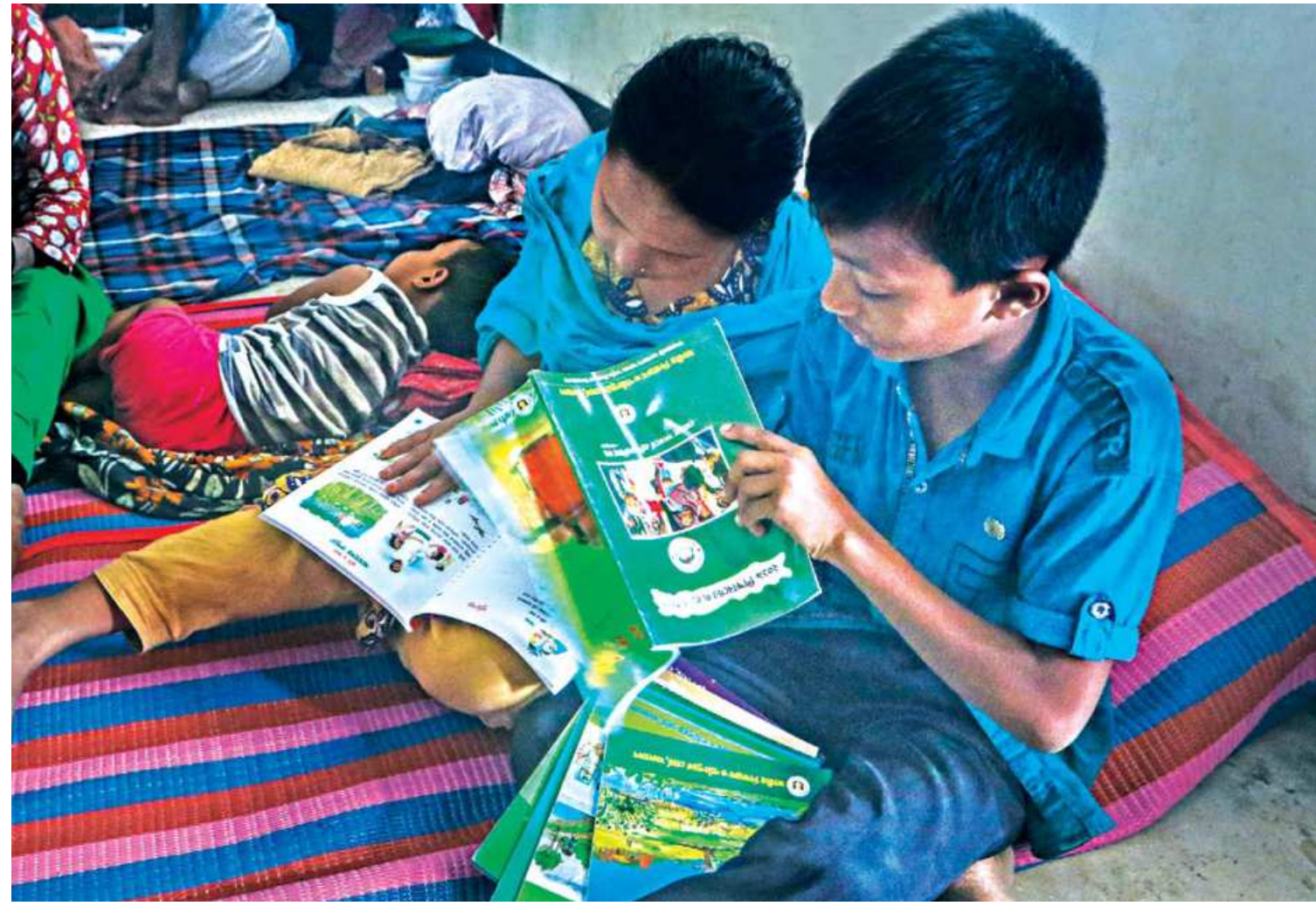
On August 9, a DB team arrested Indian national Md Abdus Sabur, 34, and two Bangladeshi yaba dealers -- Shamsul Alam, 28, and Jakir Hossain, 40 -- at a house in the capital's Rampura. The law enforcers recovered some 10,000 pieces of yaba from their possession, Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of DB (north), told The Daily Star yesterday.

Mashiur also said yaba smugglers changed their route in face of tougher vigilance of law enforcers in Teknaf, known as the gateway of smuggling yaba into the country.

Several Indian syndicates are now using Kurigram's Rowmari border point as a new route to bring yaba into Bangladesh, he said.

"They first collect the pills from Myanmar and then take them to India's Assam via Tripura before pushing them into Bangladesh."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Third graders Ratna, right, and Solayman reading new books at Bangabandhu Bidyaniketan school in Chalandika area of Mirpur in the capital. All of their family's belongings, including their books, were burnt in Friday night's fire in their slum. Some children have taken shelter at the school since the fire.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MIGRANT TRAGEDY

Over 100 feared dead off Libya

REUTERS, Cairo

More than 100 people are feared dead after a boat carrying them in the Mediterranean Sea sunk off the coast of Libya, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said on Tuesday.

"We have every reason to fear the worst - that over 100 lives were lost and nobody will ever know for sure," MSF said in a statement on Twitter on Tuesday.

The Libyan coast guard was not immediately available for comment.

Libya is a hub for migrants and refugees, many of whom try to reach Europe in unseaworthy boats.

A boat carrying about 250 people, mainly from Eritrea and other sub-Saharan Africa and Arab countries, capsized last month off the coast near Komos, east of the capital Tripoli.

Libyan coast guards and local fishermen rescued

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BUSINESS

Janata pushes to reschedule loans of a top defaulter

In a baffling move, the central bank is set to allow precarious Janata Bank to reschedule default loans amounting to Tk 1,049 crore of Root Group that ranks 49 out of the top 300 defaulters in Bangladesh. Root Group, a textile and fertiliser producer, will be permitted to regularise its bad loans by providing only 5 percent down payment -- at a time when it is being investigated by two wings of the Bangladesh Bank for charges of money laundering. Not only that, the state bank is preparing to extend fresh import financing worth Tk 750 crore to the group, breaching BB rules. Janata's generosity towards Root Group comes at a time when it is grappling with the biggest provisioning shortfall for a bank in Bangladesh's history.

STORY ON B1

J&K tensions spike

Two killed in cop-militant gunfight; Trump again offers to mediate; cross border firing kills four

AFP, Srinagar

A suspected militant and a policeman were killed in the first gun battle since New Delhi stripped Indian Kashmir of its autonomy, police said yesterday after US President Donald Trump offered to mediate the "explosive" situation.

In a further sign of rising tensions, Pakistan said meanwhile that three of its civilians died in Indian gunfire from across the de-facto border in Kashmir known as the Line of Control (LoC). Pakistan also said its forces later killed six Indian soldiers. But the Indian army rejected this claim as "totally fake," the Press Trust of India said.

PTI quoted officials as saying one Indian soldier died and four were wounded when Pakistani troops opened fire on forward posts and villages along the LoC in the Poonch district on Tuesday.

Both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers and the situation in Kashmir, divided between them since 1947, is further complicated by the fact that China also claims part of the Himalayan region.

Trump -- who has previously spoken of his willingness to mediate -- said he would raise the situation over the weekend with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Both men are expected in France for a summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

"Kashmir is a very complicated place. You have Hindus and you have the Muslims and I wouldn't say they get along so great," Trump told reporters at the White House.

"I will do the best I can to mediate," he added.

At least 4,000 people have been detained in Indian-controlled Kashmir, according to security and government sources, since early August when authorities imposed a communications blackout and restricted freedom of movement in the region.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Ex-Goalanda OC sentenced to 14 years

His wife to serve 2 years in jail for helping him acquire, conceal illegal wealth

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Saiful Islam, former officer-in-charge of Goalanda Police Station, to fourteen years' rigorous imprisonment in two graft cases.

The court also handed down two years' imprisonment to Saiful's wife Zakia Islam Anu for assisting her husband in acquiring the illegal wealth.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed two cases against the duo in June and September of 2010 with Ramna Police Station, accusing them of acquiring illegal wealth worth over Tk 2.77 crore and concealing wealth statement of Tk 38.55 lakh from the commission.

After cross-examining 23 witnesses placed by the prosecution and a fully-fledged trial, Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge Court-4 yesterday pronounced the verdict.

In the verdict, the court also fined Saiful Tk 6.5 lakh, in default of which, he will have to suffer two-and-a-half-year more in prison.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Court sells fugitive's skyscraper online



CNN ONLINE

With its exaggerated crown and bulging upper levels, the 39-floor Pangu Plaza casts an unusual shadow over Beijing.

And now the dragon-inspired skyscraper has an equally odd ownership story: It sold online Tuesday for a bargain \$734 million after being confiscated from a fugitive billionaire.

Located less than half a mile from the iconic Bird's Nest stadium, the 629-foot-tall tower was completed in 2008 in a district built for that year's Beijing Olympics.

But in 2016, authorities seized ownership of the skyscraper from a real estate company controlled by exiled Chinese billionaire Guo Wengui. A Beijing court then put the building up for auction on a website run by e-commerce giant, Alibaba.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

One held for raping fifth grader

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested a man for allegedly raping a fifth grader in Mymensingh, while another was sued for attempted rape in Jashore.

The arrestee is Zilhaj Mia alias Dilu, 30, of Gafargaon upazila in Mymensingh.

The 13-year-old girl was alone at her home on Monday evening. Dilu forcibly entered the house, tied her hands and legs and then raped her, police quoted the victim's family as saying.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 22
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:30 12:45 4:45 6:33 8:00
JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:36 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A part of the Suhrawardy Udyan shrouded in smoke of burning twigs and litter yesterday. The thick smoke has a strong smell and causes burning eyes.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



35th Death Anniversary of Habibul Kabir (Nizam)

On this Occasion a Milad Mehfil will be held today, 22-08-2019 (Thursday) after Maghrib Prayers at **Union Centre, 68/1 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.** Relatives, friends and all well-wishers of the deceased are requested to kindly join the Milad Mehfil and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Family Members