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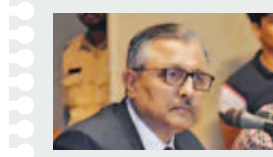
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Political activities banned at Buet

19 accused of Abrar killing suspended from university; students vow to continue demo until all demands are met; 2 more accused held



Buet authorities will soon open an online portal where students can share their experiences of ragging, torture and harassment. The university's Directorate of Students' Welfare will monitor the complaints.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Buet authorities yesterday banned all political activities on the campus and suspended 19 students, including BCL leaders, accused in Abrar Fahad killing case.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Saiful Islam made the announcement in face of the student agitation sparked by the brutal murder last week.

During a meeting between the university authorities and the protesters, the VC also said they were working to open a website, in which students would be able to post their complaints about ragging and other forms of torture on the campus.

The university's Directorate of Students' Welfare would directly receive the complaints through the website, he said.

Coming out of the meeting, the students, however, said they would continue their

demonstration until the authorities fulfilled all the demands that fall under their jurisdiction.

They warned that they will not allow the authorities to hold first year admission tests slated for October 14 as well as all terminal examinations if the demand were not met.

Abrar, a second-year student of the university's electrical and electronic engineering department, died after he was beaten by a group of Chhatra League leaders at Sher-e-Bangla Hall sometime between 7:00pm Sunday and 2:30am on Monday.

Doctors said Abrar died of "internal bleeding and excessive pain".

The incident triggered a firestorm of protests on campuses across the country. Many took to the social media to demand justice for Abrar.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Buet students bring out a procession on the campus yesterday, demanding justice for fellow student Abrar Fahad. *Inset*, protesters chant slogans during a demonstration.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HRW deplors Abrar killing

Urges govt to ensure impartial probe

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Buet student Abrar Fahad's killing reflects a deeper failing by the Bangladesh government to bring those responsible for politically motivated abuses to justice, says Human Rights Watch.

"A government that ignores torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings by security forces, and arbitrary arrests over dissent begets a culture where students can run a "torture cell" on a university campus," said Brad Adams, Asia director of HRW, in a statement yesterday.

Bangladesh authorities should ensure a thorough, impartial, and transparent investigation into Abrar murder, and hold all those responsible to account, he said.

On October 6, Abrar, 21, was summoned from his dorm room at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) to Room 2011, known among students as the "torture cell" run by activists of Chhatra League, pro-ruling Awami League student body. A few hours later, he was found dead.

The BCL assistant secretary at the university told the media that the group interrogated Fahad about his involvement with Chhatra Shibir, pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body. They claimed to have found "evidence" of Fahad's ties to Shibir after looking through his Facebook account and confiscating his cell phone.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Rab arrests DNCC councillor Mizan

About Tk 8cr in cheques, FDR, illegal pistol seized from his residence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab recovered Tk 1 crore in fixed deposit receipts and Tk 6.77 crore in cheques from Ward Councillor Habibur Rahman Mizan's flat in the capital's Muhammadpur yesterday evening, hours after he was arrested in Sreemangal.

The Awami League leader and councillor of ward-32 of Dhaka North City Corporation was arrested in the morning at his friend's house in Sreemangal.

Rab officers found an unlicensed pistol, four bullets and Tk 2 lakh in his possession, said Executive Magistrate Sarwar Alam.

Sensing that the law enforcers would be coming after him, Mizan was about to flee the country through Sylhet, he said.

Rab started searching his flat along with him on Aurangzeb Road around 3:30pm and continued for nearly four hours.

Officers are also looking for a stash of Tk 68 lakh Mizan had withdrawn from a bank on Thursday.

"He reportedly owns property in Texas, USA. We are verifying the information" Sarwar told reporters after searching Mizan's flat.

Mizan had no business or job in the last 15 years. His only legitimate source of income is a monthly allowance of TK 36,000, he has been receiving as a councillor, Sarwar said.

Officers are also checking whether he is involved in the Freedom Party and is an accused in a case filed over an attempted murder of Sheikh Hasina, he said.

Besides, there are numerous allegations of extortion and drug dealing against him.

For now, he would be accused in separate cases of money laundering and arms possession, Sarwar told reporters.

Rab handed him to Muhammadpur Police Station last night.

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4 Ansar al Islam men arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested four suspected members of banned militant outfit Ansar al Islam from the capital's Jatrabari area.

Shahin alias Omar, Saiful Islam, Hanifuzzaman alis Biplob and Al Mamun were arrested on Thursday night. Three machetes were seized from them, said police.

According to law enforcers, the four recently left their homes and received training in Bandarban hills in using machetes and achieving physical fitness.

Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the arrestees are "active members of Ansar al Islam".

"The four along with some other operatives from different districts received one month's training in Bandarban followed by a week-long training in the Sundarbans area.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

JUBO LEAGUE PRESIDIUM MEETING

Call for change in leadership

Office secretary Anisur expelled over graft allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jubo League presidium yesterday called for a change in the leadership, alleging that many of its leaders had been using the organisation for their personal gains.

The demand came at a presidium meeting held at the organisation's central office in the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue.

"Most of the presidium members at the meeting said many leaders are considering Jubo League as their ancestral property," a presidium member of the organisation told The Daily Star after the meeting.

The meeting also discussed bringing fresh blood in Jubo League leadership through the upcoming central council scheduled to be held on November 23, he said.

The last council of Jubo League was held in 2012.

During the meeting, the ruling party-backed organisation also expelled its central office Secretary Kazi Anisur Rahman over corruption allegation, said ABM Amjad Hossain, another presidium member of Jubo League.

Anisur went into hiding after the ongoing crackdown on illegal casinos began on September 18, organisation sources said.

On October 6, Jubo League expelled its Dhaka South Jubo League President Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat, one of the casino kingpins, and his close aide Enamul Haque Arman, vice president of the unit, for their alleged involvement in anti-social activities and breaching discipline of the organisation.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Ethiopia PM wins Nobel Peace Prize

Awarded for ending Eritrea standoff

AFP, Oslo

Hailed as a visionary and reformer, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed yesterday won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to resolve the long-running conflict with neighbouring foe Eritrea.

Abiy was honoured "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea," the Nobel Committee said.

The award is seen as a welcome boost for Africa's youngest leader as he faces worrying inter-community

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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Rear Admiral M. H. Khan
Former Chief of the Naval Staff
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On his 1st Death Anniversary
He breathed his last on 13th October 2018

We request all Colleagues, well wisher, friends and relatives to pray for the salvation and eternal peace for his departed soul.

May Almighty Allah grant him Jannah.

Begum M. H. Khan
Son Maruf & Grandsons Musavvir & Muazzam.

Migrant workers in Greece face abuses

STAR REPORT

Around 12,000 Bangladeshis working in the strawberry farms in Greece are facing various forms of labour abuses, including low wages, long working hours and sub-standard living conditions with little amenities. The employers, who earn huge profits out of the cheap migrant labour, also threaten them of deportation as they are undocumented in Greece, the country which the workers consider a transit point to other European countries. “We earn huge profits for farmers who treat us worse than animals. We want people to learn how we live a rough life in Barangas [small shanties built for workers],” a group of 25 Bangladeshi farm workers in Nea Manolada, a village of southwestern Greece, said in a statement.

Reena Kukreja, assistant Professor of Global Development Studies at the Queen’s University in Ontario, wrote an article based on her research on the migrant workers. It was published in The Conversation, an Australia-based news magazine, yesterday.

“Look how they live in comfort -- all due to our hard work. What do we get in return? Discarded plastic sheets as our roof,” a Bangladeshi migrant in his early 20s told the researcher when she visited them in last summer in Nea Manolada.

“Strawberry farmers give the migrants long work hours, high targeted outputs and depressed wages. The conditions of work can be described as forced or unfree labour. Withholding of wages is a common practice here and tie the workers to the farmers,” writes Kukreja.

In 2013, protests by Bangladeshi workers against delayed wages led to Greek farmers shooting at them. Later, the workers won a landmark human rights case, and Greece was forced to pay more than US\$648,000 to 42 of them.

According to the article, each growing season of strawberry, from October to May, as many as 12,000 undocumented Bangladeshi migrants work in the farms in Greece, the 10th biggest exporter of strawberries in the world.

The workers are forced to rent unused farmland and build highly inflammable makeshift shacks called barangas -- built out of salvaged plastic sheets, cardboard and reeds. They offer no running water, electricity or sanitation facilities.

“These structures are human tragedies waiting to happen. The danger of the inflammable construction material is heightened with cooking done inside in crude partitioned kitchens, with propane gas cylinders, and lighting provided by candles,” the researcher added.

In June 2018, a massive fire broke out in a migrant settlement in Nea Manolada. More than 340 Bangladeshi workers lose everything they had, including identification papers, passports, work permits, proof of stay and saved wages.

In 2019, seven fires, fueled by strong winds, charred entire sets of Barangas in the same region in a matter of minutes. So far, no one has died, but the migrants worry about what might happen if a fire breaks out at night, when everyone is sleeping. Blazes in similar migrant housing have resulted in fatalities, the article said.

Kukreja wrote there’s no electricity, no fans or heaters in the housing facilities. The workers are also unable to charge their cell phones, a vital link to their families. The only place to charge phones is at ethnic grocery stores or cafes with long queues to do so.

The inadequate sanitation, waste-disposal facilities and drainage create ripe conditions for infectious diseases. Frequent diarrhoea, fever, asthma and respiratory problems appear widespread, the researcher said.

The workers are deterred from demanding better living conditions because they are undocumented. The ever-present threat of potential deportation scares undocumented migrant workers who then discipline themselves as efficient but invisible workers.

Local authorities, aware of their plight, have turned a blind eye to improving migrant housing, leaving the men with little recourse.

“Everyone exploits our desperation to earn wages while profiting from our labour,” said a labourer in his mid-30s who has been working in the farms for the last seven years.



Kazi Anisur Rahman

Call for change

FROM PAGE 1
Rab members arrested the two from Cumilla on the same day.

Earlier, the organisation expelled its Dhaka South unit Organising Secretary Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan, who was arrested for running an illegal casino, for breaching the organisation’s discipline and his involvement in anti-social activities.



A bus carrying 40 picnickers flipped on its side on Chattogram-Rangamati road in the hill district's Manikchhari area yesterday morning after its driver lost control. Police said the accident left 16 bus passengers injured. They received primary treatment at Rangamati General Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

Political activities banned at Buet

FROM PAGE 1

Law enforcers suspect Abrar was attacked because of one of his recent Facebook posts, which seemed critical of some recent deals with India.

THE MEETING

Since Abrar was murdered, Buet Alumni Association and Teachers’ Association has been demanding removal of the VC for his “failure to ensure security” on the campus.

Prof Saiful also faced the protesters’ wrath when he went to the campus about 38 hours after the killing. The demonstrators also laid a siege to his office for over four hours.

He organised yesterday’s meeting at Buet auditorium to discuss the protesters’ 10-point demand, including banning politics on the campus and expelling the accused students. Media personnel were also present.

Soon after the meeting started around 5:00pm, Prof Saiful read out the demands of the students and talked about his stance on them.

At one point, he said, “I, with my own authority, am announcing that all political organisations and their activities are banned at Buet.”

About the demand for highest punishment for the killers, he said he discussed the matter with the top tier of the government and that the government has assured all sorts of assistance in this regard.

On expelling the suspects, he said the university authorities, on many occasions in the past, expelled students, but the expellees return to class with stay order from the courts.

“Based on those experiences, we have formed a probe committee to investigate Abrar’s murder. We are now suspending studentship of the 19 accused and further action will be taken based on the [committee’s] inquiry report.”

About compensating Abrar’s family

and running the legal battle over the murder, Prof Saiful said the university authorities would assist the family in these matters.

He then said the authorities would soon install CCTV cameras on both sides of every wing of the dormitories. The VC said they would write to the government so that the case over Abrar’s murder is tried under a speedy trial tribunal.

He also assured that there would be no ragging at Buet.

About the allegation of his failure to take prompt action after the brutal murder of Abrar, the VC admitted having some lacking on his part in acting swiftly.

“I had some lacking. As a father figure, I offer my apologies to you,” he said.

Later, some of the protesters said they would not budge until the university authorities fulfilled all the demands that fall under their jurisdiction.

They also threatened to thwart the upcoming admission tests.

At this, Director of Student Welfare Mizanur Rahman urged the protesters not to hold the admission seekers hostage to fulfil the demands.

Admission Test Committee Chief and Electrical & Electronic Engineering Faculty Dean Pran Kanai Saha also requested the protesters to allow the examination to take place.

Later, the students went the Shaheed Minar area on the campus and resumed their sit-in around 8:30pm.

They said they would continue their demo.

FIFTH DAY OF DEMO

Earlier in the morning, the agitating students continued their protests for the fifth straight day.

Several hundred students took to the streets demanding justice for Abrar. Holding placards, they

chanted slogans calling for highest punishment for the killers.

Talking to the media around 11:00am, one of the protesters said, “We have not seen any visible progress towards the implementation of our 10-point demand.”

They brought out a procession from in front of the Buet’s Shaheed Minar and later staged a sit-in. After a break for Jumma prayers, they drew graffiti and performed a street play and a mock debate protesting the murder of their fellow student.

On Thursday, the protesters had given the VC until 2:00pm yesterday to make his stance clear on their demands.

MEFTAHUL CONFESSES; TWO MORE ARRESTED

BCL leader Meftahul Islam Zion of naval architecture and marine engineering batch-15, also the sports secretary of the Buet unit, yesterday confessed to his links to Abrar’s killing.

Earlier on Thursday, another accused Ifi Mosharraf Shakal confessed that he along with other Chhatra League leaders beat up Abrar.

Detectives yesterday arrested two more FIR-listed accused -- Majedul Islam, 21, a 17th batch student of materials and metallurgical engineering, and Shamim Billah, 20, 17th batch student of naval architecture and marine engineering, from Sylhet and Satkhira.

With the arrest of the duo, the number of arrestees in the case stood at 18.

Meanwhile, two suspects, Buet BCL leader Amit Saha and Hossain Mohammad Toha, were placed on five-day remand each yesterday in connection with the murder.

The court also sent Abrar’s roommate Mizanur Rahman Mizan to jail.

Sinking into the depths of despair

Rickshaw-van puller father devastated as his Buet student son held in Abrar murder case

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

In a remote village of Joypurhat, Atiqul Islam drives a rickshaw van to make ends meet. A father of three, it was always difficult for him and his wife Nazma Begum to get by on the meagre income. But the family was close to a dream come true.

Their eldest son, a student of the Bangladesh University and Engineering and Technology (Buet), would soon take on the family responsibility.

“We practically starved for days on end just to make sure that our son gets a good education,” said the middle-aged rickshaw-puller.

He had thought his days of hardship would be over soon. “My son would graduate in two years and get a job and then look after the family,” he said.

“I could never spend a penny for private tuition, and yet my son managed to ace all his exams and get into Buet. He really made me proud. I could stand with my head held high anywhere.”

Atiqul’s dream has fallen apart. His son Akash Hossain is among those arrested for murdering Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of Buet.

The poor man said it feels like the sky has crashed down upon him. “I had thought my son would take the burden off my tired, old shoulders. But now it seems I have to take even more burden for him.”

With anguish, he said that if the charges are proven, his son must be punished. “And I will tell myself that somewhere I must have gone wrong in his upbringing.”

His wife Nazma Begum said, “That other kid who was killed, was my son too. The only thing I ask is that such a brutal incident does not happen again.”

Nazma said she had talked to Akash on Sunday evening. But in the early morning of Tuesday, Akash’s grandfather called her and told that violence broke out at Buet.

Nazma phoned her son and queried about his involvement. “My son said he was not involved with the incident and that he is innocent.”

Akash’s grandfather came to Atiqul’s house by the time, and then they come to Gazipur where Akash’s maternal uncle lives.

Akash came to Gazipur and he was arrested there, said Atiqul. “We are very poor and never engaged in politics. We do not understand politics, and my son was also not involved with politics.”

Md Jahuru Islam, chairman of Dogachhi Union Parishad, said Atiqul’s family is very poor, and they have no bad reputation in the area.

“Akash is a very good and polite boy. Even I helped him during his admission to Buet. We are shocked and surprised at his arrest. The whole area is saddened,” said Jahurul, also general secretary of Joypurhat Sadar Upazila Awami League.

He said their only demand is that the perpetrators must be punished but no innocent people should be victimised.

Born in 1998, Akash passed SSC examination from Dogachhi High School in 2014 with golden GPA-5 and HSC from Joypurhat Government College in 2016 with the top grade.

Ethiopia PM

FROM PAGE 1

violence ahead of a parliamentary election in May 2020.

“I was so humbled and thrilled when I just heard the news,” Abiy told the Nobel Committee in a phone call posted online on the Nobel Prize website.

“It is a prize given to Africa, given to Ethiopia.”

Abiy also said he hoped it would inspire other African leaders to “think it possible to work on peace-building processes”.

Since taking office in April 2018, the 43-year-old has aggressively pursued policies that have the potential to upend society in the Horn of Africa nation and reshape dynamics beyond its borders, after years of civil unrest.

On July 9, 2018, following a historic meeting in Eritrea’s capital Asmara, Abiy and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki formally ended a 20-year-old stalemate between the countries in the wake of the 1998-2000 border conflict.

Abiy swiftly released dissidents from jail, apologised for state brutality, and welcomed home exiled armed groups.

‘WINDS OF HOPE’

His actions have sparked optimism in a region of Africa marred by violence.

“I have said often that winds of hope are blowing ever stronger across Africa. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is one of the main reasons why,” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said.

The peace agreement with Eritrea has “opened up new opportunities for the region to enjoy security and stability,” and Abiy’s “leadership has set a wonderful example for others in and beyond Africa looking to overcome resistance from the past and put people first.”

The Nobel jury stressed that the Peace Prize was “also meant to recognise all the stakeholders working for peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia and in the East and Northeast African regions.”

It singled out the Eritrean leader for praise, noting that “peace does not arise from the actions of one party alone.”

“When Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reached out his hand, President Afwerki grabbed it, and helped to formalise the peace process between the two countries.”

However, analysts believe there is still some way to go before a lasting peace, and the enthusiasm has been

mixed with frustration.

The border between the two countries has once again been closed, the countries still lack trade agreements and Ethiopia -- a land-locked country -- still has no access to Eritrean ports.

And last June, Abiy faced the greatest threat yet to his hold on power when gunmen assassinated high-ranking officials including a prominent regional president and the army chief.

Amnesty International said the prize should spur Abiy to enhance reforms on human rights.

“This award should push and motivate him to tackle the outstanding human rights challenges that threaten to reverse the gains made so far,” the group said, pointing to “ongoing ethnic tensions that threaten instability and further human rights abuses”.

Ethnic violence has been on the rise in recent years, causing Ethiopia to record more internally displaced people last year than any other country.

PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Recognising that some would consider the prize premature, the Nobel Committee said that while much remained to be done, the award should serve as encouragement, and pointed to the criteria set by prize creator Alfred Nobel -- namely that the award should go to one “who has made the most significant contribution to peace within the past year”.

“We are confident that by far this is Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, and we are also hopeful that the peace prize could perhaps be a push on the peace initiatives in the right direction,” Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, told AFP.

The committee had to choose from more than 300 nominations this year.

Online betting sites had put Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg -- who has already received Amnesty’s top honour and the Right Livelihood Award, sometimes dubbed the “alternative Nobel” -- as the one to beat.

This year’s prize will be presented at a ceremony in Oslo on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of Alfred Nobel, who was a Swedish philanthropist and scientist.

The award consists of a gold medal, a diploma, and nine million Swedish kronor (around \$912,000 or \$28,000 euros).

California on high alert as fires destroy dozens of homes

AFP, Los Angeles

Much of California was on high alert yesterday as fires tore through the state’s south, destroying dozens of buildings, officials said, with many neighborhoods left without electricity.

A blaze 70 miles (115 kilometers) east of Los Angeles swept through a mobile home park in hot, windy conditions.

A truck driver dumped the rubbish in his vehicle on the side of the road after it caught fire, sparking the blaze, Riverside County Fire Department

spokeswoman April Newman told the Los Angeles Times.

A helicopter and more than 200 firefighters were fighting the flames, the department said on its website, adding that 74 buildings had been destroyed.

4 Ansar al Islam men arrested

FROM PAGE 1

“They recently gathered in the capital to carry out an act of sabotage as part of their organisational plan and target,” Monirul told a press briefing at the DMP’s Media Centre yesterday.

He said the militants used to carry out their activities in the hilly area in the guise of running a coffee shop. They communicated with each

other by using different social media platforms, including the Facebook Messenger.

The CTC chief said Ansar al Islam operatives usually stab their targeted victims to death and carry firearms only to ensure easy escapes after carrying out attacks.

According to counterterrorism officials, Shahin, student of a South Korean university, opened a Facebook

intimidation. There are complaints of extortion, threatening false allegations, violent attacks around elections, and even acting as vigilante law enforcers during the 2018 student protests,” said Adams, adding, “Bangladesh should not be a Room 2011.”

Meanwhile, Switzerland has expressed deep sadness over the tragic death of Abrar.

“Switzerland strongly stands by every person’s right to life and freedom of expression,” Swiss embassy in Bangladesh said in a recent Facebook post.

“Those who encroach on these fundamental tenets of human rights

group with like-minded youths and later joined the militant outfit.

He recently returned home and encouraged some youths to leave homes to join a so-called “Jihad”. He was also working to unite the members of Ansar al Islam and another banned outfit “Neo JMB”, they added.

A case was filed against the four arrestees with Jatrabari Police Station yesterday.

need to be held accountable within the framework of international principles of criminal justice and human rights.”

Earlier, Germany, France, the UN and the UK also expressed concern over the death and called for an end to impunity.

Rab arrests

FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on recent occasions repeatedly said an anti-graft drive that had started weeks ago would continue.

Many ruling party leaders have already been arrested.



PHOTO OF THE DAY

PALASH KHAN



INCREDIBLE EGG... Marking World Egg Day, Department of Livestock Services and Bangladesh Poultry Industries Central Council distributed eggs -- a comparatively inexpensive source of quality protein -- among commuters in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

ABRAR MURDER

Home minister slams Buet administration

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said incidents like Abrar murder might not have occurred had the Buet administration been a more careful.

He came up with the remark while replying to reporters' questions after inaugurating the newly-built main entrance of Bangladesh University of Textiles -- commonly referred to as BUTEK -- in the city's Tejgaon area.

The home minister hoped that the administration will pay more attention to students in future.

Abrar, 21, a second-year student of electrical and electronic engineering department, was beaten to death on Monday, reportedly by Chhatra League leaders at Buet's Sher-e-Bangla Hall.

Responding to another question, the home minister said almost all perpetrators involved in the killing have been identified and arrested.

Abrar's father Barkatullah filed a case at Chawkbazar Police station on Monday evening accusing 19 people. Police have arrested 17 suspects and one of them has confessed to his crimes.

The case was transferred to the Detective Branch on Tuesday.

'MURDER-SUICIDE' IN MIRPUR

Primary report suggests poisoning, hanging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deaths of a woman and her son were caused by poison, while her husband died from hanging, according to primary medical report after conducting autopsy.

Police on Thursday recovered the bodies of SM Bayezid (45), a businessman, his wife Kohinur Akter Anjana (42) and son Farhan (16) from a flat in the capital's Mirpur area.

"We found odour of poison from the mouths of all three bodies, though cause of death in the man's case is hanging," said Dr AKM Moinuddin, lecturer of Forensic Medicine Department of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital morgue.

Dr Moinuddin said they have kept necessary organs of the bodies for conducting viscera tests

and will be certain of the reasons of death after getting the viscera report.

Police suspect that Bayezid died by suicide after poisoning his wife and only child.

Officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station Selimuzzaman said they have filed a case of unnatural death.

He said they were informed primarily that Bayezid was overburdened with debt.

"We will investigate whether there are other reason behind the deaths," the OC said.

Mohammad Hasan, a friend of Bayezid, said they were a happy family. Neighbours said they could not believe it after the news broke.

"Bayezid was in debt. He was forced to shut down his loss-incurring knitting factory,"

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Bangabandhu lives on in the hearts of people

Says Prof Anisuzzaman at book launching ceremony



National Professor Anisuzzaman (centre), Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi (second from right) and other dignitaries hold copies of the book on Bangabandhu during its unveiling ceremony at National Museum. PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Those who wanted to erase Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's name from history through his assassination in 1975 failed miserably and its proof is everywhere in the present-day Bangladesh, said National Professor Anisuzzaman yesterday.

"Bangabandhu remains in the hearts of people... Across the globe, he is recognised as an undisputed leader of the liberation movement," he said.

Prof Anisuzzaman was addressing an unveiling ceremony of the book "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Janmoshatobarshiki: Antorjatik Smarakgrontho" at the National Museum.

The book was published by a committee formed in the Indian city of Agartala, marking Bangabandhu's birth centenary. Another committee, formed in Dhaka, comprising of leading cultural personalities and organisers, arranged the unveiling ceremony.

Recalling Agartala's role during Bangladesh's Liberation War, Prof

Anisuzzaman said it is not surprising that a memoir on Bangabandhu was published from Agartala.

Essays and poems from both sides of the border have been incorporated in the book. Sign of sincerity from the publishers is evident in the book, he said.

Addressing as chief guest, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi said people of Agartala played a significant role in 1971, which speeded up Bangladesh liberation.

The book's editor Debabrata Devroy said some 200 writings on Bangabandhu have been incorporated in the book. He said they would arrange several programmes this year and the next in India to celebrate the birth centenary.

Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, chief coordinator of Bangabandhu's Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee, said the government has declared March 17, 2020 to March 17, 2021 as "Mujib Year".

The committee is working to celebrate the Father of the Nation's birth centenary through holding various programmes, he said.

14-party demands speedy trial of Abrar's killers

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) led 14-party alliance yesterday demanded holding Buet student Abrar Fahad's murder case in a speedy trial tribunal.

"Trial of Abrar's killers should be held in a speedy trial tribunal," said Md Nasim, 14-party spokesperson and AL presidium member, at a press conference at AL central office on the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue.

Condemning the murder, he urged Buet administration to take stern actions against such acts.

The 14-party spokesperson came down heavily on Buet's vice-chancellor (VC), questioning why he did not go to see Abrar's body after the killing. He said such behaviour from a VC is unacceptable.

Nasim is optimistic that the trial will be completed as soon as possible. He said proper trails of all murder cases are being held under the tenure of the present government.

"We appreciate different opinions, but some wrongdoers carried out the killing," he said.

Replying to a question, the 14-party spokesperson said the alliance does not support banning student politics rather it wants student politics to properly follow rules and regulations.

Speaking at the conference, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DHAKA TODAY

DIALOGUE

Third Party Consultation Meet

Organiser: Rastrachinta

Venue: Ibrahim Mansion, Paltan

Time: 10am

CELEBRATION

Marking World Hospice and

Palliative Care Day

Organiser: Centre for

Palliative Care

Venue: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

Medical University

Time: 9am

TRAINING

Programme on Quality Problem

Solving

Organiser: Bangladesh-Japan

Training Institute

Venue: Eastern Plaza,

Hatirpool

Time: 9am

SEMINAR

Robotics and IOT

Organiser: WUB Research Society

Venue: World University of

Bangladesh, Panthapath

Time: 9:30am

WORKSHOP

Arduino: Essentials

Venue: EMK Center

Time: 4:30pm

SESSION

Jamano Kotha: Exploring Parent-

Child Relationships

Venue: EMK Center

Time: 3pm



Death of parents' dreams

Fathers of Abrar murder suspects in shock, want justice

STAR REPORT

Fathers of three suspects of Abrar murder have demanded exemplary punishment if the allegations against their sons are found true through free and fair investigation.

"Abrar is like my son. I want justice and exemplary punishment of the killers," said Ruhul Amin, father of Mehedi Hasan Rasel, one of the suspects.

A resident of Rangardia village of Faridpur district, Ruhul Amin told our local correspondent, "If law enforcers find my son's involvement in the killing, he [Mehedi] will get punishment. I will never request anyone to forgive him."

He, however, urged the government to identify the reason why a meritorious student of such a prestigious institution got involved in unhealthy politics.

Following Abrar's death, law enforcers arrested several Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) students, including Mehedi of civil engineering, for their alleged involvement in the brutal murder.

Mehedi was secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) Buet unit.

Among other arrestees are: Ifty Mosharraf Shakal of biomedical engineering and Moniruzzaman Monir of water resources engineering departments of Buet. Ifty and Monir were respectively deputy social welfare secretary and library affairs secretary of BCL's Buet unit.

The trio were expelled from BCL have been suspended from Buet.

Ifty's father Fakir Mosharraf Hossain lives

in Dhunchi village of Faridpur district, is a trader and private tutor. Ifty is his eldest son.

He said, "If I were Abrar's father, I would've died from the shock of receiving the news of his death."

"If my son was involved in Abrar's murder, he must face just punishment. I will provide all kinds of cooperation for this," he said, seeking fair and free investigation.

Another murder suspect Monir is son of Mahatab Ali of Bhagirpara village, under Birganj upazila in Dinajpur.

Talking to the local correspondent, he said that his son never came second in any examination at school. Monir apparently qualified in both medical and engineering admission tests but decided to pursue his higher education in the latter field.

An English teacher of Amrokanan High School at Karimpur village, under the same upazila, Mahatab said, "I could not believe my son was involved in such brutality."

"I cautioned him not to get involved in politics but he did not pay heed to my words," said Mahatab, adding that they came to know about Monir's involvement in politics when their son visited home last August during Eid vacation.

"Getting involved in politics became a curse for him," lamented the visibly frustrated father.

Sehaz Uddin, a primary school teacher of the village, said Monir's parents were heartbroken and desolate since they heard of the incident. "He was an obedient boy. Villagers were proud of him after he got enrolled in Buet," he said.

Nat'l startup camp for young entrepreneurs

BSS, Dhaka

A three-day "National Startup Camp 2.0" of Student to Startup: Chapter 2 entered into the 2nd day yesterday with a view to finding out young entrepreneurs with innovative ideas so that they can contribute to the country's development.

With the slogan "My innovation, My Dream", the national contest was inaugurated at Sheikh Hasina National Youth Centre in Savar on Thursday, said a press release yesterday.

Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Academy (iDEA) project of Bangladesh Computer Council under the Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD) is organising the competition for the second time.

Prime Minister's Special Assistant Barrister Shah Ali Farhad joined a session on "government policies to promote youth entrepreneurs".

He said the government is working to encourage the youths in innovative activities and entrepreneurships to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

More efforts needed to empower girls

Dev partners say marking Int'l Girl Child Day

UNB, Dhaka

Though Bangladesh has made significant progress in improving lives of adolescent girls over the last 20 years, more opportunities have to be ensured for them so that they can reach their full potential.

Development partners said this in a joint statement yesterday, marking International Day of the Girl Child.

"We know that unlocking the potential of girls is critical in view of the demographic window of opportunity in Bangladesh and [it] will generate substantial benefits not just for the girls, but also for their families and communities," reads the joint statement.

UK Aid, USAID, Australian High Commission in Bangladesh, ActionAid, Save the Children, Unicef, UN Women, Brac, Plan International, UNFPA, OXFAM, World Vision and Food and Agriculture Organization were among the 23 organisations who issued the statement.

Since 2012, October 11 has been marked as International Day of the Girl Child. The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

The theme of this year is "GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable".

The development partners, in the statement, mentioned that more girls are

enrolling in schools and accessing better health care services in the country. The achievement in girls' secondary education has started to transform the social fabric and is providing girls with greater opportunities.

"Bangladeshi girls are inspiring, innovative and eager to take charge of their own future. They are using the internet and mobile technology to expand their learning opportunities and intensify their voices. Also, 30.7 percent of girls (aged 15-19) own mobile phones," the joint statement noted.

Girls are breaking barriers posed by gender stereotypes through getting involved in outdoor sports, as demonstrated by the recent success of Bangladeshi Girls' U-15 football team.

Despite progress, significant challenges exist in many areas, said the joint statement.

While Bangladesh has done well on the maternal mortality indicator, data show that adolescent mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 are still twice as likely to die due to pregnancy and childbirth complications as women between the ages of 20 and 24.

In education, according to the statement, there are fewer girls, compared to boys, in the higher secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels.

Child marriage is a major cause of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



An otherwise bustling wholesale fish market on the Port Road in Barishal city wears a completely deserted look due to the ongoing ban on netting and selling hilsa. The photo was taken Thursday afternoon. PHOTO: TITU DAS

Don't cheat

FROM PAGE 5
President Hamid offered fateha at the graves of his parents and relatives after Juma prayers at a mosque, next to his ancestral home in Kamalpur village.
The president arrived at Tarail upazila in Kishoreganj on October 9 on a seven-day visit. He attended two separate gatherings there.
He is scheduled to inspect different development projects including the abovementioned under-construction highway.
During his visit, President Hamid held a series of views-exchange meetings with locals, elected representatives and members of local administration.
Upazila Chairperson Asia Alam presided over yesterday's programme where secretaries concerned to the president and senior officials of the local administration were also present. Zilla Parishad Chairman Zillur Rahman, Public Prosecutor Shah Azizul Haque also spoke at the event.

More efforts

FROM PAGE 3
girls not enrolling in or dropping out of secondary education, with over half of women between the ages of 20 and 24 being married off before their 18th birthday and almost one in five before 15.
Violence against girls still poses significant challenges for Bangladesh and it has increased alarmingly in recent times, mentioned the statement.
According to a 2015 Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 42.8 percent married girls (aged 15-19) are victims of physical or sexual violence.

Primary report suggests

FROM PAGE 3
Murad Hossain, brother-in-law of Bayezid, told The Daily Star.
Relatives heard of his debts but Bayezid would not share with frustrations with them.
Abdul Jalil, caretaker of the building where the family lived, said three to four men whom Bayezid owed money to came on Thursday and asked him about his (Bayezid's) whereabouts. They forcibly went upstairs and knocked at the door of Bayezid's flat. But getting no response, they left.
Soon after, another man -- identifying

himself as Bayezid's friend, who supposedly received a text from Bayezid's mobile early yesterday -- came to the building, said Jalil.
That man also rang the doorbell and knocked at the door but got no response. Later, he informed Bayezid's relatives of the matter. They arrived, unlocked the door with a spare key, and found the bodies.
Police went to the flat in Mirpur-13 and found Bayezid's body hanging from the ceiling. The bodies of his wife and son were on the bed.

Bangladesh committed

FROM PAGE 5
secretary-general's "Sustaining Peace" agenda as articulated in the "Culture of Peace" and other relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.
The country's support to the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and associated agreement is reflected in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2020, said the UNRC.
According to United Nations

Peacekeeping, Bangladesh is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping operations. The South Asian nation first deployed uniformed personnel to serve with the Organisation in 1988 when they were deployed to help monitor the armistice between Iran and Iraq. Over the past three decades, the contributions of these brave men and women in the countries in which they serve have been immense, it added.

20th anniversary of Mawlana Bhashani University

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Today is the 20th founding anniversary of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU).
The authorities will celebrate the occasion on October 20 as they postponed the event due to Durga Utsab holidays.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina founded the institution, which covers 58 acres of land, at Santosh in Tangail in 1999, in honour of legendary political leader Mawlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani.
Academic activities of the institution started in 2003.
There are 15 departments under five faculties at the university, with 5937 students, 221 teachers, 222 officials and 313 employees.
Prof Md Alauddin, vice-chancellor MBSTU, said he has been working to develop the university's academic and administrative activities since joining MBSTU.



Mentionable infrastructural developments also took place under the current government, he added.

50km rundown tracks make train travel risky

New inter-city service on the route starts Oct 16

UNB, Kurigram

A 50km stretch of rail tracks from Teesta in Lalmonirhat Sadar to Ramna Station in Chilmari of Kurigram is in a deplorable condition, due to lack of maintenance and monitoring by the authorities concerned.
Despite railway officials being aware of the problem, a new Kurigram-bound inter-city train service from Dhaka is set to be inaugurated on October 16.
Kabil Uddin, station master of Kurigram Railway Station, said at present a single train is running in Kurigram.
"It is travelling to and from Kurigram twice a day on two routes," he added.
Due to the poor condition of tracks, passengers have to face immense

sufferings as the train is always running late.
There is also risk of accidents as the tracks are in a bad shape.
During a recent visit, the news agency found that trains are running at a much slower speed as rail line slippers, stones and soil were missing at different points.
Besides, nuts and bolts -- connecting slippers and rail tracks -- were not found at many places.
As a result, travelling to Chilmari's Ramna from Kurigram -- a 30km stretch -- takes almost two hours.
Back in July, rail links remained snapped for some time as the track near Chilmari was damaged due to flood, informed locals.
Now trains are running on the route amid risks, said passengers.

According to railway sources, it will take around Tk 10 crore to repair rail sleepers, procure ballast (stones) and fix the 20km route from Teesta to Kurigram.
Locals, however, said additional 30km rail track has to be repaired for ensuring smooth and safe journey from Kurigram to Chilmari.
Contacted, Shafiqur Rahman, divisional railway manager [western zone], said, "We have informed the authorities concerned about the condition of the tracks. We have sent an estimation of Tk 10 crore for the repair work. If it is approved then the work on the 20km tracks from Teesta to Kurigram will start soon."
He also expected massive changes in the service on this route within the next two years.

BNP to rally

FROM PAGE 5
Shafiqul Alam Mona, city unit general secretary Mohammad Moniruzzaman, senior vice-president Shaharuzzaman Mortaza, district general secretary Amir Ejaz Khan, and party leaders Sheikh Raza, Mir Hossain, Md Halim, Salam Abdul Rahman, Tariqul Islam were, among others, present at the preparatory meeting yesterday.
Abrar Fahad was a second-year student of Buet. He was beaten to death by Bangladesh Chhatra League men at his university dorm on Sunday night.

14-party

FROM PAGE 3
President Hasanul Haq Inu came down heavily on those who are criticising the 53 agreements and memorandum of understandings (MoUs) signed between Bangladesh and India.
He challenged critics to submit specific evidence on which agreements are against the country's interests.
Inu said Bangladesh's environment will not be affected if water from Feni river is given to India in accordance with the signed MoU.
About other programmes of the 14-party, Nasim said the alliance will hold a roundtable on "agreements between Bangladesh and India" on October 22 and it will hold another roundtable on Rohingya issue on October 23.

Road

FROM PAGE 5
locals, said the Dhaka-bound truck overturned on the highway around 11:15pm, after its driver lost control of the vehicle and hit a road divider, leaving three pedestrians dead on the spot and three injured.
Locals rescued the injured and took them to a nearby hospital.
On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Shaheed Taj Uddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.
Police also managed to catch the truck driver Badsha Sheikh, 36, from Raiganj upazila in Shirajganj.
A case was filed with Sreepur Police Station in this connection.

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Naogaon

FROM PAGE 5
available at Mohadevpur and Naogaon hospitals.
Mohadevpur Upazila Health Complex sources said they usually refer snake bitten patients to Rajshahi due to a lack of anti-venoms.
Rahim said, "We managed to catch the snake just after it bit them [the couple]. We caught it with a fishing net stored in the house."
They brought the snake to RMCH where the doctors identified it as common krait.
They took the couple's bodies and the snake back home yesterday noon, said Abdur Rahim. They are yet to decide on its fate, he added.

BUBT holds its 4th convocation



CITY DESK

The 4th convocation of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) was held on Thursday at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka, said a press release.
Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni awarded degrees and gold medals to students as the chair of the convocation, on behalf of President Abdul Hamid, the university's chancellor.
Around 3,000 students were awarded degrees, while five meritorious students were awarded gold medals.
Addressing the ceremony, Dr Dipu Moni said quality education is essential and the government has given topmost

priority to it. She also expressed her deep concern on ragging and bullying on campuses.
Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof Kazi Shahidullah attended the event as special guest. He told graduates that education should not be limited to seeking employment, and learning should be expanded to make a skilled and knowledgeable society.
Dr Alastair Dawson, senior deputy vice-chancellor and vice-president of Central Queensland University in Australia, was the convocation speaker. He said, "Never stop learning. Seek wisdom from where you can find it. Share what you know with others. And above all, be kind to your fellow citizens."

Nat'l startup camp for young

FROM PAGE 3
cope with the ever changing world.
Earlier, the contest kicked off on September 15 last at the ICT Tower in the capital's Agargaon. State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak attended it as the chief guest.
The promotional campaigns were organised in more than 100 academic institutes and students registered through online registration process at the contest.
About 2,500 startups submitted their ideas in written at the contest and then 75 startups have been selected primarily from university campuses pitching round from 24 venues of eight divisions and later were invited to attend the National Startup Camp.
This time, more than 200 students of 75 startups are participating in the camp. As per planning of the camp, workshops are being held since Thursday morning. The pitching round of the contest will

be held on the 3rd day of the camp. The judges will select the top 30 potential startups.
Finally, the selection committee of iDEA project and experienced judges will select the best 10 startups among them.
Top 10 winners of the 2nd chapter will be awarded with a grant of Tk 10 lakh each and 20 more startups will be selected as runners-up for grooming to make them matured.
After completion of grooming, if the startup can meet the targeted improvement then the matured startups will also be funded.
Details of iDEA project will be available on Startup Bangladesh website: www.startupbangladesh.gov.bd.
Leading youth platform "Young Bangla" under the "Centre for Research and Information (CRI)" is organising the camp.

Bangladesh Lamps Limited

Sadar Road, Mohakhali
Dhaka - 1206

Corrigendum

This is for information of all concerned that the date of 58th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Lamps Limited has been fixed to be held on **Wednesday, 04-12-2019**, in place of Thursday, 05-12-2019 which was a slipup in the price sensitive information published on the Daily Star dated 11-10-2019.

Dhaka
11-10-2019

Mohammad Ruhan Miah
Company Secretary

ট্রানস্টেক
TRANSTEC

FLAT FOR RENT IN GULSHAN 2

Brand new flat full furnished with high class interior. Floor area 2107sqft (made by Asset) at Gulshan 2, Road No. 117 i/c foreign fittings, drawing & living room with marble floor, AC, Freeze, TV, Furniture will be let out from November 2019. (Foreigners only)

Please contact: 01920252151

SAARC Development Fund

Soliciting of Projects in Economic, Infrastructure & Social Windows

SAARC Development Fund (SDF) is established by the Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
SDF is inviting cross border Project Proposals (to be implemented strictly in the SAARC Member States) under the Co-Financing mode, jointly funded by various Banks/Financial Institutions, Regional Development Banks, and Corporate Sector, etc.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Economic & Infrastructure Windows including Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) Program
(a) Projects/programs involving any one or more than one SAARC Member State with the direct benefit going to more than one Member State.
(b) Funding mechanism will be 100% secured loan (Concessional/Non-Concessional) under the co-financing mode.
(c) Loan will be extended in both USD and Local Currency of Member State.

SOCIAL WINDOW
(a) At least have 3 or more SAARC Member States participating in the proposed project.
(b) Project should aim towards the social development with sustainable model.
(c) 50% co-financing is required from the proponent.
(d) Projects under Loan – Grant combination are eligible.

The interested applicants are requested to submit their project proposals (Concept Notes along with Detailed Project Report) to ceo@sdfsec.org and admin@sdfsec.org. For further details, please contact SDF on +975-2- 321152/ 53 or visit www.sdfsec.org.

Dr. Sunil Motiwal
Chief Executive Officer

Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd
Head Office, BDBL Bhaban
8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000
Real Estate Department

Invitation for Tender

Tender is invited from the reputed manufacturers/suppliers for Servicing, Maintenance and Operation for 03 (three) years of 02 (two) Nos. Passenger Lift at BDBL Bhaban (10 Stored), KDA C/A, Upper Jessore Road, Khulna in monthly payment basis for three years. Necessary informations are given below:

01.	Procuring entity	Real Estate Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
02.	Procurement method	Through Open Tendering Method (OTM) of Public Procurement Rules, 2008 and the Public Procurement Act, 2006.
03.	Invitation for tender No.	BDBL/RED/OTM/2019/01
04.	Source of funds	BDBL own fund.
05.	Brief description of the goods and services	Servicing, Maintenance and Operation for 03 (three) years of 02 (two) Nos Passenger Lift (each 750 Kg and speed 1.75m/s) at BDBL Bhaban (10 Stored), KDA C/A, Upper Jessore Road, Khulna.
06.	Name & address of receiving tender document	Real Estate Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, BDBL Bhaban (Level-09), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
07.	Last date and time for selling tender schedule	30-10-2019 up to office hour.
08.	Last date and time for submission	31-10-2019 up to 03:00pm.
09.	Date, time and place for tender opening	All tenders will be opened at Real Estate Department, Head office, Dhaka on 31-10-2019 at 3:00pm (intending tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend at the time of opening of tender).
10.	Eligibility of tenderer	1. The tenderer must have 10 (ten) years of general experience in supply of similar goods and related services in Bangladesh. 2. The tenderer must have a minimum 08 (eight) years of specific experience in supply of similar goods & works and related services. 3. The tenderer must submit attested photocopies of up-to-date Trade license, TIN, VAT Registration, documentary evidence of their experience, failing which the tender would be treated as non-responsive.
11.	Tender security	Tender security of an amount of Tk 40,000 (Taka forty thousand) only will be required in the form of Pay Order in favour of Bangladesh Development Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.
12.	Price of tender schedule	Tk. 1,000/- (Taka one thousand) only (non-refundable)

BDBL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender either in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Engr. Md. Reazul Islam
Department Head
Real Estate Department
BDBL, Head Office
8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka
☎ 02-9555582

GD-1671

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Grey-headed Fish Eagle

In 2013, when I had just started paying attention to birds, I photographed a large bird perched atop a leafless tree in Baikka Beel, Moulvi Bazar. Sitting still, it only moved its head as it scanned for fish in the adjacent beel. When I showed my photograph later to other birders, they identified it as a Grey-headed Fish Eagle.

Since then, however, it has eluded me over many return visits to the spot. I was told it can be found in Feni's Muhuri reservoir, but when I went there it was absent. A fairly common bird of Bangladesh, this eagle was missing wherever I looked.

But my luck turned last month. One afternoon I was in the Haor, not expecting much because September is possibly the worst month for birding in Bangladesh. Sitting on the grass at the edge of water was an unexpectedly large bird. I momentarily thought it was a Pallas's Fish Eagle, but its head and body colours were all wrong.

I approached it cautiously, keeping my distance so as not to frighten it away. After some time, it took flight and perched on a branch right above the water. The afternoon was hot but not too muggy. Once it perched, I could clearly see the white legs of the bird, confirming that it was a Grey-headed Fish Eagle. It scanned the water underneath with its sharp eyes. Because of the heat it kept its mouth open. (Since birds do not have sweat glands, on hot days they expel body heat through an open mouth.)

Although I had my camera aimed, it dived so suddenly and quickly that I missed the first few milliseconds. Nonetheless, I caught it on camera stretching its claws forward as it hit the water



Grey-headed Fish Eagle with fish.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

and grabbed a Tilapia with its right claw. In less than a second, it had taken off, while placing the fish in both claws.

It disappeared quickly, presumably to an unobtrusive place to eat peacefully.

Grey-headed Fish Eagles are found all over South East Asia. They can grow 75 cm in length and weigh up to 2.7 kg. Females are larger than males. Like other large raptors they use sticks to build their nests and usually lay two eggs per year per couple. In Bangladesh they are found in every district, and are known locally as *Kura Eegol*.

I found this eagle a second time some days later. It was perched on top of another tree and kept looking for fish. It

had no luck in the hour I spent watching it. The morning was cold with patches of gusty rain. This probably kept fish in deeper waters. I saw it preening its feathers and, for a remarkable second or two, it retracted its neck, brought down its head and looked at me. For an instant it looked like a Harpy Eagle. Then it took off, flying far, perhaps to a spot where it expected better luck with fish.

So there you have it. Sometimes in birding, you look and look and cannot find your bird, and then suddenly it shows up when you are least expecting it!

facebook.com/tangents.ikabir or follow "ihtishamkabir" on Instagram.

Bangladesh committed to promote peace

Says UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations (UN) has appreciated Bangladesh's role in promoting peace and development both globally and nationally, terming the country a committed actor.

At present more than 6,500 Bangladeshis serve in peace operations across the world with their diverse roles, according to the UN.

Some of them provide protection while others ensure basic service delivery and facilitate aid access for millions of people affected by violence and conflict.

"Bangladesh has proven itself to be a committed actor in promoting peace and development both globally and nationally," said UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Dhaka Mia Seppo recently.

She said peacekeeping is changing and Bangladesh needs to be able to change its offer to peacekeeping to remain relevant.

For example, Seppo said, the number of women peacekeepers, whom Bangladesh has so ably deployed, should continue to increase.

Bangladesh may also wish to avail itself of support from the UN, as needed, in screening those to be deployed, especially to senior positions, in accordance with UN policies and also as a follow-up to recent human

Peacekeeping is changing and Bangladesh needs to be able to change its offer to peacekeeping to remain relevant. The number of women peacekeepers, whom Bangladesh has so ably deployed, should continue to increase.

-MIA SEPPO

rights recommendations, said the UNRC.

She said Bangladesh's contribution to peacekeeping is among the highest in the world, with the country being in the top four troop contributing countries for the last ten years running.

The UN resident coordinator, in her interaction with diplomatic correspondents, said Bangladesh is an important supporter of the UN secretary general's reform agenda of peacekeeping including on zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Bangladesh has supported the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Road accidents kill 5, injure 4

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and four injured in road accidents in two districts during the last two days, our correspondents and news agencies report.

In Bogura, two people were killed and one was injured after a truck hit their motorbike at Boalia area on Bogura-Naogaon highway in Adamdighi upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Rabbi Bulbul, 30, from the district, and Johurul Islam, 28, from Pabna.

Police said the accident took place in the afternoon, leaving Rabbi and Johurul dead on the spot.

Police seized the truck and sent the bodies to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical

College Hospital for autopsy, Officer-in-Charge Jalal Uddin of Adamdighi Police Station confirmed.

In Gazipur, three people were killed and three injured after a truck overturned at Gargaria Masterbari area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Sreepur upazila on Thursday night.

The deceased were identified as Saiful Islam, 25, from Sherpur's Nakla upazila; Jahangir Hossain, 25, also from Nakla; and Badsha Mia, 19, from Mymensingh's Gouripur upazila.

Identities of the injured could not be known yet.

Manjur Hossain, officer-in-charge of Mawna Highway Police Station, quoting

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Naogaon couple die from snake bites

Father met same fate a month ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A couple died at a hospital in Rajshahi yesterday, hours after they were bitten by a snake.

Nurul Islam, 35, died at 7:30am and his wife Mousumi Begum, 27, an hour later, said Saiful Ferdous, deputy director of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

They were bitten by a common krait, said the director, adding that its venom is considered one of the most toxic with an ability to cause death in less than five hours.

"When we found the patients, the envenoming effects took hold over them," Saiful Ferdous told The Daily Star. "They suffered a severe paralysis causing a breathing failure. Our anti-venom injections didn't work," he said.

A month ago, Nurul's father Sirajuddin died from a snake bite too, said Nurul's uncle Abdur Rahim.

In the early hours on September 13, Sirajuddin, also a mason, was bitten while he was offering prayers in his Ramcharanpur village residence beside

the river Atrai in Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon, he said.

"We applied local methods to save him, but he died before the dawn," he said.

Following the incident, police suggested locals to take snake bitten patients to hospital.

"I can't say which snake bit him as we couldn't see it," said Abdur Rahim.

But since his death, the family members took some precautions to catch snakes.

A month later yesterday, Nurul and Mousumi were bitten around 2:30am while they were asleep inside a mosquito net in the same room his father died.

"The bites occurred on Fridays in both the cases," said Rahim.

This time, they managed a private vehicle for taking them to hospital, but the vehicle delayed to reach the village from Mohadevpur.

The patients were taken to the hospital, some 90km off the village, at 6:30am four hours after they were bitten.

Rahim said anti-venoms are not

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



The snake that bit the couple was brought to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital yesterday after the family caught it in Naogaon.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Suspected JMB man arrested in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Rab yesterday arrested a suspected member of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Muladi upazila of Barishal.

The arrestee, Md Salauddin Howlader, 40, was arrested from a residence in the area early in the morning, said Maj Sajibul Islam Sajib, deputy commander of Rab-8.

Howlader, an electrician by profession, along with his associates used to propagate extremist views, said the deputy commander. He was also an imam at a local mosque, he added.

Rab also found out names of some of his associates, and is conducting drives to arrest them.

Howlader will be handed over to Muladi Police Station after filing a case, he added.



WHY THIS DISCRIMINATION? Traffic police have put a wheel clamp on a motorbike for parking on the footpath. Right near the bike, cars parked on the very same footpath, are apparently above the rules. Some are even covered up, indicating they have been there for a while, inset. The photos were taken recently at the capital's Karwan Bazar.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Don't cheat people

President urges public representatives

UNB, Kishoreganj

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged all to come forward to make the ongoing development works sustainable.

He made the call at a rally on Muktiyoddha Abdul Haque Government College premises in Kishoreganj. Nagorik Committee of Mithamoin upazila organised the meeting.

"The government has taken an extensive programme to develop the country. As part of that, many initiatives are being taken to save the hoar areas. People will get the benefits soon," he said.

"But it is a matter of regret that some people have started building houses next to the under-construction highway, connecting three upazilas of the district," the president added.

Hamid said such unplanned infrastructure in haor areas will hamper development works.

"It is your responsibility to save the development works as you will get benefit from them. In addition, you will have to take proper approval from the local administration before building any structures there [haor areas]," he said.

Urging people to follow existing environment laws, he warned that the administration will take strict action if anyone violates those.

Terming the haor areas one of the most lucrative tourist spots, Hamid stressed the need for providing visitors with proper facilities. If the areas are developed as tourist destinations, it will also create employment opportunities, he added.

"You will have to remain aware in this regard. If development is not sustainable, we cannot attract tourists," he added.

The president mentioned that there is also a rise in corruption with the increasing development trend.

He urged public representatives to play an active role in sustaining the ongoing development projects. "Do not cheat people and try to lead an honest life. Then our country will develop, even the haors will prosper," he said.

Earlier on his arrival at Mithamoin, his birthplace,

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Two held with gold, cigarettes, at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Officials of Customs Intelligence in Chattogram held two passengers of a Flydubai flight, coming from Sharjah, at Chattogram Shah Amanat International Airport and recovered 294 boxes of foreign cigarettes from one of them and 117gm of raw gold from another yesterday morning.

On information, officials of Customs Intelligence challenged Ziaul Haque (35) and Md Mamun (36) -- arriving from Sharjah -- around 8:30am, said Suman Chakma, deputy director of Customs Intelligence, Chattogram.

He said that officials recovered 294 boxes of foreign cigarettes worth Tk 7.50 lakh from Ziaul's possession.

Also, 117gm raw gold worth Tk five lakh were seized from Mamun's possession, the deputy director of Customs Intelligence told The Daily Star.

Further legal action was being taken against the duo, he said.

Khulna tank-lorry workers call off strike

Fuel supply resumes after 50 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Supply of fuel resumes after 50 hours as tank-lorry workers in Khulna called off their strike yesterday, after their association leaders met with Khulna's deputy commissioner and police superintendent.

Earlier on Wednesday, the workers went on strike from 8am, demanding withdrawal of a case filed against two fellow workers over a road accident.

Visiting the city's Khalishpur area, workers of three state-owned oil companies -- Padma, Meghna and Jamuna -- were seen supplying and filling oil after the strike ended.

Khulna Deputy Commissioner Md Helal Hossain called on an emergency meeting with district administration, police and association leaders yesterday around 9am at Khulna Circuit House to discuss the strike.

Khulna Police Superintendent SM Safiullah, Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police Mollah Jahangir Hossain, and Habibur Rahman of Fuel Oil Owners' Association were present among others.

Sheikh Nur Islam, president of Khulna Division Tank-Lorry Workers' Union told The Daily Star that the district administration promised workers that the issue would be resolved within the legal framework as soon as possible.

Later oil-tank lorry leaders announced withdrawal of the strike at a meeting at their office in Khalishpur Notunrasta area around 11am.

During the strike, fuel supply was suspended in all ten districts of Khulna division along with Gopalganj, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Madaripur and Rajbari.

Workers of Padma, Meghna and Jamuna expressed solidarity with tank-lorry workers and refused to load oil to vehicles.

Sheikh Nur said an accident took place on April 4 in Aronghata area of Khulna. No one was killed but police filed a case against two workers. Police also submitted charge sheet against them.

ABRAR MURDER

BNP to rally in Khulna today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP yesterday decided to stage a public rally in front of its Khulna city office today protesting murder of Buet student Abrar Fahad and demanding release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The decision came from a joint preparatory meeting organised by the city and district units of BNP to succeed the programme. Nazrul Islam Manju, party's central committee organising secretary and the city unit president, chaired the meeting.

At the meeting, the speakers condemned the killing, saying that during the last 11 years, Bangladesh Chhatra League occupied all the educational campuses.

Leaders of BCL, established a reign of terror by torturing thousands of students and repressing its opponents, said BNP leaders, adding that the pro-Awami League student organisation are involved in killing, extortion and tender manipulation.

They have to be ousted from all campuses in the country, demanded the speakers.

The discussions also sought an immediate ban on BCL. The politically-affiliated appointments of university vice chancellors and college principals have to be cancelled and the posts have to be replaced with neutral, competent and skilled persons, they demanded further.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, a BNP standing committee member, will be present as the chief guest at the public gathering today.

District BNP president

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2019, ASHWIN 27, 1426 BS

Bangladesh slips in GCI ranking

Corruption the main obstacle

IN the latest edition of the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) unveiled on October 9, Bangladesh has slipped two places to 105th position. The index maps the competitive landscape of 141 economies through 103 indicators organised into 12 themes. Unfortunately, the country’s score declined in 10 out of 12 pillars. Although Bangladesh is ahead of Nepal and Pakistan, it lagged behind India and Sri Lanka in the SAARC region.

According to the report, Bangladesh is facing four-pronged challenges in terms of competitiveness: lack of improvement in governance and institutions, poor infrastructure, financial system and business operations. We also learn that the country is lagging behind in the development of human resources due to lack of adequate training. It would be misplaced to believe that availability of cheap labour alone would be enough to meet future challenges. It will not be, because only through better skills can we attain greater productivity which is not happening.

On top of that there are emerging market risks: rise in energy price, failure in urban planning, under-employment, failure in climate change adaptation and industrial pollution. A business-as-usual approach is not going to address any of these shortcomings. Some 77 entrepreneurs took part in the survey and 78 percent of them said that the use of bribe is a somewhat usual practice to get public contracts and 76 percent stated that bribery is somewhat common in export and import. Indeed, we find that business houses must also pay bribes in connection with tax payments.

Needless to say, corruption has emerged as a big stumbling block for new entrepreneurs in all sectors and unless this is addressed, slide of Bangladesh’s competitiveness cannot be halted. Tackling corruption cannot be a piecemeal effort but a continuous one and the government’s declaration of “zero tolerance” on graft must be reflected in action if we want our position in the GCI to climb next year.

Liability for financial anomalies

The buck stops at the top

A recent ACC report has found the Public Works Department (PWD) entirely responsible for the financial anomalies at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project. Earlier, two probe committees formed by the ministry found anomalies involving Tk 36.4 crore in purchasing furniture and other household items for the officials of the plant in Pabna in the now well-known and much-talked-about pillow saga. According to ACC’s report, the ministry’s approval is needed for the implementation of big projects costing over Tk 30 crore. So, to obviate the need for the ministry’s approval, the PWD officials divided some of the projects into small packages and itself approved and appointed the contractors.

Now that the ACC has revealed its investigation report, in which it has identified 15 sources of corruption in PWD, including giving work order to preferred construction firms, dividing big projects into small packages, allocating crores of taka for repair and maintenance work, unnecessarily increasing the project costs to embezzle money, taking bribes, etc., it is time to take departmental and legal action against the corrupt officials of the PWD, up and down the channel.

However, although the ACC report has found no involvement of the ministry in the anomalies, we feel that every ministry has a responsibility to exercise oversight of the various directorates and departments under them to prevent the kind of glaring corruption we saw in Rooppur Power Plant. As for the Ministry of Housing & Public Works, it must enforce transparency and accountability in implementing the much talked-about project by close monitoring of the activities of the project director and the management team as there is extensive scope of corruption in all stages. The recommendations made by the ACC should be taken cognizance of.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Garbage disposal in Dhaka

One major problem in Dhaka is waste management, yet it is an issue that has remained the least addressed. The problem is the collective outcome of Dhaka’s dense population and its negligence—which has resulted in the polluting of the environment—making the metropolitan somewhat uninhabitable, even though it is home to approximately over 20 million people.

As I leave my house early every morning, I see piles of uncollected garbage on the streets that not only is an eyesore but is also detrimental to the air we breathe and the environment. This scenario is a common sight across much of the capital.

The initiative to install garbage bins throughout Dhaka is surely commendable—but what benefit we have gained so far remains questionable. Although the city corporations have taken measures that they deem important to control garbage disposal, it seems that those have had little or no impact. The authorities must educate the residents about waste management and take measures like recycling or turning waste into biogas.

The citizens too must realise that they have a duty towards maintaining the city’s cleanliness and should act accordingly. Through such cooperative measures, we can make Dhaka a better place to live in, for us, as well as the generations to come.

Sadia Islam, University of Dhaka



BADIUZZAMAN BAY

as it seems and no one is as they project themselves to be, there was a reassuring nod to this tradition when the Awami League government launched its “anti-corruption” drive recently, targeting errant elements within the AL Extended Universe. But it brought with it its own set of peculiarities: no one, apparently, knows who is seeking what, nor is there a tidy moral to this story.

It’s no secret that the central leaders of Awami League have often criticised unruly party members for giving it a bad rap and vowed to take tough action against them. And now they have made it official, having green-lit a number of crackdowns on clubs housing illegal casinos since September 18, when the current drive began. Earlier, following mounting allegations of extortion, tender manipulation, illegal drug trade and other criminal activities against Chhatra League, its president and general secretary were removed from their posts. Since then, a number of leaders and activists associated with Awami League, Jubo League and Krishak League have been arrested. The last one to fall under the anti-graft dragnet is Ismail Hossain Samrat, president of Jubo League’s Dhaka South unit and also an alleged casino kingpin. Samrat was arrested from Cumilla on October 6, and expelled from the organisation soon after.

So there it is: a loud and clear message from Awami League, honouring its pledge to the people about uprooting corruption, walking the talk on cleaning up malfeasance within party ranks, and removing barriers (“or termites”, as the prime minister has called them) to its ongoing project of development.

Or maybe it is this: a half-hearted attempt at appeasing an increasingly disaffected public, an opera-buffa parody “full of sound and fury, signifying nothing”—nothing of lasting value, that is. In other words, to believe in the potential of this drive to bring real change is to mistake superficiality for profundity.

However you view it, we must acknowledge that the government’s anti-corruption drive has been able to elicit a certain bit of approval and even admiration from a cross-section of the public. But it doesn’t make it any less difficult to ascertain what it is all about, where it is headed, and to what end. For the public



ABU AFSARUL HAIDER

clothe your family, not able to send your children to school for education or send them to a hospital when they are sick. That very thought makes you feel insecure and powerless. According to a report by UNHCR Global Trends 2018, there are around 70.8 million people who have been forcibly displaced worldwide. They are the victims of conflict, war, severe repression, torture and human rights abuses.

Of the 70.8 million forcibly displaced, about 25.9 million are refugees, 41.3 million are internally displaced and 3.5 million are asylum seekers. Among the 25.9 million refugees, over half of them are under the age of 18. At present, just five countries make up for more than two-thirds of all refugees: Syria (6.7 million); Afghanistan (2.7 million); South Sudan (2.3 million); Myanmar (1.1 million); and Somalia (0.9 million). What is worrying is that majority of these refugees are being hosted by developing countries that are often struggling to meet the needs of their own people and don’t have enough resources to support the new-comers. Yet, they welcomed the refugees in the millions.

For example, Uganda is one of the poorest countries in the world, yet it is amongst the largest refugee hosting countries in Africa, with over a million refugees, most of whom have fled militia violence in neighboring South Sudan and Congo. Bangladesh, itself struggling to cope with high levels of poverty and population density, has been hosting Rohingya refugees from Myanmar for nearly three decades. There are more than a million Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar now. According to a recent UNHCR report, 10 countries hosting the largest numbers of refugees are all in Asia and Africa, with Turkey being home to the world’s largest refugee population—about 2.7 million of its 3.7 million refugees have come from neighboring Syria. Another developing country, Pakistan has been hosting more than a million refugees from Afghanistan for more than 30 years.

Awami League’s moment of reckoning

to navigate these complexities and reach clarity is not easy, but do the real players even know what they are seeking?

On the face of it, the current drive is against corruption as it lives and breathes in our country, although so far it has had a markedly narrow focus: mostly on mid-level leaders with a chequered public reputation from Awami League’s affiliated organisations. And it gets further narrower when “hybrids” and “infiltrators”—defectors from other parties—are especially singled out, as some top leaders have done. The message we get from these discrepancies is that the drive is neither just against corruption nor nearly as inclusive and objectively-thought-out as one would expect.

Such drives, according to Prof Ali Riaz of the political science department at Illinois State University, are not uncommon in the history of Bangladesh. In an article in

it back to power for a record third consecutive term. But since it can’t axe them all, it’s taking middle of the road, going only after those who are expendable, with the expectation that others will get the hint and fall in line. This middle-of-the-road approach is to be expected given how the subject of reform is approached in Bangladesh, where no change or reform initiative is usually undertaken until it gets “embarrassing” for the government. And that’s about it—“embarrassing”, the one condition that can move files or land a criminal in jail at dizzying speed, or remove otherwise insurmountable barriers.

Unfortunately for Awami League, its anti-corruption drive shines a harsh light on its own inner workings: it exposes the extent to which corruption has spread within the party apparatuses—not that it needed anymore exposing—and ironically, by repeatedly defending the need for such

preferred nomenclature for the expendables is: “flies”. One may recall that, while launching a campaign in 2012 to purge corrupt elements of the government of the Communist Party of China, President Xi Jinping had memorably mentioned “tigers and flies”, meaning high-profile leaders and officials and those of lower standing. The Chinese government has gone after both groups, with mixed successes, and whatever the legal basis or eventual fallout of this campaign is, it has at least proved one thing: that making arbitrary arrests and convictions, temporarily effective as they may be, cannot bring a lasting system-wide change.

Bangladesh knows this too well. In recent years, the government has launched several high-octane operations including last year’s anti-narcotics drive. After the anti-narcotics drive was launched, many alleged drug dealers and peddlers were killed, many more were arrested, and many surrendered on their own or left the country. All, as it turns out, to no avail. Drugs keep pouring in the country today.

These issue-specific law enforcement campaigns have failed to deliver for the simple reason that those were centred on individual criminals rather than the corrupt system which breeds them, and which is exactly what needs to be dismantled for the kind of change we desire. The government remains high on rhetoric on these drives but low, even silent, on their effects (or lack thereof). The current drive too will probably end—it’s going to end one day, right?—in the same way and meet the same frustrating end.

That holds true even if the drive, in the unlikely event that Awami League goes for a wider intraparty reform, manages to catch a few “tigers”—for example, ministers, MPs, high-ranking leaders, top executives (past or present) who have a proven track record of crimes and corruption. Even then, the drive will fail to create ripples beyond a certain point, for the same reason as stated above.

Corruption is a systemic problem and so any effort to combat it should be systemic too, which means being guided by a clear vision, a well-defined modus operandi and of course a legal framework to ensure its durability. This is no easy task for Awami League, or any other political party in Bangladesh for that matter, where internal democracy and accountability have been frequent casualties. Going through an unprecedented third term in office, Awami League finds itself in uncharted territory—too big to handle, too cumbersome to make progress, and too powerful for its own good. Only it can decide how and which way to go from here on. And decide it must, and decide well, for the future of the country as well as its own depend on it.

Badiuzzaman Bay is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star. Email: badiuzzaman.bd@gmail.com



Expelled president of Dhaka City (South) Jubo League Ismail Hossain Samrat being taken to his Kakrail office in the capital by Rab during a raid there. Samrat was arrested in Cumilla on Sunday, October 6, 2019.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/STAR

Prothom Alo, he pointed out that since the liberation of Bangladesh, ruling parties, sometimes even opposition parties, have toyed with the idea of a purge within their party apparatuses. Anti-corruption efforts have been on the agenda of successive governments. The current government drew on this long, if unremarkable, tradition to design its anti-graft purge. But what can it possibly expect to achieve through this exercise? Nothing substantive, in my opinion, even going by Awami League’s narrow objective to “rid itself of tainted blood” and “brighten its image” once again—to quote General Secretary Obaidul Quader, who made the remarks on September 30 while urging a partisan crowd to help the party in its mission.

Quader’s statement and other similar remarks betray a sense of unease festering within the party about the recklessness of a section of leaders and activists following the 2019 national election, which brought

a drive, it has confirmed the allegation that corruption of a troubling scale does exist within the party. But despite what its policymakers think, Awami League’s current image crisis has less to do with the activities of some errant party members, and more to do with the distrust and lack of credibility it has created through its failure to establish the rule of law and ensure transparency and accountability in vital public institutions—the source of all public sufferings.

There is a term that can describe what is really happening here: abuse of power. It’s pervasive, and it’s not done just behind closed doors. It comes in all forms of wickedness, often in broad daylight, and is indulged because it helps sustain the deeply politicised governance system in Bangladesh. In the end, it’s the system and its champions that matter. Anyone or anything else is expendable.

In the anti-graft tradition of China, the

Tackling the global refugee crisis

The sad reality is that many of the refugees often live in miserable conditions in “prison-like” camps that lack clean water, food and healthcare. They are not allowed to leave the camp and thus find themselves trapped in squalid conditions, suffering from hunger, disease, and desperation. Children are the worst victims. Many do not have access to education and have never known a life outside the refugee camps. While the host countries are trying their best to support, assist and protect them, the attitude of the rich nations regarding responsibility-sharing and refugee resettlement remains a question.

Media reports suggest that many rich nations have taken on very little responsibility. While many have given millions of dollars to the United Nations to help refugees, most, if not all, have

succumb to death along the way. Many of you might remember the heartbreaking photograph of the dead toddler, Alan Kurdi and his elder brother Galip, whose images made global headlines after their overloaded boat capsized on September 2, 2015 in the Mediterranean Sea, while trying to reach Europe.

The 1951 UN Refugee Convention, later amended in 1967 says, “refugees deserve, as a minimum, the same standards of treatment enjoyed by other foreign nationals in a given country and, in many cases, the same treatment as nationals.” But not everyone is so welcoming to refugees, as many rich countries are still treating them as “somebody else’s problem”. To make matters worse, some rich countries are becoming increasingly hostile towards refugees; rather than offering protection,



Uganda is one of the least economically developed countries in the world, yet it is amongst the largest refugee hosting countries in Africa.

PHOTO: REUTERS

failed to house any of them. Even though western mainstream media regularly shows us pictures of refugees landing on Greek or Italian shores after the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean or refugees from Central America to the United States seeking asylum, the truth is that those who manage to stay are very few, as most of them are pushed back at the border or thrown into detention camps. Marta Foresti, managing director at the Overseas Development Institute says, “It’s only when refugees realise they may not be able to get access to basic resources and a decent quality of life in their new host countries that they attempt the often dangerous journey to the West”. But it is not as easy as it sounds; many refugees and migrants

many have erected new barriers. For example, Hungary has built fences along its borders to keep refugees from passing through. Refugees arriving to Australia by boat are thrown into detention camps on the tiny island republic of Nauru. Gulf States such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates have taken extremely low numbers of refugees. While Japan and the United States are amongst the biggest contributors to the UNHCR, both the countries maintain a very strict and rigorous vetting process when it comes to receiving refugees.

The refugee crisis is at an extreme today. Walled borders, sending refugees to detention camps or sealing off the borders,

will only make things worse. What we need is for the wealthy nations to understand the present crisis and show more compassion. Former World Bank Group President, Jim Yong Kim rightly said, “The refugee situation around the world is everybody’s problem. It’s not just a problem for host countries, or just a problem for the refugees—this is everybody’s problem.” Therefore, there needs to be a paradigm shift in how to deal with the crisis.

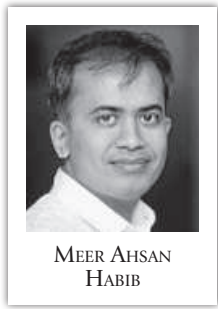
In fact, there are a few possible ways to deal with the refugees. First, if only our world leaders could put an end to the wars and conflicts on the planet, which are the root causes behind the refugee crisis; but that is extremely unlikely to happen. Second, voluntary repatriation—if the refugees could go back to their homes; but that too seems like a distant possibility because their homes are no longer homes, as they have been turned into war zones that compelled them to flee in the first place. Third, resettlement programmes for the refugees to a third country—this option will not only give the refugee families new hope and the opportunity to build a better future, but will also ease the burden on the poor and developing nations who are hosting a significant portion of the world’s refugees today. Amnesty International believes that a third-country resettlement for the refugees is possible and so do I, provided all high and middle-income countries participate in the resettlement programme and welcome refugees according to their respective economic abilities. Current data shows that the five wealthiest countries including US, China, Japan, UK and Germany, which make up half the global economy, are hosting less than five percent of the world’s refugees. And there are several other countries which, despite having strong economic development, have taken in very few refugees.

World leaders often lecture us about global peace, humanity and human rights, empathy, sharing and understanding, but when it is their turn to take responsibility, most, if not all, shy away from their moral and legal duties to welcome more refugees. This needs to change immediately. Given the current circumstances, world leaders must prove that they actually mean what they say, and failure to do so will only prove that they have no moral compass at all.

Abu Afsarul Haider studied economics and business administration at Illinois State University, USA. He is an entrepreneur currently living in Dhaka. Email: afsarulhaider@gmail.com

ABRAR KILLING

When democracy fails to deliver



THE beauty of democracy is that it provides space to anyone; irrespective of the social or economic status of a person they can assume power and with it can do an enormous number of good things that can benefit the society as a whole. But it has a dark side as well: it allows anyone, despite their flaws, to rise to positions of influence and power. This has been evident in the recent turmoil within the student and youth wings of the ruling party. Starting from reining in on the top bosses of the student wing and dismantling the gambling network led by the leaders of its youth wing, the ruling party is trying to get rid of the disease it has allowed to fester all these years. But it had other wounds and nobody had anticipated they would manifest in such a dreadful way—the killing of Abrar, a student of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering department of Buet. It is widely believed that his critical Facebook post on the Feni River deal cost him his life.

Nothing can console the bereaved parents who raised their son only to be killed in such a brutal way. He always stood first in the class and his mother never had a problem in raising him this far. But the democracy we live in was at odds with Abrar! It had no space for criticism of the system

and took his life. The incident is not an isolated one and there are ample shreds of evidence that democracy has no space at all for freedom of expression and criticism.

The tragic death of Abrar took me 18 years back when I was waiting to appear for the last exam of my master's degree at Jahangirnagar University (JU). It was a near miss incident where I narrowly escaped death! It was early September in 2001; a usual night, nothing uncommon about it. Everything was in order except for the heat of the upcoming National Election which was about to take place on October 1. Just a few days back the council of JU unit of Bangladesh Students' Union was held and I stepped down from the position of the General Secretary.

Around 11pm, when I was studying with my classmates in my room, we heard a commotion outside—a group was chanting my name and shouting "kill him". They stormed into my room and began the beatings. All I can say is, I somehow survived the ordeal to share my experience; my parents were lucky that they did not lose their son that night. I had no memory for two days and I owe my life to my friends and comrades who rescued me from that attack. So far as I can recall, I never had any direct confrontation with any of the attackers who were academically junior to me and belonged to the JU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League. One might ask, what prompted the attack? After all, we were being ruled by a democratically elected government. There were no problems apart from the fact that we



Students of Buet protest demanding justice for their fellow Abrar Fahad.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

as a left-leaning student organisation had different political views and stance on many issues.

If one takes a careful look at the recent recorded history of Bangladesh, they will find quite a few instances where democracy and its institutions have more or less failed to deliver on its promises. The biggest problem is that some people who rose to power were not quite the kind of people who should have been entrusted with power. They not only came to power

but also corrupted the institutions and its people. Their lust for power correlates with negative personality traits like brutality, ruthlessness, corrupt practices and lack of empathy. In a democracy, people who perhaps have the strongest desire for power are likely to acquire these negative traits to strengthen their power and position with scant regard for the welfare of others.

After the death of Abrar, people from different walks of the society,

the media and the students, in particular, have voiced their concerns and demanded justice. This daily ran several stories with titles like, "Buet student beaten to death: Critical FB post costs him his life?", "2011: a room of horror and dread", "Abrar laid to rest in Kushtia", "Organisational, administrative actions taken against killers of Abrar", "Buet student murdered after 'BCL men grilled' him", "Killing of Abrar: BUET students demand justice". Nobody needs

to venture into the reports as the headlines clearly narrate a miserable picture of a failed governance system.

Perhaps, justice will be delivered in one way or another but nothing can bring Abrar back among us. But his death could have been averted if the Buet administration had taken appropriate measures to make sure that Room 2011 stayed as a mere dorm room. The government high ups as well as the law enforcement agencies should have had advance knowledge about the unscrupulous BCL leaders and curtailed their wings. But sadly, nothing happened. This is not the first time that a promising youth became a victim of political lust. The brutal killings of Biswajit Das, a tailor, on December 9, 2012, Zubair Ahmed, a student of Jahangirnagar University, on January 9, 2012, Nusrat Jahan on April 10, 2019, Rifat Sharif, an internet service provider, on June 26, 2019, are only a few names in a very long list.

It is high time that our policymakers understand that power should be taken away from psychopaths and narcissists, and be bestowed upon accountable and more humane individuals. Only a true democracy can do so by automatically barring the individuals or groups from power who have a strong desire for it. But this would entail massive changes within the institutions of democracy and its people; it would also result in massive decrease in abuse of power and coercion, and make the country a much safer place for freedom of expression.

Meer Ahsan Habib is a communication for development professional. He can be reached at meer.riyadh@gmail.com.

Let girls realise their dreams



ALL over the world, we are seeing more and more girls raising their voice for their rights. From stopping child marriages to standing up against gender-based violence and demanding action to address the climate emergency—girls are refusing to be ignored. From my work in South Asia and West Africa, I have been profoundly inspired by girls who are determined to claim their rights and create a better future for themselves and their communities—from walking for hours to reach schools each day to forming groups in their communities to raise awareness on children's rights.

And real progress has been made. More girls are attending and completing school than ever before. Fewer girls are getting married or becoming mothers while still children themselves, and more are gaining the skills they need to be employed and excel in work.

But there is still a long way to go. Each year, 12 million girls are married before they turn 18 years of age. Based on current progress, the world will miss the deadline to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 5.3 to end child marriage by 2030. The girls who will be married are more likely to be poor and living in countries affected



Child marriage is a serious violation of girls' rights.

PHOTO: STAR

by conflict or humanitarian crises.

Child marriage is a serious violation of girls' rights. It is one of the biggest reasons for girls dropping out of school and marks the end of their childhood. Married girls are exposed to gender-based violence and face the risks associated with early pregnancy and social isolation. Adolescent mothers are more vulnerable to suffering from birth

related complications than adult women. Married girls are not usually able to participate in decision making of their families, and so patriarchal norms continue.

Poverty, lack of education, vocational skills or development opportunities for girls, natural disasters, and weak enforcement of law are some of the main contributors to child marriage.

Moreover, in many societies women are not viewed as individuals with rights to realise their full potential. The lower status of girls and women in societies and the social acceptance of child marriage are two of the reasons why the practice continues in many places even when laws exist against it, and both must be addressed to help end child marriage.

Feminist thinker, writer, and social reformer Begum Rokeya (1880-1932) wrote the following in "Motichur" in 1904, "We shall do whatever is needed to be equal to men. If we have to earn independently in order to gain independence then we should do that ... Why shouldn't we earn? Don't we have hands, legs, and intellect? Can't we engage in business with the amount of energy that we spend in household work in the husband's place? ...Why are we crying if the girls are not married off. Educate your daughters properly and let them enter the workplace; they can earn their own livelihood."

Begum Rokeya challenged the societal norms regarding the role of girls and women in society through her writing and pioneered girls' education by establishing a school for girls. One hundred years later, her observations are still relevant.

As the world prepares to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and after 24 years of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on advancing women's rights, action on preventing and responding to child marriage needs to be stepped up. Governments should invest in integrated strategies that address its root causes, and be held accountable for making progress. This will involve strengthening the economic resilience of families, increasing access for adolescent girls to education and sexual and reproductive health services, and supporting child protection systems

where communities themselves protect girls from child marriage.

We must help parents and communities understand the rights that girls have to education, healthcare and protection, and to treat boys and girls equally. Men and boys should be involved in creating a society based on gender equality.

And we all must listen to girls about the decisions affecting their lives. Communities, governments and international agencies must guarantee space and support for girls' leadership and participation in local, national and international accountability and agenda-setting processes and their follow up.

During a mass gathering in Dhaka, adolescent girls protested against the special circumstances provision (that would allow marriage below 18 years) of Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, along with child and human rights activists. I still vividly remember a placard that the girls had brought—"No to child marriage; we want to be equal citizens". Girls in all regions of the world are demanding equality. They have beautiful aspirations and are capable to contribute to society in a meaningful way. It is our responsibility to ensure that they grow up in a safe environment where they have opportunities to be educated, and realise their dreams. Parents, communities, governments and the international community—all will have to play their parts in this journey. Are we doing enough?

Laila Khondkar is Head of Advocacy and Policy—Child Protection, Save the Children International.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

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6 Referred to

11 In the know

12 Have—to grind

13 Trout homes

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BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker

BABY BLUES

by Kirkman & Scott

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NEWSIN
brief

US vaping-linked
death toll hits 26

AFP, Washington

Twenty-six people have died from illnesses associated with e-cigarette use since March, US health authorities said Thursday, while some 1,300 have suffered lung injuries linked to vaping. Officials have yet to identify the cause for the outbreak, which dates back to late March, and are pursuing multiple lines of investigation. More than three-quarters of those sickened used tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive substance of marijuana, with or without nicotine products.

Japan braces for
Typhoon Hagibis

AFP, Tokyo

Japan yesterday braced for a powerful typhoon barreling towards Tokyo that has already forced the cancellation of two Rugby World Cup matches, disrupted the Suzuka Grand Prix and grounded flights. Overnight, Typhoon Hagibis was downgraded slightly from its "super typhoon" status, but was still forecast to be packing maximum gusts of 216 kilometres per hour when it makes landfall late today. The massive storm is expected to dump up to half a metre of rain on the Tokyo area in the 24 hours to midday tomorrow, with up to 80 centimetres forecast for the central Tokai region.

Bus mows down
7 Indian pilgrims

AFP, Lucknow

Seven pilgrims sleeping by a roadside in northern India, on their way to make a ritual dip in the holy Ganges river, were killed when they were run over by a bus yesterday, police said. The driver fled and a manhunt was underway after the tragedy in Uttar Pradesh state, media reports said. The dead -- four women and three children -- were among pilgrims planning to take part in an early-morning dip in the Ganges.

IMPEACHMENT PROBE

Trump predicts
polls 'backlash'
against Dems

AFP, Minneapolis

An angry, energized President Donald Trump whipped supporters into a frenzy Thursday at a Minneapolis campaign rally where he predicted a 2020 election "backlash" against Democratic attempts to impeach him. Democrats are investigating Trump for possible impeachment over his alleged bid to pressure Ukraine into digging up dirt on election rival Joe Biden, who currently sits near the top of the Democratic pack. But to roaring cheers and boos from the full-capacity crowd in a basketball arena, Trump put two difficult weeks behind him. In a speech lasting one hour and 40 minutes, he bathed in supporters' adulation, hitting all his favorite talking points with a trademark mix of jokes, insults and populist exaggeration.

He said Democrats are only trying to impeach him because they're "getting desperate."

"They want to erase your vote like it never existed, they want to erase your voice and they want to erase your future, but they will fail because in America, the people rule again."

And in 2020 this will "produce a backlash at the ballot box the likes of which they have never ever seen before."

Public support for impeachment is slowly growing, with a new poll from Fox News -- a channel favored by US conservatives -- showing 51 percent now back his removal from office.

With control of the lower house of Congress, Democrats are likely to impeach in the coming months, even if few believe the Republican-led Senate will actually convict Trump and force him from office.



China's President Xi Jinping shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their visit to the Pancha Rathas complex in Mamallapuram on the outskirts of Chennai, India, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Missiles' hit Iranian
tanker off Saudi coast

AFP, Tehran

Suspected missile strikes hit an Iranian oil tanker off the Saudi coast yesterday, its owner said, the first Iranian vessel targeted since a spate of attacks in the Gulf Washington blamed on Tehran.

The National Iranian Tanker Company said the hull of the Sabiti was hit by two separate explosions off the Saudi port of Jeddah, saying they were "probably caused by missile strikes".

Oil prices surged more than two percent on the news, which raised fresh concerns about Middle East supply with tensions still high after last month's attacks on Saudi facilities onshore.

In those attacks, two of Saudi Arabia's biggest oil installations were hit, wiping out five percent of global production.

"This clearly puts fuel on the Mideast fire," SEB commodities analyst Bjarne Schieldrop told AFP.

"After the attack on Saudi a few weeks ago... it's not a matter of if we get new comparable events -- but when, and how

much."

The National Iranian Tanker Company said the hull of the vessel was hit by two separate explosions about 100 kilometres (60 miles) off the Saudi coast, which damaged two of its tanks on the starboard side.

It identified the tanker as the Sabiti and said the blasts were "probably caused by missile strikes" but denied media reports that they originated from Saudi territory. "All the ship's crew are safe and the ship is stable too," NITC said, adding those on board were trying to repair the damage.

It added the ship is slowly moving back towards the Gulf.

Iran's foreign ministry said the tanker was attacked "from a location close to the corridor it was passing, east of the Red Sea." Oil was leaking from the tanker into the waters of the Red Sea, it added.

According to ship tracking service TankerTrackers, the Sabiti is fully laden with one million barrels and has declared the Gulf as its destination.



People march to protest against what they say is the abuse of pro-democracy protesters by Hong Kong police, at Chater Garden in Central district, Hong Kong, yesterday. A woman holds a placard during the protest. Hundreds of mask-wearing pro-democracy protesters marched through Hong Kong's central business district yesterday, occupying a main thoroughfare and disrupting traffic as the Chinese-ruled city braced for another weekend of unrest.

PHOTO: REUTERS



EU members give go-ahead
for more intense Brexit talks

AFP, Brussels

EU member states yesterday gave Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier the go-ahead for more intense talks with Britain over the weekend, just days before a key European summit.

"The EU and the UK have agreed to intensify discussions over the coming days," the European Commission said.

"The Commission will take stock with the European Parliament and Member States again on Monday in view of preparing the General Affairs Council (Article 50) on Tuesday morning."

The General Affairs Council is a meeting of EU member state ministers in Luxembourg to draw up the agenda for the European Council summit on Thursday and Friday.

Barnier's team has been in "technical talks" with British officials for some time, but these were not making enough progress towards a treaty text that could forestall a chaotic "no-deal" Brexit in three weeks.

Barnier yesterday met his British opposite number, Brexit minister Stephen Barclay, for talks that both sides described as "constructive" -- without giving details.

Following the breakfast meeting, Barnier briefed ambassadors from the other 27 EU capitals, seeking their input on entering political negotiations on a text.

Afterwards, diplomats told AFP that the other member states had given Barnier the green light to step up talks.

"The EU's position remains the same," the Commission said.

"There must be a legally operative solution in the withdrawal agreement that avoids a hard border on the island of Ireland, protects the all-island economy and the Good Friday Agreement in all its dimensions, and safeguards the integrity of the Single Market."

It is still far from clear whether the talks will produce a workable draft text before the key European Union summit starting on October 17 -- or before Britain's exit from the bloc on October 31.

Modi played his last card

Says Pak PM referring to India's revocation of J&K
autonomy, expresses solidarity with Kashmiris

DAWN ONLINE

Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "played his last card" by downgrading the autonomy of occupied Kashmir, stressing that the residents of the disputed region will not accept the decision.

"Narendra Modi committed a mistake, he has played his last card," he told the participants of a 'human chain' event held in Islamabad to express solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir.

He said Modi thinks that the people of occupied Kashmir will accept the decision of revoking Article 370. "He [Modi] doesn't know that what the Kashmiri people have faced in the last several decades, it has eliminated the fear of death among them.

Tens of thousands of Kashmiri people will not accept the decision and come out when the curfew is lifted," he added.

Prime Minister Imran said people gathered to deliver a message to the people of occupied Kashmir that the Pakistani nation stands with them. "We will continue reminding the international community that eight million humans have been locked up in Kashmir," he vowed.

The premier regretted the wall-to-



wall coverage of the Hong Kong protests by international media, and the relative silence surrounding the treatment of the people of Kashmir.

"I want to highlight the issue of double standards as Kashmir is not a part of India and Hong Kong is a part of China but the proportion of coverage of the Kashmiri people is very less as compared to the issue of Hong Kong," he said.

"Our movement is for the human rights of the Kashmiri people; God willing it will become massive," the prime minister added.

His address came after a large number of people gathered in the capital after Friday prayers to form a 'human chain' from D-Chowk to Radio Pakistan Chowk in a show of solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir.

Imran joined the chain as it passed through the Prime Minister's Office.

Addressing the event, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Information Firdous Ashiq Awan said the premier had promised to the Kashmiri people that he will approach each and every forum to highlight their plight.

The people of Kashmir have been living under curfew-like conditions for over two months now.

'Death shied away from me'

Nobel Peace laureate Abiy Ahmed's meteoric rise from
son of poor villagers to Ethiopian PM

AFP, Addis Ababa

The son of poor villagers, a spy boss, and now the man behind dizzying attempts to reform Africa's fastest-growing economy and heal wounds with Ethiopia's neighbours, Abiy Ahmed has seen an unpredictable and peril-strewn rise to fame.

Another chapter was added to his remarkable tale yesterday when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Since becoming Ethiopian prime minister in April 2018, the 43-year-old has aggressively pursued policies that have the potential to upend his country's society and reshape dynamics beyond its borders.

Within just six months of his swearing-in, Abiy made peace with his bitter foe Eritrea, released dissidents from jail, apologised for state brutality, and welcomed home exiled armed groups branded "terrorists" by his predecessors.

Born in the western town of Beshasha to a Muslim father and Christian mother, Abiy "grew up sleeping on the floor" in a house that

lacked electricity and running water.

"We used to fetch water from the river," he said in a wide-ranging radio interview with Sheger FM last month, adding that he didn't even see electricity or an asphalt road until the seventh grade.

Yet Abiy progressed quickly through the power structures created



by the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

Fascinated with technology, he joined the military as a radio operator while still a teenager.

He rose to lieutenant-colonel before entering government, first as a securocrat -- he was the founding head

of Ethiopia's cyber-spying outfit, the Information Network Security Agency.

He then became a minister in the capital Addis Ababa, and a party official in his home region of Oromia.

The circumstances that led to Abiy's ascent to high office can be traced to late 2015.

When then-prime minister Hailemariam Desalegn abruptly resigned, the coalition's member parties chose Abiy to become the first Oromo prime minister.

Ethnic violence has been on the rise in recent years, causing Ethiopia to record more internally displaced people last year than any other country.

And last June, Abiy faced the greatest threat yet to his hold on power when gunmen assassinated high-ranking officials including a prominent regional president and the army chief.

Abiy seems well aware of the danger he faces. "There were many attempts so far, but death didn't want to come to me," he said. "Death shied away from me."

Assange ordered to court
for extradition hearing

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was ordered yesterday to make his first in-person London court appearance to determine whether he can be released from prison as he fights extradition to the United States. The 48-year-old Australian has been in custody at the high-security Belmarsh prison in southwest London since being dramatically dragged from Ecuador's embassy in April. He could be sentenced to spend up to 175 years in a US prison if convicted on all charges filed under the US Espionage Act. London's Westminster Magistrates' Court judge Tan Ikram ordered Assange to appear in person for a case management hearing on October 21. The final extradition hearing has been scheduled for February 28 next year.

Climate change protesters
target BBC HQ

Around 50 Extinction Rebellion climate protesters yesterday blocked the main entrances at the BBC's London headquarters, with one journalist reporting that the building was on "lockdown". "We, the people, have decided to do your job and Tell the Truth from the BBC Broadcasting House about where we're headed if we don't change course," Extinction Rebellion said in a statement on its Facebook page about the latest stunt. "We hold you accountable for your criminal and corrupt complacency for totally marginalising the seriousness of the #PlanetaryEmergency." The group has carried out a wave of demonstrations in the British capital and around the world since Monday. The protests in Britain have seen more than 1,000 people arrested since Monday.

First spacemaker Alexei
Leonov dies, aged 85



Alexei Leonov, a Soviet-era cosmonaut who was the first man to conduct a spacewalk in 1965, died in Moscow on Friday aged 85 after a long illness. Leonov was a close friend of Yuri Gagarin, who became the first human to go to outer space in 1961. Four years later Leonov made history when he left a spacecraft during the Voskhod 2 mission for a spacewalk that lasted 12 minutes and nine seconds.

SOURCE: AFP

WHAT'S ON



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Jolokabbo 2
 Venue: Edge Gallery, Gulshan-2
 Date: September 18 – October 26
 Time: 10am-8pm



Art Exhibition
 Title: Feeling the Void by Hamiduzzaman Khan
 Venue: Dwpip Gallery
 Date: October 7- October 27
 Time: 3 pm – 9 pm



Poetry & Music
 Title: Gaan Kobitar Chhayatole
 Artists: Tanjina Toma & Shovansundar Bosu
 Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, BNM
 Date: Today
 Time: 6pm



Exhibition
 Title: Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh Shoptosharothi
 Venue: National Art Plaza, RSA
 Date: September 28 – October 26
 Time: 11am - 8pm



Album Launch
 Title: Kichu Kotha Kichu Gaan - Launch of Ghaashphoring Choir's Album
 Date: October 19
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Time: 5:30 pm onwards

Jaya Ahsan to star in ‘Ardhangini’

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

One of the most prolific actors of the country, Jaya Ahsan, has successfully made her way to the film industry of India. Recently, she won several awards in India as well. She has captured the hearts of millions with her charisma and acting prowess over the years.

Since September, Jaya has been shooting for Atanu Ghosh's *Robibar*, opposite Prosenjit Chatterjee, and Soukarya Ghosal's *Bhoot Pori*. After the great success of *Bishorjon* and its sequel *Bijoya*, the diva is pairing up with Kaushik Ganguly for the third time, in his upcoming film, *Ardhangini*. Jaya will play the role of the protagonist in the film. She will be sharing screen space with Churni Ganguly. The shooting for *Ardhangini* will start by the end of this month.

Apart from the aforementioned projects, Jaya is also gearing up for the releases of Nurul Alam Alim's *Peyarar Shubbaash* and Mahmud Didar's *Beauty Circus*.



Dilara Begum Jolly



Kamruzzaman Shadhin



Nur Ahmed Gelal



David Dalla Venezia

‘The Scent of Time’ marks Italian Contemporary Art Day in Dhaka

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Celebrating the 15th Italian Contemporary Art Day, *The Scent of Time*, an exclusive art exhibition is underway at Edge Gallery, Gulshan-2. The three-day exhibition is organised by Embassy of Italy in Dhaka, supported by the Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation (DBF) and Edge The Foundation, in collaboration with Lightbox, Venice.

Italian and Bangladeshi artists, who participated in art workshops, reflecting upon the current situation of Italian Contemporary Art are exhibiting their works at the event.

Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Enrico Nunziata, Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Ajit Kumar Debnath, art collector and promoter Durjoy Rahman Joy, curator Caterina Corni and Mahua Khan, Trustee, Edge The Foundation, were present. "The 15th Italian Contemporary Art day event, hosted by Embassy of Italy in Dhaka, helped our foundation to engage with the previous participants of Venetian artists. Their art engagement in Bangladesh will help enhance the understanding between both the countries, especially their culture," said Durjoy Rahman Joy, the founder of DBF.



(From left) Mahua Khan, Ambassador Enrico Nunziata, Durjoy Rahman Joy, Caterina Corni and Ajit Kumar Debnath at the event.

The Scent of Time features four Italian artists, David Dalla Venezia, Cosima Montavoci, Andrea Morucchio, and Chiara Tubia, for the first time in Dhaka. The exhibition is curated by Caterina Corni, with the Bangladeshi artists, Dilara Begum Jolly, Dhali Al Mamoon, Kamruzzaman Shadhin and Noor Ahmed Gelal.

An art-talk titled, 'Italy-Bangladesh interaction in Contemporary Visual Arts', was held yesterday at Edge

Gallery. Prominent art critic and historian Professor Abul Monsur spoke during the session.

Highlights of the programme also included an art workshop by artist David Dalla Venezia at the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, along with a studio visit by artist Cosima Montavoci and an off-site intervention by artist Chiara Tubia.

Curator Caterina Corni defines the initiative as a journey through

eight artists, an experience revealing their diverse approaches to the world. The artists' researches are conveyed through different artistic media, from installation to photography, painting and drawing.

In their works, these artists subtly and consciously combine elements from different traditions, creating unique artistic outputs which transcend any existing boundary.

Coordinated by Caterina Corni, the selected artists already met and worked together in Venice on the occasion of the first Majhi International Art Residence, promoted by DBF, in collaboration with Lightbox. The residency, held from July 20 to August 3 this year, was followed by a group show from August 3 to August 12. Eleven artists, six from Bangladesh, four from Venice and one from Berlin, participated in the event.

This event is annually organised by the Association of the Italian Museums of Contemporary Art (AMACI), in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, to introduce the general public to contemporary art. The exhibition concludes today at 8pm.

PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Farooki and Figgis at ‘Bridge to Hollywood’ in Busan

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Motion Picture Association of America, in association with Asian Film Academy, hosted a workshop and pitching contest titled, 'Bridge to Hollywood', in Busan recently. Internationally acclaimed director Mostafa Sarwar Farooki and Mike Figgis, the Oscar-nominated British director of *Leaving Las Vegas*, were the mentors of the workshop. Figgis presided over the jury of the New Currents section at the 24th edition of the Busan International Film Festival.

The two directors discussed their filmmaking philosophies and the challenges of filmmaking on the first day of the programme. The pitching contest was held on the second day. The Motion Picture Association of America will send the winner of the contest to Hollywood, the home of the US film industry, for training them in filmmaking. A total of 24 fellows from across the world participated in the workshop and contest through Asian Film Academy.



(From left) Mostafa Sarwar Farooki and Mike Figgis.

PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: COURTESY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Cinema banner painting is one of the most popular visual art forms in South Asia. It was initiated as a publicity medium for movie theatres. Subsequently, its inception and evolution is heavily shaped by the growth of the film industry in this region. We can trace back to Raja Ravi Varma's paintings and popular prints of the 19th century, which were based

on western academic style, to understand the origin of cinema banner painting. Non-academic painters played a major role in developing the unique style of cinema banner painting in the Indian subcontinent. The banners carry a distinct visual aesthetic and a larger than life manifestation of cinema.

An art workshop on cinema banner painting, which started on October 5, concluded yesterday at Jothashilpa Studio in Dhaka. It was organised

Jothashilpa hosts cinema banner painting workshop

by Jothashilpa, in association with the Samdani Artists Led Initiatives Forum (SALIF). Noted cinema banner painter Mohammad Shoaib conducted the workshop, while artist and researcher Shawon Akand was the curator. Five artists from different parts of Bangladesh participated in the workshop. They were: Rezaur Rahman, Imtiaz Nasir, Rafiq Majumdar, Muntasib Rahman Anan and Hemahyet Himu.

Timir Nandi's five-decade musical journey

Amra Surjamukhi holds programme at BNM

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Timir Nandi recently completed fifty years as a singer in the music industry. To mark the occasion, socio-cultural organisation Amra Surjamukhi arranged a programme at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) yesterday.

M Harun-Ar-Rashid, the Former Chief of Army Staff of the Bangladesh Army, Pijush Bandyopadhyay, renowned actor and Former Managing Director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC), Sadya Afreen Mallick, renowned singer and media personality, attended the event as honourable guests. Shafiqul Islam Selim, Executive Director of Amra Surjamukhi, delivered the welcome address.

An album launching programme along with a live musical performance by Timir Nandi followed. Under the banner of Agniveena-G-Series, the album, *Meghla Duchokh*, was unveiled by the guests and the singer.

Meghla Duchokh is an original *adhunik* album that contains 14 tracks including *Duti Pakhi Mile Bandhey*, *Bhalobeshe Shobai Jodi*, *Amar Meghla Duchokh* and *Shudhu Mon Chhunye Jaye*.

"My solo album came to the audio market after a long hiatus. I published my last album in 2009, marking the four decades of my musical career," said Timir Nandi, who also composed all the tracks except one for *Meghla Duchokh*. "We recorded all the songs at Dhvani Studio, Kolkata. Buddhadev Ganguly, who was the assistant of legendary musician Salil Chowdhury, arranged the music for my album."



UN calls for greater heat protection for workers in Qatar

AFP, Doha

Improved safeguards and working hours are needed to protect labourers in Qatar from the effects of heat and humidity, the United Nations said Friday, as it published new research.

The desert monarchy has come under fire for conditions faced by its hundreds of thousands of migrant workers, as it prepares to host the 2022 World Cup.

The risks of Qatar's heat and humidity were again thrust into the spotlight at the recent World Athletics Championships in Doha when women's marathon runners collapsed because of the conditions, despite the race being staged at midnight.

Humidity hovered around 73 percent and the temperature was 33 degrees Celsius (91 degrees Fahrenheit) for much of last month's race.

The study, commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Qatar's labour ministry, praised measures taken to reduce the effects of heat on 4,000 workers at one World Cup stadium project.

It concluded that while the heat mitigation steps taken by the body responsible for delivering the football showcase were "moderately to highly acceptable", other employers in Qatar could improve protections.

Of Qatar's roughly 1.9 million workers, just 30,000 work directly on World Cup projects.

The head of the UN agency's Qatar project office, Houtan Homayounpour, said the project was working with the government to turn the study's recommendations into "improved legislation".

Workers need to be able to set their own pace, he told AFP, in terms of "when to stop, when to have a break, when to drink water -- it's very important... They know best how they feel."

"We'll be promoting this very hard across the country in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour."

Homayounpour said the research also indicated a need to extend the ban on work during the hottest hours of the day, as well as the period of the year to which it applies.

The law currently states that work on exposed sites must stop between 11:30 am and 3:00 pm between June and August.

Researchers from the University of Thessaly in Greece reviewed more than 5,500 hours of work as part of their research, the largest ever study of its kind and the first in the region.

The study tracked environmental conditions over summer this year and the physiological responses of 125 workers subjected to different heat mitigation strategies.

It compared practises at the under-construction 40,000-capacity Al-Rayyan stadium west of Doha with a rural farm, looking at the impact of hydration, work-rest ratios and clothing on heat strain.

- 'Leading the region' -

Workers on the stadium project, run by the Supreme Committee organising the World Cup, mitigated conditions through frequent breaks as well as access to shade and water, according to the study.

The researchers recommended companies in Qatar introduce heat stress alleviation plans and annual health check-ups as well as adjusting summertime working hours and empowering employees to take responsibility for their welfare.

Projects run by Qatar's Supreme Committee are acknowledged by human rights groups to generally offer their workers better protections and rights than schemes not under the supervision of the World Cup organisers.

On Thursday, Human Rights Watch called on Qatar to "thoroughly and urgently investigate" worker deaths following publication of research linking cardiovascular fatalities in the country to heatstroke.

The study, published by Cardiology Journal in July, probed the "relationship between deaths of more than 1,300 Nepali workers between 2009 and 2017 and heat exposure", according to HRW.

Government spokesman, Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour Al-Thani, said: "Qatar has worked relentlessly for years... to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all workers" and that "to suggest otherwise is false and misleading".

Qatar is now "leading the region on workers' health and safety", he said in a statement, adding that summer working rules had been "strictly implemented" and more than 300 work suspension cases were ordered in summer 2019.



Pro-Turkish Syrian fighters cross the border into Syria as they take part in an offensive against Kurdish-controlled areas in northeastern Syria launched by the Turkish military yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Turkey intensifies Syria campaign

FROM PAGE 16

did not back him.

Yesterday, Turkish warplanes and artillery struck around Syria's Ras al Ain, one of two border towns that have been the focus of the offensive. Reuters journalists heard gunfire there from across the frontier in the Turkish town of Ceylanpinar.

A convoy of 20 armoured vehicles carrying Turkish-allied Syrian rebels entered Syria from Ceylanpinar. Some made victory signs, shouting "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) and waving Syrian rebel flags as they advanced towards Ras al Ain.

Some 120 km (75 miles) to the west, Turkish howitzers resumed shelling near the Syrian town of Tel Abyad, a witness said.

"In these moments, Tel Abyad is seeing the most intense battles in three days," Marvan Qamishlo, a spokesman for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said.

Overnight, clashes erupted at different points along the border from Ain Diwar at the Iraqi frontier to Kobani, more than 400 km to the west. Turkish and SDF forces exchanged shelling in Qamishli among other places, the SDF's Qamishlo said.

"The whole border was on fire," he said.

Turkish forces have seized nine villages near Ras al Ain and Tel Abyad, said Rami Abdulrahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war.

At least 32 fighters with the SDF and 34 Turkey-backed Syrian rebels have been killed in fighting, while 10 civilians have been killed, Abdulrahman said. The SDF said 22 of its fighters were killed on Wednesday and Thursday.

Turkey says it has killed hundreds of SDF fighters in the operation and

one Turkish soldier has been killed.

Turkey says the purpose of its assault is to defeat the Kurdish YPG militia, which it sees as an enemy for its links to insurgents in Turkey. It says it aims to set up a "safe zone" inside Syria, where it can resettle many of the 3.6 million refugees it has been hosting.

The International Rescue Committee aid group says 64,000 people in Syria have fled in the first days of the campaign.

The Kurdish YPG is the main fighting element of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) which have acted as the principal allies of the United States in a campaign that recaptured territory held by the Islamic State group.

The SDF now holds most of the territory that once made up Islamic State's "caliphate" in Syria, and has been keeping thousands of Islamic State fighters in jail and tens of

thousands of their family members in camps.

A camp sheltering more than 7,000 displaced people in northern Syria is to be evacuated and there are talks on moving a second camp for 13,000 people including Islamic State fighters' families, after both were shelled, Kurdish-led authorities said.

Medecins Sans Frontieres said a hospital in Tel Abyad had been forced to shut after most of its staff fled from bombings over the past 24 hours.

Western countries' rejection of the Turkish offensive creates a rift within the Nato alliance, in which Turkey is the main Muslim member.

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said after talks with Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu in Istanbul that he expected Turkey to act with restraint in Syria. Cavusoglu said Ankara expected "strong solidarity" from the alliance.

Indonesian leader tightens security for ministers after attack

REUTERS, Jakarta

Indonesian President Joko Widodo said yesterday he had ordered tighter security for state officials a day after a suspected Islamist militant stabbed the chief security minister as he was greeting crowds in a provincial town.

Indonesia, which is the world's biggest Muslim-majority country, is grappling with a resurgence in militancy and hundreds of suspects have been detained under tighter new anti-terrorism laws since the beginning of 2019.

Minister Wiranto, 72, who like many Indonesians uses just one name, underwent surgery in Jakarta after sustaining two wounds to the stomach in the attack after he had opened a university building in Pandeglang.

He was the first senior politician to be attacked in recent years and the president said he should be the last.

Mothers

FROM PAGE 16

exams, the teachers believe. Rahid Ali's mother, Rima Begum who has been attending classes with her son, said the boy has better concentration now.

Rini Begum, another mother from Poladanga area, said her son's absenteeism has been reduced recently.

Head Teacher Monowara said most of the students are from poor families and the mothers do not have much education. "But their presence and engagement help a lot."

Tasemuddin, assistant upazila education officer, said, "We are proud of this school for taking this step. It has been possible because of the inventiveness of teachers."

Woman

FROM PAGE 16 money from her father. After repeated such incidents, Salma recently decided to get separated from him and kept their son in her father's house in the neighbouring village.

Modi, Xi look to patch up

FROM PAGE 16

had stayed silent over the current upheaval in Hong Kong.

"Frankly, the optics surrounding this visit don't look very promising at the moment," Harsh Pant, an international relations professor at King's College London, told AFP.

China's backing of Pakistan "has left a very bad taste in India's mouth", Pant said.

DINNER AND DANCE

India and China -- home to more than a third of humanity -- have never been the best of friends, going to war in 1962 and engaging in a series of Himalayan standoffs since.

The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader and long a thorn in China's side, has been allowed to live in and travel the world from his base Dharamsala in northern India since 1959.

In 2017 Delhi and Beijing staged an alarming two-month face-off on the Doklam plateau -- claimed by China and Bhutan -- when Chinese troops started building a road and India sent

its forces to halt them.

However, the following year Xi and Modi patched things up in China's Wuhan. Their latest meeting, over elaborate meals and dance performances in Mahabalipuram, is aimed at building on that.

The key free-wheeling one-on-one meeting between Xi and Modi will take place this morning. The two leaders will have six hours of one-on-one talks and separate statements will be issued, government sources said.

Mahabalipuram -- home to historical monuments that pay testament to India and China's ancient ties -- has seen more than 40 Tibetans, including a prominent activist, reportedly detained ahead of the summit.

But since Wuhan other irritants have emerged, including a reported "scuffle" in Ladakh last month and Indian military activities in the northern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, part of which Beijing claims.

India and Washington, seeking with

others to counter China's growing regional assertiveness, have deepened military cooperation and India has moved closer to the Quad security dialogue with Japan, the United States and Australia.

On commerce India and China -- both facing a protectionist America -- want greater access to each other's markets, with India currently importing from China far more than it exports there.

Beijing also wants Delhi to ignore Western cyber-security concerns on Huawei -- already a big player in the India mobile sector -- and allow the telecoms firm to be part of 5G trials.

Huawei's "contribution to India's economic and social development is obvious to all," China's foreign ministry said this week, hoping Delhi would make "independent and objective judgments and decisions".

Xi will head to Nepal today, the first Chinese president to visit the buffer state between India and China in 22 years.

UK to send robot spider to the moon

FROM PAGE 16

US, Russia and China. A recent attempt by a private Israeli company ended in disaster when the lander crashed on the surface.

Unveiled during the New Scientist Live event at London's ExCeL, the robot was designed by UK start-up space company SpaceBit.

SpaceBit founder Pavlo Tanasyuk said: "Our goal is to go there and see what is available there for all humanity to explore."

He added that, unlike rovers with wheels or tracks, this robot with four legs would provide an opportunity for "something a little bit like a human" to explore the lunar surface.

In May, Nasa announced that Astrobotic and two other companies had been awarded funding to build lunar landers.

Astrobotic was awarded millions of dollars to carry up to 14 Nasa instruments to the moon as well as 14 payloads from other partners.

SpaceBit will be one of those partners, sending the rover to the surface inside Astrobotic's Peregrine lander.

It is expected to land near the region of Mare Serenitatis -- the Sea of Serenity -- in June or July 2021.

Once the lander reaches the moon, the 1.5kg (3lb 5oz) rover will drop from beneath it to the surface along with other payloads.

It will scuttle across the surface taking measurements and collecting exploration data. The rover is battery-powered, but a small solar panel will also harness energy from the sun.

It also has two cameras that will enable it to take "robot selfies",

SpaceBit said.

The reason for the legs is to allow the robot to enter lava tubes in future missions, which has not been possible before.

Ukrainian-born Tanasyuk said: "After we land, we will be exploring the moon surface, and hopefully we will be able to get into the lava tubes and explore the environment there."

"So we hope to find a stable temperature which will be suited for future human missions to the moon."

"It is a rugged environment in the lava tubes so you can't really use wheels there -- that was why we had to design these legs instead of wheels."

The SpaceBit rover can withstand temperatures from up to 130C (266F) to minus 130C (minus 202F) at night, and will explore for the duration of a lunar day.

arguments to have the case thrown out were "scandalous and or vexatious".

The National Prosecutions Authority's spokeswoman Natasha Kara told AFP "the matter has been set down for trial from the 15th to the 18th of October".

Top Iraq cleric says govt responsible for protest deaths

AFP, Karbala

The Iraqi government and security forces are "responsible for the bloodshed" during recent protests, top Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani said yesterday.

In a sermon read out at the main weekly prayers, Sistani gave authorities "two weeks" to release the findings of an investigation into the more than 100 deaths recorded during the protests since October 1.

Spiritual leader for Iraq's Shia majority, Sistani wields significant power to influence the government.

Iraq descended into violence at the start of the month as protests that began with demands for an end to rampant corruption and chronic unemployment escalated with calls for a complete overhaul of the political system.

The demonstrations from October 1-6 in Baghdad and across the south of the country quickly turned violent, as protests were met with tear gas and live fire, with over 100 killed and more than 6,000 wounded.

Uncertainty over the identity of the perpetrators persists, with authorities blaming "unidentified snipers".

But protestors and human rights advocates insist Iraqi security forces

participated in the violent repression of the rallies.

The demonstrations were unprecedented because of their apparent spontaneity and independence in a deeply politicised society.

Sistani endorsed the protests on October 4, calling on the government to heed the demonstrators' demands "before it's too late".

"The government must change its approach in dealing with the country's problems," the cleric said, adding that lawmakers also bore a heavy responsibility.

Sistani wields huge influence within Iraq's Shia community, among whom the deadly protests were concentrated.

"The government and its security forces are responsible for the bloodshed during the recent protests", said Abdel Mahdi al-Karbala'i, a representative of Sistani who read his sermon in Karbala yesterday.

"What happened demonstrates an unfettered violence that goes beyond all limits of the imagination," he added, saying "the government is responsible when, under the eye of law enforcement, protestors are fired on illegally and media are beaten or attacked to terrorise their employees."

120 homes lost

FROM PAGE 16

long, but the authorities did nothing to protect us," said Fatema Begum of Kalihati upazila's Beltia village who lost her house in the erosion and were leaving under the open sky.

Talking to The Daily Star, many more locals of Kalihati upazila echoed Fatema's statement.

Asked, WDB official Sirajul said they had a plan to construct a permanent embankment in the area during the next dry season.

"We already set up 600-metre CC blocks in the area," he added.

The authorities started dumping geo-bags in the area to prevent further erosion, he further added.

Visiting the area yesterday, Tangail Deputy Commissioner Md Shohidul

Islam said the district administration would make a proper list of affected people and provide them with necessary aid.

Tangail-4 (Kalihati) MP Hasan Imam Khan said the government would provide Tk 6,000 as financial aid and some other assistance to each affected family.

Meanwhile, the Jamuna posed a threat to several villages in Bhuapur upazila.

At least two government primary schools, three mosques and a temple were may be devoured for the erosion, said locals.

Earlier in July, around 300 homesteads and vast of croplands were devoured by the river in the upazila.





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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue

Rajashaw Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

National Tender Notice

1	Ministry/division	Internal Resources Division (IRD).
2	Agency	National Board of Revenue (NBR).
3	Procuring entity name	Member (Customs Policy & ICT).
4	Procuring entity code	N/A
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Tender Goods (Single Lot)
7	Invitation Ref No.	08.01.0000.091.53.001.19.149
8	Date	12/10/2019
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method NCT
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget Government
11	Development partner (if applicable)	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	ASYCUDA WORLD Implementation Programme.
14	Tender package No.	Pkg03
15	Tender package name	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Migration of Database, Server, Storage and Related Software Development with 3 years IT Support Service.
16	Tender publication date	12/10/2019
17	Tender last selling date	12/11/2019
18	Tender closing date and time	13/11/2019 12:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	13/11/2019 12:30pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address(s)
Selling tender document (principal)		
Second Secretary (ASYCUDA WORLD), Room No-227 (First floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.		
Selling tender document (others)		
N/A		
Receiving tender document		
Second Secretary (ASYCUDA WORLD), Room No-227 (First floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.		
Opening tender document		
Member (Customs Policy & ICT) (4th floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.		
21	Place/date of pre-tender meeting	Conference Room (4th floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. 30/10/2019 11:00am
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender data sheet.
23	Brief description of goods or works	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Migration of Database, Server, Storage and Related Software Development with 3 years IT Support Service.
24	Tender document price	4000 BDT
25	Lot No.	Identification of lot
1	Single	Location
National Board of Revenue (NBR)		
Tender security amount in Taka		
14500000		
Completion time in weeks/months		
06 months		
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
26	Name of official inviting tender	Syed Golam Kibria.
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Member (Customs Policy & ICT).
28	Address of official inviting tender	(4th Floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 8391894, e-mail: syedgolam.kibria13@gmail.com
30	Special instruction	1. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason. 2. If there is govt. holidays or unavoidable situation arises on the date of tender receiving/opening in that case, the next normal working day will be considered valid date for receiving/opening of the tender at the same place and time.


Syed Golam Kibria

Member (Customs Policy & ICT)

National Board of Revenue

Segunbagicha, Dhaka

GD-1669



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry/Division

Internal Resources Division.

Agency

National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Procuring entity name

Chairman, National Board of Revenue.

Procuring entity code

Not used at present.

Procuring entity district

Dhaka.

Invitation for

Tender

Invitation Ref. No.

08.01.0000.003.07.001.19-171

Date

03.10.2019

KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method			
NCT				
Open				
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds			
GOB.				
11	Development partners (if applicable)			
N/A.				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/program code (if applicable)			
N/A.				
13	Project name (if applicable)			
N/A.				
14	Tender package No.			
01/2019				
15	Tender package name			
Non-Consulting Services (Manpower Supply).				
16	Tender publication date			
10.10.2019				
17	Tender last selling date, (Must be the date prior to the day of tender closing date)			
06.11.2019				
Tender closing date and time				
Date				
Time				
18	Tender closing date and time			
07.11.2019				
01.00pm				
19	Tender opening date and time, (within one hour of tender closing)			
07.11.2019				
03.00pm				
20	Name & address of the office(s)			
Address				
National Board of Revenue (NBR), Segunbagicha, Dhaka.				
Selling tender document (principal)				
National Board of Revenue (NBR), Segunbagicha, Dhaka.				
Selling tender document (others)				
National Board of Revenue (NBR), Segunbagicha, Dhaka.				
No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents				
Receiving tender document				
Room No. 406 (3rd Floor), NBR, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.				
Opening tender document				
Room No. 406 (3rd Floor), NBR, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.				
Date				
Time				
22	Place/date/time of pre-tender (optional)			
N/A				
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of tenderer			
As per TDS.				
23	Brief description of goods or works			
(As per TDS) (Procurement of Non-Consulting Services (Manpower Supply). Supply of 1000 (one thousand) Field Workers (Male/Female).				
24	Brief description of services			
As per TDS.				
25	Price of tender document (Tk)			
BDT 1,000/- (one thousand) only.				
Package No.	Identification of package	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
01/2019	Manpower Supply and Non-Consulting Physical Services	Dhaka	80,00,000/- (eighty lakh)	N/A
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
30	Name of official inviting tender	Muhammad Kamrul Hasan		
31	Designation of official inviting tender	First Secretary (Board Admin).		
32	Address of official inviting tender	Room No. 406 (3rd Floor), National Board of Revenue (NBR), Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.		
33	Contact details of official inviting tender	9352529		
34	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			

Muhammad Kamrul Hasan

First Secretary (Board Admin)

Phone: 9352529

GD-1667



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

ভূমি ও ইমারত শাখা

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute

Joydebpur, Gazipur-1701

কৃষি সমৃদ্ধি

Fax: 49270201

Tel: 94270077

PABX: 49270041-48

E-mail: se.building@bari.gov.bd

Web: www.bari.gov.bd

Memo No. 12.21.0000.010.41.19.103

e-Tender Notice

Date: 10.10.2019

e-Tender is invited Through National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of following works:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Tendering method	Description of works	Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender closing date & time
1.	367424	OTM	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Walk in Cooler (-4°C to 20°C) in/c Related Work under Strengthening of Spices Crop Research in Bangladesh at RSRC, Magura	09-Oct-2019 18:20	27-Oct-2019 12:30
2.	367481	OTM	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Walk in Cooler (-4°C to 20°C) in/c Related Work under Strengthening of Spices Crop Research in Bangladesh at RSRC, Faridpur	09-Oct-2019 18:50	27-Oct-2019 14:30
3.	367539	OTM	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Walk in Cooler (-4°C to 20°C) in/c Related Work under Strengthening of Spices Crop Research in Bangladesh at RSRC, Shibgonj, Bogura	09-Oct-2019 18:30	27-Oct-2019 15:00
4.	367827	OTM	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Walk in Cooler (-4°C to 20°C) in/c Related Work under Strengthening of Spices Crop Research in Bangladesh at RSRC, Lalmonirhat	09-Oct-2019 18:00	27-Oct-2019 15:30


This is online tender, only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. Registration is essential to submit e-Tender.
Fees have to be deposited for downloading the tender documents from e-GP Portal through any registered bank. For further information please contact e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
Project Name: Strengthening of Spices Crop Research in Bangladesh

Engr. Alamgir Hossain

Superintending Engineer (In-charge)

BARI, Gazipur

GD-1666



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue

Rajashaw Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

National Tender Notice

1	Ministry/division	Internal Resources Division (IRD).
2	Agency	National Board of Revenue (NBR).
3	Procuring entity name	Member (Customs Policy & ICT).
4	Procuring entity code	N/A
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Tender Goods (Single Lot)
7	Invitation Ref No.	08.01.0000.091.53.001.19.150
8	Date	12/10/2019
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method NCT
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget Government
11	Development partner (if applicable)	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	ASYCUDA WORLD Implementation Programme.
14	Tender package No.	Pkg05
15	Tender package name	i) VPN data link between NBR and Customs House & LC Stations and ii) Broad Band Internet Connection at NBR & NDC
16	Tender publication date	12/10/2019
17	Tender last selling date	12/11/2019
18	Tender closing date and time	13/11/2019 2:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	13/11/2019 2:30pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address(s)
Selling tender document (principal)		
Second Secretary (ASYCUDA WORLD), Room No- 227 (First floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.		
Selling tender document (others)		
N/A		
Receiving tender document		
Second Secretary (ASYCUDA WORLD), Room No-227 (First floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.		
Opening tender document		
Member (Customs Policy & ICT) (4th floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.		
21	Place/date of pre-tender meeting	Conference Room (4th floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. 31/10/2019 11:00am
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender data sheet.
23	Brief description of goods or works	i) VPN data link between NBR and Customs House & LC Stations and ii) Broad Band Internet Connection at NBR & NDC
24	Tender document price	3000 BDT
25	Lot No.	Identification of lot
1	Single	Location
National Board of Revenue (NBR)		
Tender security amount in Taka		
2175000		
Completion time in weeks/months		
06 months		
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
26	Name of official inviting tender	Syed Golam Kibria.
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Member (Customs Policy & ICT).
28	Address of official inviting tender	(4th Floor), Rajashaw Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 8391894, e-mail: syedgolam.kibria13@gmail.com
30	Special instruction	1. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason. 2. If there is govt. holidays or unavoidable situation arises on the date of tender receiving/opening in that case, the next normal working day will be considered valid date for receiving/opening of the tender at the same place and time.

Syed Golam Kibria

Member (Customs Policy & ICT)

National Board of Revenue

Segunbagicha, Dhaka

GD-1670

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

ক্যান্টনমেন্ট একজিকিউটিভ অফিসারের কার্যালয়

কর শাখা

সাতার ক্যান্টনমেন্ট, ঢাকা

তারিখঃ ০৯ অক্টোবর ২০১৯

৯২-২৩.২২.৭০০৩.০০২.০৮.০০১.১৯.২০

ক্যান্টিন পুনঃ ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সাতার ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড-এর নবনির্মিত (২৫×১৫) = ৩৭৫.০০ বর্গফুট আয়তন বিশিষ্ট একটি ক্যান্টিন ০৩ (তিন) বছরের জন্য ইজারা প্রদান করা হবে। ক্যান্টিনের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ ও দর দাখিলের নিয়মাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল নং ১,০০০/- টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা সাপেক্ষে অত্র দপ্তরের রাজস্ব শাখা হতে ক্রয় করা যাবে। উক্ত ক্যান্টিন ইজারার নিমিত্তে নিম্নে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলীতে অত্র বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে এবং প্রতিষ্ঠান/ফার্ম-এর নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ইজারার মেয়াদ	সিডিউল বিক্রির তারিখ	দর দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
০৩ (তিন)	১৩-১০-২০১৯খ্রিঃ হতে	তারিখঃ ২৮-১০-২০১৯খ্রিঃ	তারিখঃ ২৮-১০-২০১৯খ্রিঃ
বৎসর	২৭-১০-২০১৯খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত	সময়ঃ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত	সময়ঃ ১২-৩০ ঘটিকা

শর্তাবলী

(ক) দরপত্রসমূহ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সাতার ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। যে নামে দরপত্র ক্রয় করা হবে সে নামেই দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। উল্লেখিত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে সংরক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে দরদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ খোলা হবে।

(খ) দরপত্রের সাথে প্রথম বছরের জন্য দাখিলকৃত ইজারা দর-এর ০৩ (তিন) মাসের ভাড়ার সমপরিমাণ অর্থ আর্নেস্টমানি/জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য) হিসেবে “ক্যান্টনমেন্ট একজিকিউটিভ অফিসার, সাতার ক্যান্টনমেন্ট”-এর অনুকূলে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট জমা করতে হবে।

(গ) দরপত্রের সাথে ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ও জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি সত্যায়িতসহ সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

(ঘ) প্রতি বছর ১০% করে ভাড়া বৃদ্ধি করা হবে।

(ঙ) উল্লেখিত কাগজপত্র ও জামানত হিসেবে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

(চ) সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতার দর অনুমোদনের পর ইজারাকৃত মূল্য এবং উক্ত মূল্যের উপর সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক আয়কর ও ভ্যাট ইজারা গ্রহীতাকে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

(ছ) সর্বোচ্চ দর দাখিলকারী ব্যক্তি সকলের জামানত ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য তথ্য ও শর্তাবলী অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে অত্র দপ্তরের রাজস্ব শাখা হতে জানা যাবে।

(জ) যে কোন দরপত্র/সকল দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোহাম্মদ বশিরুল হক ভূঞা

উপ-সচিব

ক্যান্টনমেন্ট একজিকিউটিভ অফিসার

সাতার ক্যান্টনমেন্ট

জিডি-১৬৬৩

ফোনঃ ৭৭৯১৫৮৬ (বেসামরিক), ৩১৬২ (সামরিক)



POETRY

A Requiem for Amazonia

MITALI CHAKRAVARTY



Amazon burns
Each flame licks a life
Each ember leads to strife

How will man survive?

From the meat roasted by the flames
That rise as if from Earth's insides?

The birds that no longer fly
Lie roasted, toasted, drained of colour.

The brilliant macaw with its plumes of blue and yellow,
The golden monkey that leaps from tree to tree,
The green frog that hops,
The slithering snake that crawls
Now all lie in a heap
Under the dead burnt leaf.

70, 000 fires that cindered
The green to a dun, dull grey...
Devoid of life
Like Mordor, the ground cries.

Will only the Orcs abide
The dead — can they rise?

During the last reckoning what will they say?

Childhood has ended and we hold the Earth in our sway?

The last child crumbles away...

Mitali Chakravarty's poetry has appeared online and as part of two anthologies, In Reverie (2016) and An Anthology of Indian Poetry in English (1984). This particular piece was published in Countercurrents.org in August, 2019.

Knocks

BIPASHA HAQUE

Would a few doors remain closed?
Though we wanted someone to open them
or at least knock— knock once, twice...
Haven't we let decades pass by for these
knocks!

A few times we thought of giving up
though,
our arguments fume around whether to
give up or not—
At times sensing birds, insects or noctur-
nals nearby,
giving up the debate, not only ears,
but our whole body gets alert!
Sometimes we become nihilistic
for the sake of argument, at other times,
feeling exasperated, we simply mumble
“we're nothing but wood, a few nails,
hinges and a few coats of earthen oil ..
no more than that.”

Can't recall well, when was it that
we last saw the palonko, mosquito net,
scarlet red “Ma” in a framed nokshikatha..
Often wafted in tobacco's crispy burnt smell,
felt of tiny and big hands, and,

especially the pair of softy squishy hands..
the dripping syrup from those fluffy hands
got stuck here.. see..
O how tingling that sensation is even now!

Don't remember when and how
the andormohol light got off!
The palonko, scarlet ‘Ma’, fluffy hands
—how they all got faded!
For the touch of those who dwelled inside,
for the waft of burnt tobacco,
while standing still on this threshold for
ages-
our desires are minimised to a few knocks
now.

See, all we want is someone to knock.
Should you have knocked,
we would show what lies
beyond words,
beyond hope,
beyond dreams...

Bipasha Haque is a diaspora writer with particular interest in life-the way it is. By profession she is a university teacher.



Is Writing a Gift?

MOHAMMAD SHAMSUZZAMAN

If it is, where is this gift coming from? God? Ahem! As off-putting as it might sound, biographies and autobiographies of writers reveal that most so-called gifted writers are scoundrels. Writers revel in nympholepsy, zipper syndrome, drugs, gambling, mood swings, revenge, fabrications, and jealousy. Writers are eccentrics, too. Think, for example, of Doris Lessing, who abandoned her children to pursue her literary career, or of Virginia Woolf, who committed suicide to save her husband from the consequences of her chronic bipolar disorder. Despite these vices and eccentricities, we tend to consider writers as those whose talents were bestowed on them by God. But why should God gift a group of people who are known for their transgressions? Writing is a secular engagement, and God has nothing to do with writing. Everybody is potentially capable of becoming a writer. Everybody, however, doesn't want to become a writer given that any serious writing is difficult. Very few people want to become writers; fewer write; and fewest are the writers that we read and admire. Because original and authentic writing is coming from only a handful of writers, we conclude that these people are exceptional and gifted. They are not, but the conjectural connection between writing and God is perhaps as old as writing itself. Let me exhume a bit of hoary history in this regard.

Ancient Greek mythology or religion used to consider writing an inspired undertaking. A writer is someone possessed when inspirational gods, Muses, speak through her. What these gods produced was *logos*, the divine word, and the Gospel claims, “the Word was God.” The Greek linguistic and cultural connotation and context of writing was uncontested in Latin, too. In Latin, the word *vates* stands for both poet and prophet. Since antiquity and into the Romantic period, the act of writing was linked to a kind of sacred mission to reveal spiritual realities of artistic and aesthetic dispositions. Writers were not mere human beings. They were seers with clairvoyance. What they created had a divine origin and aura. Unlike other mundane activities, writing used to require prayers and meditations--invocations-- to make a connection with a transcendental realm. Writing as such sprang from a secret, sacred source. That's how a secular human endeavor like writing got implicated in God and gift. Challenging such a

romantic notion of writing amounted to a blasphemy, even when some disgruntled observers occasionally reminded us that writers were the first group of people to defy and defile God throughout the history of our civilization. So, God continues to gift his enemies, who are unlike lesser mortals. Writers are deified as geniuses. Are they so?

Howard Gardner debunks the myth of “genius” in his book, *Creating Minds*. He examines the lives of seven extraordinary individuals, who each reinvented an area of human endeavor. Some of the names include geniuses like Sigmund Freud, Pablo Picasso, Albert Einstein, and T.S. Eliot. With all the geniuses that he examined, he found one common attribute: “the capital of childhood.” These geniuses were gripped by their passions since their childhood and devoted almost invariably ten years to make their initial creative breakthrough and another ten years for subsequent breakthroughs. When these geniuses stunned the world with their creative endeavors, they were well-prepared, not well-endowed by God. Excellent writers fall in the same framework of observation. The testimonies of the writers in the *Paris Review* reveal one common characteristic, which E.M. Forster in his interview in the same journal in 1953 calls a “literary childhood.” George Orwell claims in his essay “Why I Write” that at the age of five or six, he knew that he would grow up to be a writer, and at the age of sixteen, he discovered the joy of words. Likewise, V.S. Naipaul claims in his essay “On Being a Writer” that quite early in his life, he had the “ambition” to become a writer. And his ambition spurred the commitment and diligence to win a scholarship at Oxford to learn the craft of writing. The testimonies of these writers evince that becoming a writer is neither an epiphany nor a revelation. It's a considered decision fueled by ambition and passion. A writer's development, then, follows an often predictable pattern.

Can this pattern pin down a writing genius like Rabindranath Tagore, the only Nobel Laureate in Bangla literature? Skeptics and scholars would scoff at any attempt to fit Tagore in a pigeon-hole of rituals that the development of a writer presupposes. An autodidact as he was, he hardly had any formal education. His literary creation, however, continues to guide the peoples of the Indian subcontinent--and beyond--for emotional, intel-

lectual, and spiritual survival as well as revival even 78 years after his death. His language is fresh and lucid; his thinking is sublime and unique; and he so gracefully shuttles between genres (e.g., lyrics, poetry, essays, short stories, and novels) that he seems to have drawn from a mysterious source. To argue that Tagore is not gifted is a tough sell. A disinterested critic would yet like to claim that Tagore was the beneficiary of the accident of a noble birth. Amartya Sen, another Nobel Laureate in Economics from India, was invited to deliver a lecture in 2011 at the University of British Columbia, Canada, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs that university offers. While he didn't lecture on Tagore's development as a writer, he presented Tagore as an ultimate embod-

childhood,” which imbued him with an aptitude for literature. Writing was not a passing passion for Tagore. It was his only occupation. Add to Tagore's literary childhood Malcolm Gladwell's rule of 10,000 hours. Citing ample examples, Gladwell argues in *Outliers* that there are no instant experts in any cognitively demanding fields. The amount of practice needed for exceptional performance is extensive—at least 10,000 hours. Tagore seems to have spent Gladwell's requisite 10,000 hours or more in absorbing and practicing the craft of writing before he started his writing career. And the more he practiced, the more he excelled. Tagore, then, is a genius without any divine intervention. He became a writer by being a writer.

And that's what all writers do. The

erature is nothing but carpentry. Both are hard work, full of tricks and techniques, and very little magic. Citing Proust, he claims that writing takes ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration. Turkish Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk echoed Márquez's view on writing in his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize in 2006: “The writer's secret is not inspiration—for it is never clear where it comes from—it is his stubbornness, his patience.” And of course, the writer's conviction that writing is a human invention that he fully owns. If he creates magic and mystery with written words, the creator is still him.

A gifted writer is a euphemism for an accomplished writer. These days most accomplished writers seem to undergo adequate academic training before they



iment of interdisciplinary studies given his cultural and literary orientations. He implied that Tagore thrived in an environment conducive to his talents.

Professor Sen cited Tagore's own description of the cultural background of his family: “a confluence of three cultures: Hindu, Mohammedan and British.” He further claims that Tagore's grandfather, Dwarkanath, was well known for his command of Arabic and Persian, and Tagore grew up in a family atmosphere in which a deep knowledge of Sanskrit and ancient Hindu texts was combined with the learning of Islamic traditions as well as of Persian literature. While Tagore may have had the gift of genius, his cultural and literary backgrounds helped him own and hone that gift. Tagore doubtless had a “literary

Paris Review interviews all so-called gifted writers. One of the common questions they pose to all writers is what they suggest to aspiring writers in order to excel in writing. None of the writers has suggested that a potential writer wait until God starts whispering words into her ears. Ernest Hemingway's answer to this question was, “Tell him to go out and hang himself. If he survives, then he has a story to tell. Writing is so difficult.” If writing were not so difficult, why would Gabriel Márquez claim in his *Paris Review* interview in 1981 that he could write only 50 words a day and that next day he would cross out all those words? For a so-called genius like Márquez, writing should have come copiously and perfectly from God. It never did, though. He likens writing to the making of a table. He claims that lit-

venture into serious writing. Think, for example, of some of the Bangla-speaking accomplished writers who write in English: Kaiser Haq, Amitabh Ghosh, Tahmima Anam, and Zia Haider Rahman. They all are university educated people and have had prolonged exposure to literature as well as to the learning and teaching of writing. Their development as writers reveals a predictable pattern of preparation. For all of them, writing is an intellectual achievement, not a natural endowment. Why should it be different for any other writer?

Writing is NOT a gift!

Mohammad Shamsuzzaman is an Assistant Professor, Department of English and Modern Languages, North South University, Bangladesh.

A TRANSLATION OF SYED MANZOORUL ISLAM’S SHORT STORY, “KATHPOKA”

Woodworms (Part II)

BY NOORA SHAMSI BAHAR

“I’m doing what I feel like doing. What’s that to you?” Aslam retorted. He opened the door and said, “Like mother, like daughter. Get lost.”

Now, Ohona was not a simple girl, despite her looks. She also did not like to be shouted down. She said, “You are a crude person, Baba. Uncultured. Are you drunk?”

Aslam charged towards his daughter. Her facial expressions filled with anger. “Disgusting,” she said and then left.

Once his daughter had left, Aslam sat on the divan and realized his foot with which he had kicked the bookcase, had started to hurt a lot. He pondered over the issue as he massaged his foot. No, not over the pain in his foot, but over Ohona’s behavior. It was positively certain that Ohona loathed him. He also thought that she lived in this house only for her father’s money. Ohona was greedy for money. “*Shala* Ohona!”

3

On the third night, Aslam was in an agitated mood, although he should have been happy. He had sacked the sensuous Dana – the culprit behind his woes. He had also fired Mamata Akhter, even though Mamata’s son, who had a rheumatic heart, was in United Hospital, and for whose treatment, an exorbitant sum of money was needed. This afternoon, Aslam had gone to the head office of a government bank – and strangely enough, he had forgotten the name of the bank; he could vaguely remember that the bank’s name had a similar ring to the color of a foreign actress’s blonde hair – and had received a huge sum as loan. After sending the termination notice to Mamata, he had called Rehena and told her, “If you call me back within fifteen minutes and tell me, ‘Salu, keep Mamata, let go of Dana,’ then I will do just that; not only will I do so, I will even give her a raise.” But there was no response from Rehena. Calling back was out of the question. The fact that she had absent-mindedly received Aslam’s aka Salu’s call – Rehena had given him this nickname on the night of their wedding – made her so angry she bit her hand for lifting the phone instead of letting it ring. Aslam returned home at 11:00 at night. He had had dinner outside, and didn’t even switch on the TV; he went straight to the study. He picked up a book without even looking at it. As he sat in the easy chair, he thought

he would dispose of all the books. For some reason, the books weren’t the reassuring company they had been all along. He realized that for the last three nights, he had been reaching out for the same book and yet hadn’t been able to read a single page. He didn’t even know what sort of a book it was – a novel, a play, or a book about the share market. He had already decided to get rid of Rehena, but now he resolved to get rid of the books along with Rehena. Tomorrow, perhaps, Ohona will be a part of the list.

“*Shala* books!”

He felt a certain sense of fulfillment by cursing the books, as if he was cursing the Professor *Shala* once again. But before the satisfaction of cursing could fully set in, the chainsaw gang was at it again. As if a hired assassin had aimed



his machinegun at him and had started to fire – krr krr krr.

Now Aslam’s temper shot up and blew his top. He felt a strong desire for vengeance. Baba’s mahogany wood bookcase! A token of his affection! He couldn’t accept the slightest bit of injury to it. Had it not been Baba’s bookcase, he would have taken it into the field and set it on fire. But even without burning it, it is possible to eliminate the machinegun-firing murderer and/or murderers. He suddenly recalled Dr. Babul Fakir’s name. Babul is an entomologist, and teaches at the same university as the Professor friend. It’s been a while since they’ve been in touch. He managed to find Dr. Fakir’s number from a dairy and called him.

It was pretty late. But when Babul answered, Aslam could clearly hear the sound of the television. Aslam felt comforted. He said, “This is Aslam, Dosto, your Aslaimma, do you remember?”

“Why wouldn’t I, Dosto?” Babul spoke back in a thunderous voice. Babul was watching a blockbuster Hindi thriller, *Kahani*, on the video. He asked his wife to put it on pause and said, “I read in the newspaper that you’ve stolen forty five crores from a bank. *Shala*, you’re doing well, earning fame by spending others’ money,” and burst into laughter. Aslam was mad at himself for calling Babul; he thought he would kill himself for this after hanging up. But before that, he would have to kill the woodworm or woodworms.

Babul then shared his knowledge, based on his expertise. “Woodworm or

Its mandible is so hard that that even if one places it on a hard base and smashes it with a grinding stone, it won’t break.

How abject!

“But Dosto, woodworms don’t feed on good wood or seasoned wood – they don’t feed on Teak wood or Cashmere wood. They won’t feed on the red portion of the wood of the jackfruit tree.”

Aslam had told him that the woodworms had infested the back portion of his bookcase. Babul cackled and said, “If you make a bookcase with bogus wood, woodworms will of course make a meal of it. Or is it that you’re so used to being a phony, *Shala* that nothing but a counterfeit catches your eyes? Okay Dosto, good night. I’ll have to hang up now. Bidya is after a criminal. Let’s see what happens now.” As he hung up, Aslam heard him telling his wife, “Shopna, let’s get back to the movie. Play.” He didn’t say a word about how to kill the woodworms. Bidya Balan’s fate was more of a priority to Babul than the woodworms’.

4

Dr. Babul Fakir’s words burned Aslam’s ears. And now, the rage singed his hair. Smoke rose from his head. But soon enough, his fury subsided. Phone in hand, he remained motionless. He felt that Babul Fakir was tugging at the ground beneath his feet.

“*Shala* Fakir!”

But while he was cursing Babul, he suddenly saw before his eyes, the woodworms, resting on the bookcase’s glass. Not one, but a multitude. White bodies, black heads, antennas longer than the bodies. Shockingly, the insects were looking at him, and they were laughing.

Aslam stood up, walked to the bookcase, and stood close to it. The insects didn’t move, didn’t flee; they just sat there, immobile. Twenty days after their birth, their bodies fattened up by vapor and microbes, they looked invincible. Avoiding the insects, Aslam put his hand on the bookcase. The chilly air from the AC had turned the bookcase cold. He felt a strange sensation of cool dewdrops in his hand. The sensation traveled to his heart. But as soon as it got there, it started to turn torrid. Aslam realized his blood was boiling. This blood would now shoot up to his head.

Is the woodworm – or woodworms

But while he was cursing Babul, he suddenly saw before his eyes, the woodworms, resting on the bookcase’s glass. Not one, but a multitude. White bodies, black heads, antennas longer than the bodies. Shockingly, the insects were looking at him, and they were laughing.

– the reason he was so furious? No, Aslam felt furious and exasperated because he had come to the realization that his father had been cheated when he got the bookcase made. The furniture maker had promised him mahogany wood but had tricked him with bogus wood.

“He deceived Baba? My Baba?”

The more he thought about it, the more he seethed. He decided if the man who had cheated Baba were still alive, he would send people to hunt him down, wherever he may be. Then he would summon him to appear in front of him. Then he would see what he would do.

With this in mind, he felt some solace. Going back towards the easy chair, he told his Baba, “The one who pulled a fast one on you won’t get away so easy. I’ll get him. And make him pay. You, the conman!”

As if in applause to his words, the woodworms started with their squeals: krr krr. They began nodding their hard jaws while laughing, as if they were saying something. Aslam noticed that along with the woodworms, the reflection of his Baba’s smiling face surfaced on the glass plane of the bookcase, and he said something too, synchronizing with the trumpet of their chorus.

“Are the insects saying, scammerrrrrr? Is Baba saying the same too? To whom?”

“*Shala*...”

Noora Shamsi Bahar is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English & Modern Languages at North South University.

Things I Thought I Thought Tonight

ABDULLAH RAYHAN

They have given me a grilled piece of chicken and a naan with the face of moon on a plate. The grilled chicken leg is brown with sides turned to dark coal. Grains of burnt spices glaze the piece. The naan has some sort of bread crumb slathered all over it. It is white and has a large brown spot on one side. Soft and fluffy, it glistens with brushed ghee or butter. The chicken piece also glows with its oily skin: the juice of the piece dripping. The heavy smell of spices and the soft smell of naan form a great combination. They also gave me a plate of salad. Pieces of cucumbers soaked in a splash of yogurt sauce. Its pink color hides the faded greenish white of the cucumber. Also, there is a glass with water filled almost to the rim. On the outer surface, drops of water cling to the glass, some dripping. Every drop reflects the white light over my head.

I tear a piece of naan, tear a section of the chicken with the same fingers and cover it with the naan. How much is the chicken? Cannot be over Taka 100. Tomorrow I have exam on prose. The short story mainly explores the loneliness of heart and the meaninglessness of our effort to fill in that void. I take two thin slices of the yogurt covered cucumber with the naan and put it in my mouth. How much money do I have? Maybe 500. Well, doesn’t matter. It will cover this. My father was supposed to be in Barisal today. Maybe he didn’t go. He’s ill after all. But he should have gone this week. The naan and the chicken taste good with the yogurt. No, he shouldn’t have. I take a sip of water. The buses outside are roaring.

They will head to my campus. Tomorrow I will have to get on one. Aarrgh! I didn’t take a shower today. I rode the bus twice today. I am filthy. What kind of question will we have to answer tomorrow? I will take a bath tomorrow.

Wow, this tastes really good. Doesn’t matter, whatever the questions maybe, I have a clear idea on the whole thing. It is about the loneliness of the heart and the meaninglessness of the efforts to try to fill that void. The bone of this chicken is so soft. The taste of this sauce is so smooth and soft. I will buy chips so that I don’t get hungry at night. What chips can I buy? How about I take another naan? No, that will cost too much. Why isn’t there any soap? There was one every time I came here. My hair is long. But I won’t cut them. The water feels good against my skin.

“Tissue,” it’s funny how he is standing with his fat belly.

“How much is it, a naan and a quarter grill?”

Where is the tooth pick? How much did he return? There!

Ok, its ok. Will I buy chips? No, let’s not. There was a pretty girl at the coffee shop today. Did I pay the bill of coffee today? Oh shit, it’s so slippery! What is this smell I get every time I get inside this lane?

Oh shit, here we go again. One, two, three, four.....twelve, thirteen, thirty four....Where’s the key!

It’s only the sixth floor. One more to go.

“A heart that’s Fill up like a landfill
A job that slowly kills you
Wounds that won’t heal.”



Oh, a little bit more. Ahhhhhh, where’s my phone? “Found you.” Tap tap tap tap tap tap tap..... I will study tomorrow morning. “Good night, Mou.” What will I think of today? A good day it will be when I will finally learn all the things I wanted

to and practice them every day. I will practice guitar a bit before leaving for campus. Will read books during the intervals of classes. Must practice German daily. I will buy *The Trial* this week. The books in my collection...of course a *Sherlock Holmes Omnibus*, *The stranger*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Midnight’s Children*...And...Ummm...And *Catcher*

in the Rye...*Catcher in the Rye*...*Catcher in the Rye*...*The Complete Works of Franz Kafka* is a must, and one of Murakami. Which one? Read the *Norwegian Wood*...*Sputnik Sweetheart*...Oh and *Lolita*.

Abdullah Rayhan is a student of the Department of English at Jahangirnagar University.

‘We can come back with points’

SPORTS REPORTER

 Centre-back Yeasin Khan was hopeful of returning to the country with points as the Bangladesh national football team departed for Kolkata yesterday to play an away 2022 World Cup Qualifier match against India after putting up a brave performance against Asian champions Qatar on Thursday night. “I don’t know the playing formation to be adopted against India, but I am hopeful of returning with points if we can replicate the performance against Qatar last night,” Yeasin told The Daily Star yesterday. “I believe the environment in Kolkata will be similar to Bangladesh. The venue we are going to play at is familiar to many of us as we played the final of the IFA Shield [in 2014] for Sheikh Jamal DC. There may be a big crowd at the venue like the one we saw last night at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, but we are not going to accept defeat until the last minute,” said Yeasin,

who led a young Bangladesh backline in the absence of experienced defenders as the hosts gave their superior opponents a run for their money before going down 2-0. “To be honest, initially I was not confident in the young backline but coach Jamie Day told me to just enjoy the game without thinking of defence, and to accept defeat only after fighting and making the spectators happy,” said Yeasin. “If you saw the Afghanistan-Qatar match, Afghanistan conceded six goals despite playing a five-man backline but we played with only four men and Qatar had to toil to get goals, and there were no defensive lapses.” Yeasin was however disappointed to have conceded the last goal in stoppage time and believed that both of Qatar’s goals were lucky strikes rather than a result of creating clear-cut chances as every Bangladesh were good in every department. “You know the difference between Asian champions Qatar and Bangladesh, but it is a big achievement for us that we fought against them till the last minute. I think we were able to meet the expectations of our

supporters, although we created some goal-scoring chances but could not take them,” said Yeasin, adding that they should now work on finishing well up front before their encounter against India on October 15. “We could have achieved something had we scored at least one goal. The scenario of the match could have even been different had we struck the equaliser before conceding the second goal at the last moment,” said the veteran centre-back, who was all praise for the huge crowd that braved the rain and turned up at the Big Bowl to back their team. After reaching Kolkata, captain Jamal Bhuiyan urged everyone to forget the match against Qatar and focus on India. “It was a tough match and we are disappointed. Forget yesterday’s result. Now we have a big match against India and we still have the opportunity to do something in our group. The Bangladesh-India match will be a 50-50 affair or maybe it will be 55-45 in India’s favour. We hope for the best and want to win the match,” said Jamal in the video message.



Bangladesh coach Jamie Day briefs his charges at swimming pool during a recovery session at the team hotel JW Marriott in Kolkata after reaching the West Bengal capital yesterday. The booters will play their away match of joint qualifiers of 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup against India at the Salt Laka Stadium on October 15.

PHOTO: BFF



Bangladesh players celebrate after confirming the final berth of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship defeating Nepal 2-1 in their second match at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

Under-15s amble into final

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh confirmed the final berth of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship following a 2-1 win against Nepal in their second match at Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday. With two successive victories, Bangladesh and India topped the four-team group with six points each, but the latter are ahead on goal difference as India saw off Bhutan with a massive 10-1 win in the day's second match. On the back of a 2-0 win over Bhutan in the previous match, Bangladesh squared off against Nepal with sights on the final berth while Nepal, having lost 4-1 against defending champions India, had no alternative but to beat Bangladesh to stay in the race for the last four. The charges of Golam Rabbani Choton dominated the game from the outset and twice came close to taking the lead before Shaheda Akter Ripa, who also scored against Bhutan, opened the

account in the 12th minute, dribbling past three players with ease before finishing calmly with a right-footed shot. Bangladesh kept on mounting pressure for the second goal and the pressure paid off when Nepal defender Pratiksha Chaudhary handled the ball inside the box 12 minutes later. Captain Shamsunnahar converted the spot-kick to double Bangladesh's lead. Bangladesh began the second half promisingly but Nepal clawed their way back into the game after forward Amisha Karki collected a loose ball outside the area and chipped it over Bangladesh goalkeeper Rupna Chakma in the 64th minute. Bangladesh, however, held on to one-goal advantage to end the match. Bangladesh will take on India tomorrow in their last group fixture before playing the final on October 15 against the same side while already-eliminated Bhutan and Nepal will play their last match tomorrow.

‘The boys showed character’

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh may have lost to reigning Asian Champions Qatar 2-0 in their 2022 World Cup Qualifier match, but the men in red and green received warm appreciation from football stakeholders for the sustained fight they put up against the 2022 FIFA World Cup hosts. Zulfiker Mahmud Mintu, one of the country's top coaches on the domestic circuit, believed the footballers showed true character by playing competitive football instead of just defending against superior opponents. “I’m happy with their performance. Before the match I said that if the boys could implement 60 to 70 per cent of the game plan, I would be happy. The boys showed their character, which is very important to become a team, and the boys have to show their character in every match. They have to have the same mentality regardless of whether the opponents are small or big,” Mintu said. “I think the players’ mentalities have also changed because if you want to win the match, you need to defend as well as attack. Now our players know what to do during the transition period,” said the former national footballer, who also believes that this group of national footballers are now capable of implementing the coach’s instructions, having improved in that aspect in club football where they are guided by some foreign coaches as well as a few quality domestic coaches. “It seemed to me that coach Jamie [Day] did some homework on how to stop Qatar and took notes from Qatar-India match. The boys played accordingly and made good defensive blocks that did not allow the opponents to expose the defence. Bangladesh also tried to initiate attacks on break tried to utilize set-pieces like long throw-ins by Raihan Hasan, but unfortunately they could not cash in on those opportunities. I think Bangladesh played well and lost the game,” said Mintu, adding that it would not have been surprising if Bangladesh scored a goal and drew the match against Qatar. Mintu however opined that Qatar could not maintain their speed of play and implement their plans efficiently on a rain-soaked ground, which was to Bangladesh's advantage. “It doesn’t matter whether you lose the game; if you display character to have ball possession, build attacks, create chances and defend collectively, then you have to understand that your football has been improving. Although it is not possible to evaluate the country's football with one match, I think the boys played well against Qatar,” said the former Chittagong Abahani coach.



ZULFIKER MAHMUD MINTU

Former champions in one group

‘Third Sheikh Kamal Club Cup to be even better than the first two’

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions TC Sports Club of Maldives and inaugural edition's champions Chattogram Abahani were pitted in the same group in the draw of the third edition of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup, which was held at a hotel in the capital yesterday. The other two teams in Group A are Kolkata giants Mohun Bagan and Laos Premier League outfit Young Elephants FC. Group B features Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings, six-time professional league winners Abahani alongside

I-League champions Chennai City FC and Malaysian Super League outfit Terengganu FC. While Group A features two former champions, Group B, pits two Bangladeshi giants who shared the three top-flight titles between them last season. The eight-team event will take place from October 19 to 29 at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram, with two teams from each group making it to the semifinals following round-robin matches. While the first edition of the tournament in 2015 featured all eight teams from the South Asian region with hosts Chattogram Abahani beating Kolkata giants East Bengal in the final, the second edition saw teams from outside



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel picks a team during the draw ceremony for the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

South Asia participating. TC Sports of Maldives beat FC Pocheon FC of South Korea in the final to take home the title. The draw ceremony was held though a glamorous programme where representatives of all the stakeholders were present. Tarafder Ruhul Amin, vice-president of Chattogram Abahani and chief co-ordinator of the tournament, said that this edition will surpass the previous ones. “We have not had as big a tournament at club level as the one that is going to take place. This will be the most colourful event. The MA Aziz Stadium, has been renovated. This will be a Tier-2 competition of FIFA/AFC,” said the sports organiser. BFF president Kazi Salahuddin hoped that the tournament will help reinvigorate the memory of Sheikh Kamal further. “I am indebted to Chattogram Abahani and others for reinvigorating the memory of my childhood friend Sheikh Kamal,” Salahuddin said. State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel hoped that this tournament will help spread the name of Sheikh Kamal to the rest of the world. “I hope that Shaheed Sheikh Kamal's name will spread to not just Asia but beyond through this tournament.” **TEAMS** Group A: TC Sports Club, Mohun Bagan AC, Young Elephants FC, Chattogram Abahani Group B: Bashundhara Kings, Chennai City FC, Terengganu FC, Dhaka Abahani **Schedule:** Octo 19 to 29 **Venue:** MA Aziz Stadium, Chattogram **Champions:** 50,000 dollars **Runners-up:** 25,000 dollars **Participation money:** 10,000 dollars to each team

Bangladesh under-21s go 2-0 up

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U-21 hockey team took a 2-0 lead in the five-match Test series by handing visitors Oman a 2-0 in the third match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Hosts Bangladesh, who started the series with a 5-1 win before being held to a 2-2 draw in the second match, returned to winning ways against an improving Oman with Ashraful Islam and Saiful Alam Shishir scoring a goal apiece in the first and final quarter respectively. The national team's penalty corner specialist Ashraful opened the account in the ninth minute by converting a penalty corner before the goalless second and third quarters. Shishir, also a national player, wrapped up victory in the 53rd minute converting another penalty corner. The fourth match will take place today at the same venue before the fifth and final match on September 15.

SHORT CORNER

Women's A first T20 abandoned

The first game of the three-match T20 series between Bangladesh Women's A and India A were abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday. The visitors already whitewashed the home side in the three match one-day series. The second game of the T20 series will take place today at the same venue. -- Sports Reporter

Shakib's Tridents book final berth

Barbados Tridents defeated Trinbago Knight Riders by 12 runs in the second

qualifier match at the Brian Lara Stadium in Trinidad to go through to the final of the Caribbean Premier League on Thursday. Barbados were sent in to bat and scored 160 for six. Shakib Al Hasan came in and breezed to 18 off 12 with a four and a six to get them moving before he was removed in the ninth over. Shakib was hit for 16 runs in his very first over and did not return to the attack until the 13th over. He conceded 27 in the 2 overs he bowled, without managing a wicket. -- Star Sport Desk

CA introduces 12-month paid parental leave

Cricket Australia (CA) unveiled a “game-changing” parental leave scheme Thursday designed to let players in its history-making women's team remain in

the game while raising a family. The policy includes 12 months’ paid parental leave for players who give birth and a guaranteed contract extension for the following season so they know they can return to the sport. CA said it had been working on the policy with players and the Australian Cricketers Association for three years. “(It is) a world-leading parental leave policy providing all professional players peace of mind when starting a family,” it said. -- Afp

Stokes takes legal action against The Sun

England all-rounder Ben Stokes has taken a legal action against an English daily after it published details about his personal life and family.

The Sun had last month published a story which revealed that Stokes’ half-brother and sister were shot dead by his mother’s ex-partner in New Zealand, three years before Stokes was born. Now, according to The Guardian, Stokes and his mother, Deborah have filed proceedings against The Sun for invasion of privacy and recalling the tragic past that had been long forgotten. The legal proceedings were filed before photographs were published earlier this week showing Stokes appearing to grab his wife’s face at an awards event, an incident she described as “nonsense”. When The Sun leaked personal information about Stokes’ family, the star all-rounder had slammed the news article, terming the act as “utterly disgusting” and the “lowest form of journalism”. -- Agencies

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

STAR SPORTS 1

India v South Africa
Second Test, Day Two
Live from 10:00am

TEN 1

Euro Qualifiers
Italy v Greece
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

TEN 2

Euro Qualifiers
Denmark v Switzerland
Live from 10:00pm
Norway v Spain
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

National Cricket League

Four-Day Match, Day Three
Time: 9:30am

Rajshahi v Dhaka

Venue: KSOAS
Rangpur v Khulna

Venue: SANS

Barishal v Sylhet
Venue: SKS

Dhaka Metro v Chattogram

Venue: SBNCs



ROGER FEDERER

Roger, Novak bid adieu

AFP, Shanghai



Roger Federer’s trademark cool spectacularly deserted him and he was given a point penalty as he followed Novak Djokovic out of the Shanghai Masters quarterfinals yesterday.

Alexander Zverev defeated the usually unflappable Swiss 6-3, 6-7 (7/9), 6-3 in a dramatic match that saw Federer twice hit the ball out of the court in anger and row with the umpire.

The sixth-ranked Zverev, 22, faces Matteo Berrettini in the semifinals on Saturday after the Italian defeated Austria’s Dominic Thiem in straight sets.

Former number one Federer evaded questions about the umpire afterwards, shrugging his shoulders and firing back at one reporter: “So you can write something on Twitter, yeah?”

The 20-time Grand Slam champion saved five match points to force a deciding set, but he then became engaged in a continual war of words with the chair umpire.

His point deduction came at 3-0 and 30-15 down in the third set, as the 38-year-old threatened to unravel and he pinged

another ball towards the crowd.

Federer said that he “played alright”, but was effusive about the rise of Zverev, Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas, all in the semifinals in Shanghai.

“The young guys are knocking on the door big time, it’s exciting, it’s great,” he said.

Zverev has 11 career titles, but only one arrived this year.

Meanwhile, Tsitsipas said that he scares the “Big Three” after the young Greek stunned world number one Djokovic in their quarter-final.

The 21-year-old has now defeated Djokovic, Federer and Rafael Nadal this year to burnish his fast-growing reputation.

On Saturday though he faces the red-hot 23-year-old Medvedev -- who he has never beaten.

Tsitsipas recovered from losing the opening three games in just seven minutes to shock the reigning champion Djokovic 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Calling it the best comeback of his nascent career, the seventh-ranked Tsitsipas said he had dreamt of beating the “Big Three”.

It was a double celebration for Tsitsipas, who also confirmed his place in the prestigious season-ending ATP Finals.



NOVAK DJOKOVIC (R)

Kohli surpasses Bradman’s total

AFP, Pune



Virat Kohli hit a career-best 254 to go past batting great Don Bradman’s Test tally of 6,996 runs and put India in command of the second Test against South Africa on Friday.

Kohli recorded his seventh double century before he declared India’s first innings on 601 for five in Pune.

His 225-run fifth-wicket stand with Ravindra Jadeja, who made 91, pulverised the South African bowling after the hosts elected to bat first.

The tourists were precariously placed at 36 for three at stumps with paceman Umesh Yadav claiming the two openers.

Yadav trapped Aiden Markram lbw without scoring and then bowled Dean Elgar for six as the Proteas slipped to 14 for two.

Mohammed Shami sent back Temba Bavuma caught behind for eight as South Africa slipped for 33 for three.

Theunis de Bruyn on 22 and fast bowler Anrich Nortje, on two, were batting at the close with South Africa needing another 366 runs to avoid a follow-on.

Kohli made the day his own with a marathon innings that extended India’s domination after they resumed on 273 for three.

Playing his 50th Test as captain, Kohli surpassed Bradman’s total and then swept spinner Senuran Muthusamy for two to reach 200 and get the stadium crowd to its feet.

The benchmark puts him in the top 50

Test run-getters, a field led by Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar with 15,921 runs in 200 matches.

Muthusamy had Kohli caught at slip on 208 with his left-arm spin but TV replays showed he had overstepped the bowling line and the delivery was a no-ball.

Kohli and Jadeja attacked the opposition bowlers with a string of fours and sixes.

Kohli smashed Muthusamy for a boundary to go past his previous-best Test score of 243. He ended the day unconquered with 33 fours and two sixes.

Jadeja hit eight fours and two sixes in his 104-ball blitz. The skipper started the day on 63, surviving hostile fast bowling from Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander.

He brought up his hundred before lunch with a delightful straight drive for a boundary off Philander.

He put on 178 with overnight partner Ajinkya Rahane, who made 58 before becoming spinner Keshav Mahara’s 100th Test victim.

India had already been boosted by opener Mayank Agarwal’s second successive hundred on Thursday.

A series victory for India, who won the first of the three Tests on Sunday, will see them beat the record of 10 straight home series wins they share with Australia.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 601 for 5 declared (Agarwal 108, Pujara 58, Kohli 254 not out, Rahane 59, Jadeja 91; Rabada 3-93)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 36 (De Bruyn 20 not out; Yadav 2-16)



KOHLI... 254 not out

Dhaka Metro boosted by Sunny’s six

SPORTS REPORTER



Left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny bagged six wickets as Dhaka Metropolis fought

back to bowl Chattogram Division out for 290 on the second day of the opening round of the National Cricket League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

In reply, Dhaka Metro lost openers Shadman Islam (8) and Rakin Ahmed (6) early but skipper Marshall Ayub (21 not out) and Shamsur Rahman (26 not out) held the ship together and ended the day on 66 for two, still trailing by 224 runs.

Resuming the day on a healthy 147 for three, Chattogram’s Pinak Ghosh was dismissed by pacer Shahidul Islam after adding just two to his overnight score of 30. The other overnight batsman Tasamul Haque added 67 runs with Mahidul Islam for the fifth wicket, but then it was the experienced Sunny who took charge as he broke the partnership by removing the latter for 30.

The 33-year-old then rattled through Chattogram’s batting order and picked all remaining five wickets, including Tasamul who was bowled after scoring a team high of 90 off 249 balls. It was Sunny’s 19th first-class five-wicket haul and he ended with six for 87 from 39.5 overs.

In Fatullah, Rajshahi were trailing Dhaka Division’s first-innings score of 240 by 67 runs with four wickets in hand at the close. The reliable Mushfiquir Rahim top-scored as Rajshahi posted 173 for six.

Dhaka pacer Sumon Khan was on a roll as he removed the top three Rajshahi batsmen in Mizanur Rahman (1), Junaid Siddique (2) and Avishek

Mitra (6). Rajshahi were struggling on 14 for three before skipper Jahurul Islam and Mushfiquir added 121 for the fourth wicket.

Mushfiquir was eventually dismissed by off-spinner Shuvagata Hom after scoring 75 off 116 balls with the help of seven fours and three sixes. Rajshahi once again lost their way with the bat with national

took three and Forhad Reza picked up two wickets for Rajshahi.

At the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium, Rangpur posted 169 for five against hosts Khulna after the first day was washed out without a ball being bowled. After a delayed start due to a wet outfield, Rangpur lost wickets at regular intervals with Naeem Islam top-scoring with 48. Tanbir Hayder



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Dhaka Metro spinner Arafat Sunny (2nd from L) bagged his 19th fifer in first-class cricket on Day Two of their NCL match against Chattogram Division yesterday.

player Sabbir Rahman scoring just 11. Jahurul was unbeaten on 57 runs and will have to carry Rajshahi’s hopes on the third day.

Earlier, resuming on 143 for seven, Dhaka’s overnight batsman Taibur Rahman top-scored with an unbeaten 123-ball 88 that featured nine fours and a six, an instrumental hand in his side posting a challenging total.

National left-arm spinner Taijul Islam bagged four, pacer Shafiu Islam

(40 not out) and Sohrawardi Shuvo (31 not out) will resume the third day.

In Rajshahi too, play started late yesterday after the first day was washed out on Thursday. Sylhet posted 68 for three in the 31 overs of play possible against Barishal yesterday.

Barishal pacer Kamrul Islam removed both openers Imtiaz Hossain (6) and Tawfik Khan (16) before Zakir Hasan (32 not out) and skipper Alok Kapali (8 not out) batted till the close.

Elliott given 14-day ban

REUTERS, London

Liverpool youngster Harvey Elliott has been suspended from all domestic club football for 14 days after using offensive language to mock Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane in a video posted on social media.

Elliott issued an apology when the video came to light earlier this season. He was also fined 350 pounds (\$443) and asked to complete a “face-to-face education course”.

Fati called up to U-21s

AGENCIES, Barcelona



Barcelona teenager Ansu Fati has been called up to the Spain Under-21s squad for the first time.

The 16-year-old only received clearance to play for Spain on Thursday, and is being thrown into the mix in the country’s youth system at the earliest opportunity.

Many felt Fati would have been called up to the Spanish ranks in time for the upcoming U17 World Cup, which gets under way in Brazil later in October.

But an injury to Barcelona team-mate Carles Perez has given him an opportunity to bed into the system at a higher level.

He will now be in with a chance of featuring in Spain U21s European Championships qualifier against Montenegro on Tuesday.

Belgium qualify first following 9-0 rout

AFP, Paris



Belgium became the first team to qualify for the 2020 European Championship finals as Romelu Lukaku scored twice in a 9-0 thrashing of San Marino in Brussels on Thursday, while the Netherlands needed a late comeback to beat Northern Ireland.

Lukaku took his record Belgium international tally past 50 goals as Roberto Martinez’s Group I leaders opened up an unassailable 11-point lead over third-placed Cyprus with three games remaining.

The world-number-one ranked side booked their spot at next year’s tournament, which will be played at 12 venues across Europe, after seven straight qualifying wins. Russia appear set to take the second automatic slot from the group, after a 4-0 win over Scotland moved them eight points ahead of Cyprus.

Belgium will be one of the favourites as they look to lift a first major international title when the Euros get underway on June 12. Their victory at the King Badouin Stadium matched their record winning margin of nine goals, having previously beaten Zambia and Gibraltar 9-0 in 1994 and 2017 respectively and hammered San Marino 10-1 in 2001.

Belgium were forced to wait



Belgium’s Youri Tielemans (R) celebrates after scoring their sixth goal in a 9-0 demolition of San Marino in Euro 2020 qualifier at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

until the 28th minute for the initial breakthrough on Thursday, which arrived when Leicester midfielder Youri Tielemans fed Lukaku, who fired home his landmark goal.

The floodgates then opened, as Nacer Chadli slotted into the corner from the edge of the area three minutes later, and visiting defender Cristian Broli scored a comical own goal 10 minutes before the interval.

Lukaku wasted little time in making it 51 Belgium goals with a low, right-footed effort, before Toby Alderweireld’s deflected strike and

Tielemans’ drive made it six before half-time.

Substitute Christian Benteke drilled in number seven with 11 minutes remaining, 18-year-old Yari Verschaeren scored his first international goal from the penalty spot, and Atalanta defender Timothy Castagne completed the rout in the 90th minute.

Elsewhere, Memphis Depay’s late brace rescued the Netherlands a 3-1 win over Northern Ireland which sent Ronald Koeman’s men top of Group C.



The Daffodil Captain Cup Golf Tournament 2019, a three-day competition, began at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday. Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat, among others, was present during the inauguration as chief guest of the event.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



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

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

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation



SHAH CEMENT

ACHIEVED

Superbrands

AWARD



Mothers attend school with their children

Students perform better after the initiative

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Aiming to improve children's performance, a school in Chapainawabganj has been encouraging mothers to attend classes with their children.

Teachers of Shankarabati Polladanga Government Primary School said that the method is working.

The mothers sit with their children in the classrooms once a week for about an hour to help kids with difficult tasks.

There are eight teachers in the school against 333 students.

After several third graders performed poorly in the quarterly exams last year, the teachers held a meeting to find ways to improve the children's grades.

They came up with the idea of having mothers in the classroom as an experiment, said Head Teacher Monowara Khatun.

They also hold class tests on Thursdays, and give the results to the mothers on Saturdays. With the help of a teacher, the mothers then help the children solve the tasks that appeared on Thursday's exam.

Those students performed better in the final exams last year, added the head teacher.

The focus is mainly on maths, Bangla and English, Monowara said.

There are 74 students in grade III. Of them, 26 are weak in different subjects. Thanks to the mother-teacher coordination, they will eventually do better in the final

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Mothers of third graders attend a class with their children at Shankarabati Polladanga Government Primary School in Chapainawabganj town. The school authorities made this arrangement to help the mothers support their children in improving performance. The photo was taken early this month.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

Woman hurt as husband throws acid

Accused sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Moulvibazar court yesterday sent a man to jail on charges of throwing acid on his wife in Kulaura upazila.

Police arrested day labourer Cherag Mia, 37, on Thursday night, hours after the incident.

With burn injuries to the left hand and waist, victim Salma Begum, 30, was undergoing treatment at Kulaura Upazila Health Complex, said doctor Nurul Haque.

Cherag threw acid on Salma in front of their house in Dawlatpur village and fled, said Eardous Hasan, officer-in-charge of Kulaura Police Station, quoting locals.

A case was filed with the police station that night.

The couple got married six years ago and has a five-year-old son.

An aunt of the victim said Cherag used to torture Salma and ask her to bring

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Turkey intensifies Syria campaign

US, EU threaten Ankara with sanctions, arms embargo

REUTERS, Istanbul

Turkey stepped up its air and artillery strikes on Kurdish militia in northeast Syria yesterday, escalating an offensive that has drawn warnings of humanitarian catastrophe and threats of sanctions and condemnation from US and allies.

The incursion, launched after Trump withdrew US troops who had been fighting alongside Kurdish forces against Islamic State militants, has opened a new front in the eight-year-old Syrian civil war and drawn fierce international criticism.

In Washington, Trump - fending off accusations that he abandoned the Kurds, loyal allies of the United States - suggested that Washington could mediate in the conflict, while also raising the possibility of imposing sanctions on Turkey.

Later, US Defense Secretary Mark Esper told his Turkish counterpart Hulusi Akar they need to find a way to deescalate the situation before it becomes "irreparable" and said Turkey's incursion risks serious consequences for Ankara, the Pentagon said on Friday.

EU governments threatened sanctions against Turkey over its offensive in Syria, angrily rejecting President Tayyip Erdogan's warning that he would "open the gates" and send 3.6 million refugees to Europe if they

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

South Africa ex-leader Zuma to face graft trial

AFP, Pietermaritzburg

South Africa's scandal-plagued former president Jacob Zuma will face a corruption trial, a court ruled yesterday, in one of multiple alleged graft cases over his long political career.

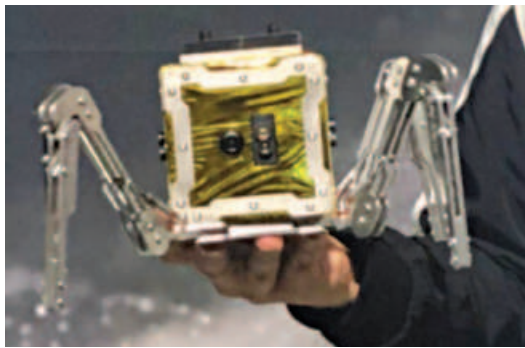
The country's High Court unanimously dismissed Zuma's bid for a permanent stay of prosecution over 16 counts of fraud, racketeering and money laundering relating to a multi-billion-dollar arms deal dating back to before he took office in 2009.

Zuma, who has been accused of taking bribes from French defence

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

FIRST EVER LUNAR MISSION

UK to send robot spider to the moon



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The UK's first ever moon rover will head to the lunar surface in 2021.

The tiny robotic lunar lander - the smallest ever made - has legs instead of wheels and resembles a spider.

It will walk over the moon's surface with the aim of informing future human missions.

If successful, the UK will become only the fourth ever country to put a rover on the moon, after the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

'INFORMAL' SUMMIT Modi, Xi look to patch up India-China ties

AFP, Mahabalipuram

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday arrived in India for an "informal" seaside summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed at mending relations between the historically prickly Asian giants after sharp words over Kashmir.

China was irked by India's August move to split Jammu and Kashmir in two because it will make the state's Ladakh region -- part of which is claimed by Beijing -- a separate Indian administrative territory.

India meanwhile has been enraged by China's diplomatic backing for Pakistan, which controls a much larger part of Kashmir.

Part of Beijing's Belt and Road infrastructure mega-programme is planned in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and Xi held talks with Prime Minister Imran Khan in Beijing just two days before meeting Modi.

When Xi said he supports Pakistan's "legitimate rights", India's foreign ministry thundered it was "not for other countries to comment on the internal affairs of India".

The Indian Express newspaper quoted unnamed sources as saying Modi would urge Xi to be more "sensitive" to India's concerns, and to "explain to the Chinese president the reasons behind Delhi's decision on Kashmir".

Delhi feels Beijing has broken an understanding to be aware of each nation's "sensitivities and concerns", the paper said, noting India

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 12

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:45 12:45 4:15 5:45 7:15
JAMAAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Part of Beltia village in Tangail's Kalihati upazila is being devoured by the Jamuna on Thursday, a day after erosion hit the area, about two kilometres off the eastern end of Bangabandhu Bridge.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

JAMUNA EROSION IN TANGAIL 120 homes lost in a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Jamuna eroded at least 28 homesteads in Kalihati upazila of Tangail in the last three days.

Around 100 more homesteads and vast croplands were devoured last week at Bhuapur upazila.


The water level of the Jamuna was stable in the upazilas yesterday, said Mohammad Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Tangail, adding that most of the areas were affected

on Wednesday and Thursday.


Victims of the erosion, most of whom did not get enough time to shift their homes to other places, took shelter either at their relatives' houses or under the open sky. They blamed indiscriminate sand lifting for the erosion alleging that some local influential people did not stop lifting sand even after receiving repeated warnings from the authorities.

"We had been demanding for a permanent embankment in the area for

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
UGC Bhaban, Plot # E-18/A, Agargaon Administrative Area
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Website : www.ugc.gov.bd



Commonwealth Scholarship - 2020

Viva -Voce Schedules

The Viva-voce of the Commonwealth Scholarship – 2020, both for the Open and Staff Category, is going to be held from the 14th October 2019. The applicants are requested to visit the UGC website (www.ugc.gov.bd) to get the Short List of candidates and Viva-voce Schedule. All relevant information will be uploaded at the UGC website timely. No personal contacts will be made on this issue.

With the approval of the authority
Jesmin Pervin
Additional Director (ICC), UGC