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DISMAL PICTURE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

37pc teachers rely on 'guidebooks'

Study reveals lack of subject-based training of teachers badly affecting classroom teaching

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

About 55 percent of English and mathematics teachers in secondary schools have not been trained specifically to teach the two key subjects. This has been affecting the quality of education.

Moreover, about 75 percent of physics teachers, 78 percent chemistry teachers and 64 percent general science teachers do not have the necessary training, according to the Education Watch Report 2018-19.

The report of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) also shows that 37.1 percent of the teachers use unauthorised "guidebooks" sold in the market.

"The lack of subject-specific training is definitely affecting the quality of education. At the secondary level, teachers are supposed to be experts on the subjects they teach," CAMPE Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury told The Daily Star.

Teachers without subject-specific training usually fail to give proper instruction to students. If the teachers are bad at solving the tasks, the students get deprived of knowledge, said the eminent educationist.

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC TRAINING

The latest report focusing on Secondary School Teachers in Bangladesh in the Light of SDG 4, shows that less than half the

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A comparison of the actual time and the time being showed by this clock put up by the DSCC around four years ago on Ramna Road. The clock stopped working six months into operation and it serves as a reminder that many projects are undertaken but little to no effort is given to their maintenance. The photo was taken yesterday.

BNP leader Maj Hafiz gets bail

Court rejects remand prayer of cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Vice-chairman Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed was granted bail yesterday, a day after his arrest under the Digital Security Act.

Metropolitan Magistrate Atiqul Islam passed the order, rejecting a seven-day remand prayer filed by police.

Hafiz was arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport when he arrived from Singapore on Saturday.

He was accused of being involved in the "sending of false, misleading, fabricated, and ill-motivated information

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BUSINESS



STANDARD MATERIALS FOR SAFE CONSTRUCTION

The provisions of the building code must be strictly enforced throughout the whole country. Ensuring that structures remain safe throughout the whole lifecycle via regular maintenance and continuous inspection is not being practised in Bangladesh. This has been a major cause for tragic failures leading to loss of human lives.

READ MORE IN BUSINESS JACKET

DSW AT BUET

Whose welfare is it anyway?

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The name describes the role it is assigned.

But in reality, the Directorate of Students' Welfare at Bu et seems to have nothing to do with the welfare of students.

The DSW hardly took any action against errant BCL leaders and activists for unleashing a reign of terror at the country's premier engineer university.

It has long been turning a blind eye to the mindless torture and harassment of general students at the Bu et halls, thus making the members of the pro-government student body more and more ruthless and desperate.

The DSW director is the member-secretary of the Board of Residence and Discipline, the highest body to supervise

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

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ABRAR MURDER

'No link with freedom of expression'

Foreign ministry tells UN's Mia Seppo

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has told the UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Mia Seppo that the killing of Bu et student Abrar Fahad had nothing to do with freedom of expression.

"We explained to her the position of the government and the actions taken after Abrar killing, which was not linked to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Charge sheet next month

DMP official says; another accused BCL man confesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bu et student and BCL activist Mujahidur Rahman Mujahid, an accused in Abrar Fahad murder case, yesterday confessed to a magistrate that he along with several others hit Abrar with a skipping rope.

Mujahid in his confessional statement named several Chhatra League leaders and activists who beat Abrar indiscriminately with cricket stumps and skipping ropes leading to his death, said a police official involved in the murder investigation.

Meanwhile, DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media and Public Relations) Md Masudur Rahman told The Daily Star that the charge sheet in Abrar murder case would be submitted to a court in the first week of next month.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Samrat victim of political, personal vengeance

His family claims

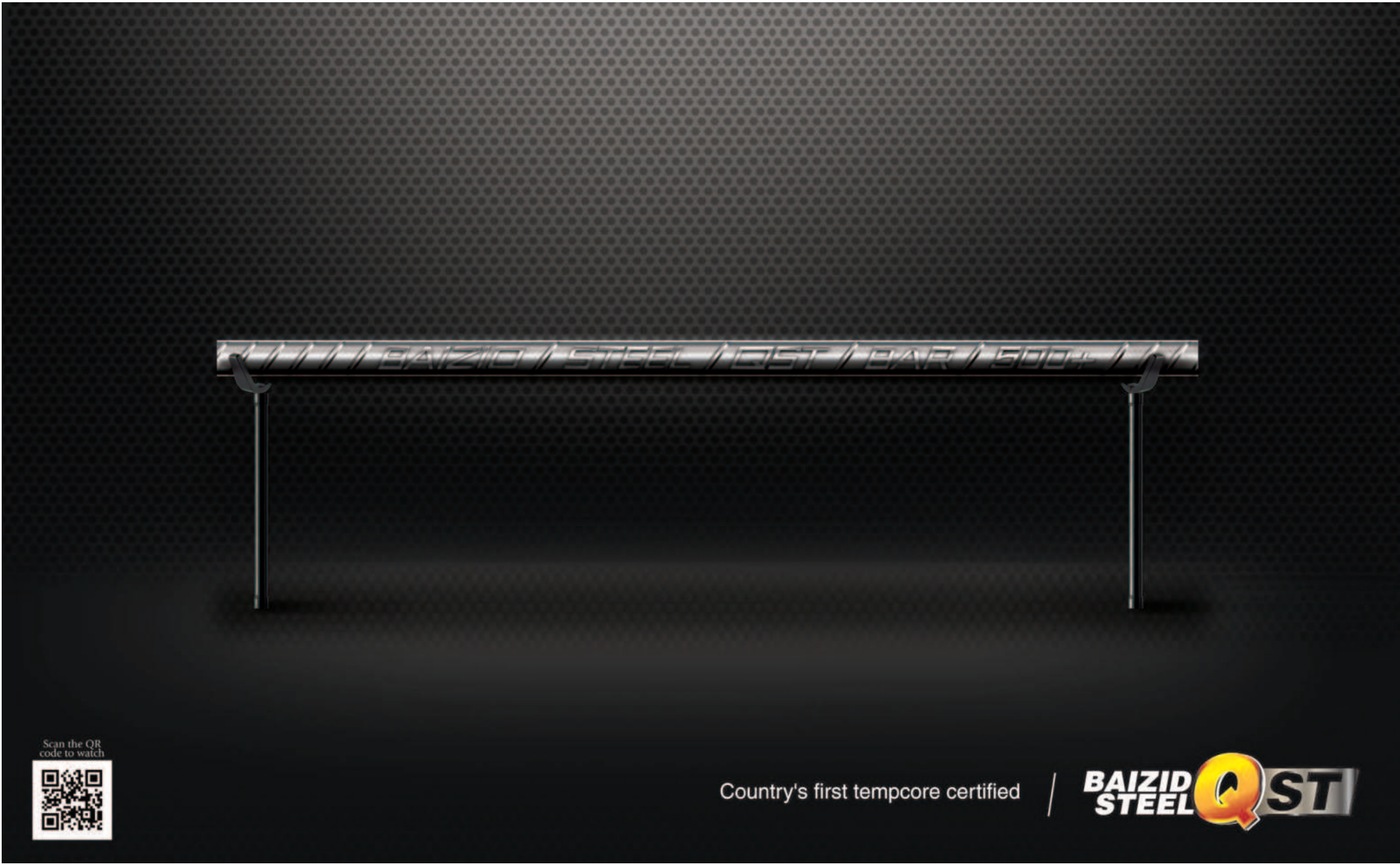
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat was implicated in cases due to political and personal vengeance, his family members claimed yesterday.

They, however, did not go into detail about their allegations.

Saying that Samrat was very sick, they also

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



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BAIZID STEEL QST

Minor girl killed, dumped in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police yesterday recovered the body of a six-year-old girl in Pabna's Sujanagar upazila who went missing three days ago.

The victim -- Tania Akter, 6, of the upazila's Borkhapur village -- went missing from her home on Thursday, said Bodruddoza, officer-in-charge of Sujanagar Police Station.

Police primarily suspected that the girl was strangled to death. Later, the murderer tied her body with bricks and drowned it in a local pond, he added.

Yesterday, locals noticed the body floating on the pond. On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body, he further said.

The body was sent Pabna Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The victim's father filed a case with the police station accusing one named and some unnamed people.

Later in the day, police arrested the lone named accused Arzu, 40, who is a neighbour of the victim.

According to the victim's family members, Tania's father and the accused had a long standing enmity and the murder might have taken place over that.

Regulator halts LR Global's investment in bdnews24.com

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The stock market regulator yesterday put a pause on LR Global Bangladesh's investment of Tk 50 crore in local online newspaper bdnews24.com and instructed the asset management firm to hand in all documents within 24 hours to verify if the transaction is compliant with securities rules.

As per securities rules, an asset manager can invest in listed securities, initial public offerings (IPO), pre-IPO placement shares and securities that are transferrable in the money market.

But bdnews24.com is a non-listed company.

"So, we want to check whether the investment follows all rules," said a top official of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on condition of anonymity.

In 2015, LR Global Bangladesh, an asset management firm, was fined Tk 50 lakh for its investment in four non-listed private companies: Guardian Healthcare, Thyrocare Bangladesh, Property Investors and Tribeca Management.

Contacted, Reaz Islam, managing director and chief executive officer of LR Global Bangladesh, said: "We follow all the existing rules."

Toufique Imrose Khalidi, editor-in-chief of bdnews24.com, said: "We followed all rules and regulations and closed the transaction after a long process. LR Global has also consulted with lawyers."

Scotland releases man mistaken for French murder suspect

AFP, Glasgow

Scotland's police on Saturday released a man after he was mistaken for a French fugitive wanted for killing his wife and four children eight years ago.

French judicial sources had initially believed that they had finally caught up with Xavier Dupont de Ligonnes, who was subject to an international arrest warrant for the 2011 killings which transfixed France.

But Scotland's police said they had informed their French counterparts that forensic tests proved the man detained at Glasgow airport on Friday was not Dupont de Ligonnes.

"Inquiries were undertaken to confirm the man's identity. Following the results of these tests it has been confirmed that the man arrested is not the man suspected of crimes in France," the police, said in a statement.

"The man has since been released. The man and his family have no wish to speak to the media at this time and ask that their privacy be respected on this matter."

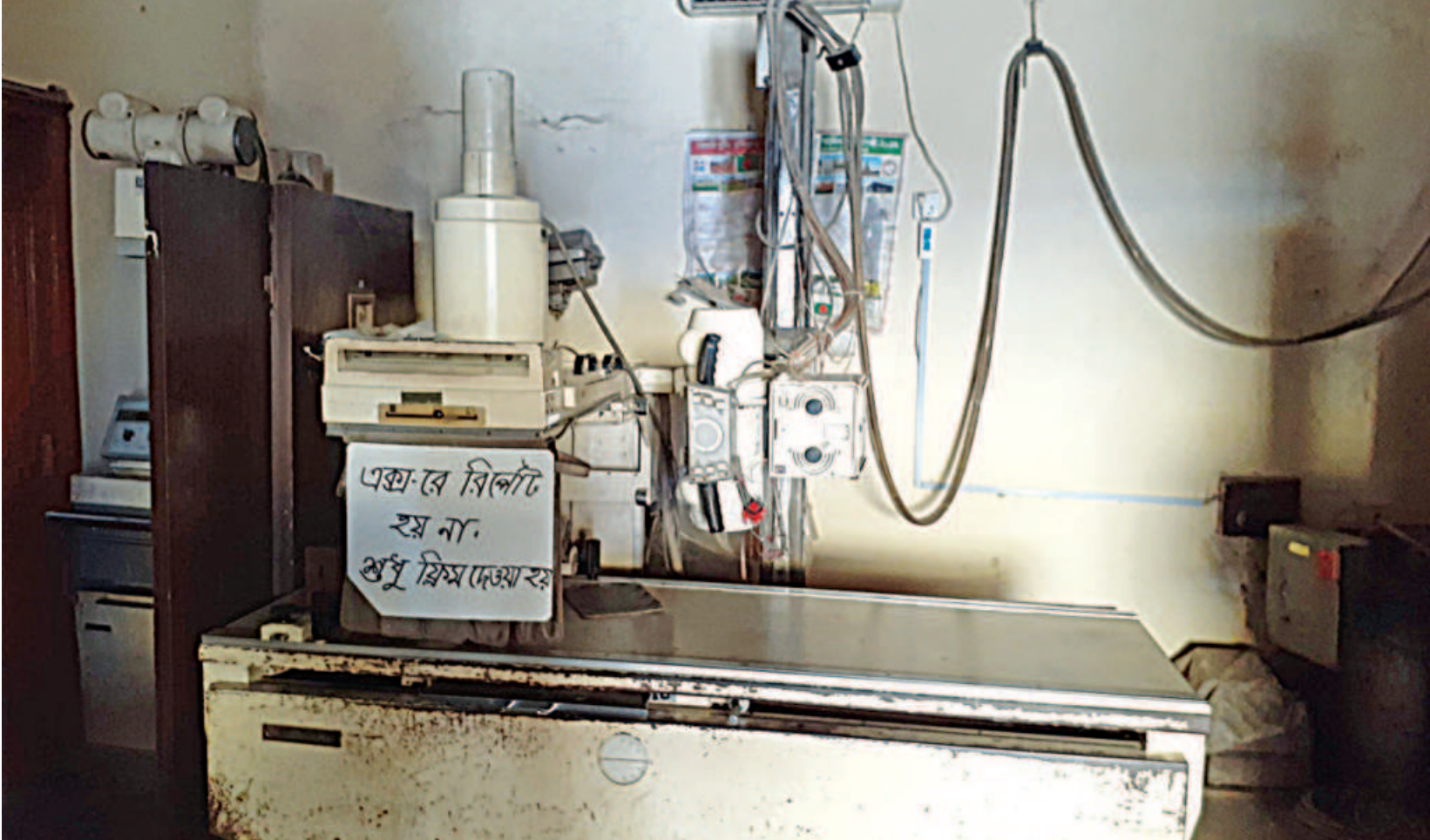
Sources close to the probe said the conclusion was reached after DNA tests.

The detained man was stopped in Glasgow after arriving on a flight from Paris following an anonymous tip-off, according to French sources close to the investigation.

Sources had said earlier that a fingerprint match had been made.

A police search was carried out on Friday at the arrested man's house in Limay in the western suburbs of Paris.

Neighbours told AFP the house belonged to Guy Joao, a man of Portuguese origin with French and British nationality and who is married to a Scottish woman.



A sign in front of the lone x-ray machine at Faridpur General Hospital reads "X-ray report is not given; only the film is given." The machine has remained inoperative for three months as due to the lack of a radiologists, resulting in patients having to pay almost three times as much to get the examination done at private diagnostic centres. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

37pc teachers rely on 'guidebooks'

FROM PAGE 1

teachers of religion, accounting, Bangla, Bangladesh and Global Studies, biology, ICT, higher mathematics, geography and history have subject-specific training.

"Many of these teachers resort to using [unauthorised] guidebooks for overcome their shortcomings," Rasheda said.

The researchers interviewed 3,000 teachers of 600, government and private secondary educational institutions across the country.

"GUIDEBOOKS"

English and mathematics teachers use the so-called guidebooks sold in the market to teach in every grade. Physics, chemistry and higher mathematics teachers use such books in grade IX and X classrooms.

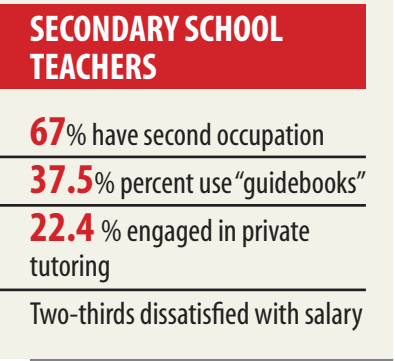
In all grades of the secondary institutes, 39 percent of English teachers, 33 mathematics teachers, 23 percent science teachers, 21.5 percent Bangla teachers and 17.1 percent Bangladesh and Global Studies teachers use such books.

The rampant use of "guidebooks" instead of the national textbooks and private tutoring are major challenges for improving education, the report observes.

Some of the "guidebooks" contain questions that are likely to appear

in exams. The answers are also given there. As a result, the students or teachers do not need to solve the tasks. All they have to do is memorise.

The use of guidebooks undermines the national textbooks and the teachers' involvement in private tutoring affects their classroom



teaching, the report says.

"Since these teachers fail to properly teach students, the latter become dependent on guidebooks and look for private tutors," said Rasheda.

PRIVATE TUITION

Although it is likely that some of the teachers may have not revealed the truth, 22.4 percent acknowledged that

they were involved in private tutoring.

About 50 percent of the maths teachers are involved in private tutoring. They are followed by English teachers with 37.5 percent of them involved in private tutoring.

The teachers revealed that they do this to earn some extra to compensate for their meagre income, the report mentions.

Teachers, mostly from the private educational institutions, reported that their salary and benefits were not enough to run families.

"Majority of the science teachers, including myself, are involved in private tutoring. I cannot maintain my family with the salary I draw from my school... I have to engage in private tutoring," a chemistry teacher of a school in Sylhet was quoted as saying.

SECOND JOB

"During our research we found that two-thirds of the teacher have a second job," one of the researchers Samir Ranjan Nath told this newspaper.

As a second job, 23.3 percent of the teachers are into farming, 19.5 percent into household management, 11.3 percent into private tutoring, 4.4 percent into small and medium business, 2.8 percent into aquaculture and 5.7 percent into other occupations.

The average annual income of a teacher is Tk 2,59,601. It is Tk

5,37,804 for government teachers, Tk 2,86,034 for MPO enlisted teachers and 1,41,035 for non-MPO enlisted teachers, Samir said.

Only 29 percent of the teachers were satisfied with their salary.

The teachers said they taught more than three subjects. On an average, they teach for 16 hours 10 minutes per week.

Question papers for exams were prepared through different means. Only 43.7 percent of the teachers said they themselves prepared the question papers.

The report says, 36.8 percent bought the question papers from teachers' associations, 14.4 percent from market, and 10.3 percent took the help of their colleagues.

THE GOVERNMENT SAYS

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said the report was an objective assessment of secondary education. "Such assessments are needed to reveal the overall situation," he said.

He added that the guidebook sellers were powerful businessmen. These businessmen compel teachers to recommend the guidebooks to students. The teachers receive a cut from the sales.

No link

FROM PAGE 1

freedom of expression," Nahida Sobhan, director general of UN wing at the foreign ministry, told The Daily Star.

The ministry summoned Seppo yesterday, four days after her office issued a statement deploring the murder of Abrar Fahad allegedly for freely expressing his views on a bilateral deal recently signed between Bangladesh and India.

The statement issued on October 9 read that campus violence in Bangladesh over the years had affected and claimed too many lives, with apparent impunity for those bearing the responsibilities.

The statement also said the UN Bangladesh notes steps taken by the authorities to apprehend the alleged perpetrators and encourages independent investigations that should lead to justice, and measures to prevent such incidents further.

"Freedom of speech is a human right, and nobody should be harassed, tortured or killed for exercising it," the statement also read.

In a talk of the Diplomatic Correspondents Association of Bangladesh the same day, Mia Seppo said as a mother of two, she found such a killing "horrific and nightmarish".

Abrar, a second-year student of Buet's electrical and electronic engineering department, was beaten to death by a group of BCL men at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall in the early hours of October 7.

Before that, Abrar was asked if he was involved with Shibir, student wing of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. The last Facebook post of Abrar was critical of the agreements signed between Bangladesh and India on sharing the water of Feni river.

At the meeting with Seppo that lasted for nearly half an hour since 11:00am, Nahida said the government guarantees freedom of expression of the citizens.

The issue of Abrar killing came up during a regular meeting where we have discussed various issues, Nahida said.

A foreign ministry official said the fact that the government was not happy about the UN statement was communicated to the top UN official in Bangladesh.

Also, UN doesn't usually issue such a statement when any student is killed in a developed country, he told The Daily Star.

Mia Seppo couldn't be contacted for comments.

Charge sheet

FROM PAGE 1

Mujahid told the magistrate that following a Facebook post by Abrar, some students of the 17th batch brought him to room 2011 at Buet's Sher-e-Bangla Hall on October 6 evening, suspecting that he was an Islami Chhatra Shibir activist.

Mehedi Hasan Robin, organising secretary of Buet BCL, was the first to hit Abrar, a second-year student of electrical and electronic engineering at Buet. Anik Sarkar, information and research secretary of Buet BCL, hit him the most, the police official said quoting Mujahid.

Earlier, three other accused in the murder case had given confessional statements to magistrates. They are Deputy Social Welfare Secretary of Buet BCL Ifthi Mosharrat Shakal, Sports Secretary of the BCL unit Meftahul Islam Zion, and Anik.

According to their statements, Anik indiscriminately struck Abrar more than a hundred times with a stump in his knees, legs and arms.

At one stage, Abrar fell on the floor. The BCL men then pulled him up and started beating him again.

After a few hours, Abrar started vomiting. He threw up thrice before becoming motionless.

The grisly murder took place between 7:30pm on October 6 and 2:30am on October 7. The incident touched off a firestorm of protest on university campuses across the country.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nivana Khair Jessi recorded the statement of Mujahid, a third-year student of electrical and electronic engineering and a member of Buet BCL, and then sent him to jail.

Mujahid was arrested along with nine other accused immediately after Abrar's murder. He was placed on a five-day remand.

So far 19 people -- 18 accused and one suspect -- have been arrested in the murder case.

CHARGE SHEET NEXT MONTH

DMP Deputy Commissioner Masudur said they have made significant progress in the murder investigation.

"Four accused have already given confessional statements, admitting their involvement in the murder. They have also divulged information on other accused and suspects," he told The Daily Star last night.

He further said they would complete forensic tests of the mobile phones of the accused and the victim by the first week of next month.

2 REMANDED, 5 SENT TO JAIL

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two accused in the murder case -- Buet students Shamim Billah and Abu Huraira -- on a five-day remand.

The court also sent five other accused to jail on expiry of their five-day remand. They are Buet BCL leaders Mehedi Hasan Russell, Muhtasim Foad, Ishtiaq Hasan Munna, Moniruzzaman Monir and Muntasir Alam.



It's anyone's game at Bangla Motor intersection. Pedestrians crossing amid haphazard traffic, motorbikes trailing behind, cars squeezing through the vacant space, and an officer watching helplessly -- all coming together to create a perfect Dhaka pandemonium. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Salim Prodhan on five-day remand

GK Shamim, Khalid sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed alleged online gambling ringleader Salim Prodhan on a five-day remand, in connection with a money laundering case. Metropolitan Magistrate Sabbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury passed the order after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Shahidul Islam Khan, investigation officer in the case, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer. Salim was arrested while boarding a flight at Hazrat Shahjalal Airport on September 30. On October 3, he and his two associates were placed on a four-day remand in the case filed under the Narcotic Control Act. Meanwhile, GK Shamim, a top government-listed contractor, and suspended Jubo League leader Khalid Mahmud Bhuiyan were sent to jail yesterday, on completion of their remands in connection

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

CHILD RIGHTS WEEK-2019

Competitive education system a burden: students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education is the backbone of a nation, but teachers and guardians have induced such a competitive situation that students are under serious and constant pressure. This was the opinion of a ninth grader of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Sorkari Ucha Maddhomik Bidyaloy, Shanjida Sraboni, who spoke at a discussion held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy yesterday. The programme titled "Equality is my right" was jointly organised by the academy and Brac to mark World Children's Day and Child Rights Week-2019. Sraboni, who represented around 500 school students at the programme, said due to the present method of education they are forced to forgo learning from nature. Demanding the right to express their opinions, she said children cannot freely express themselves as seniors do not allow it. Stressing the need to stop sexual harassment and abuse, she said girl children of the country face the worst of it, adding in many cases the abuse is committed by family members. Speakers at the discussion underscored the need for an environment to reduce discrimination between girls and boys. Eminent writer Selina Hossain said, "To prevent abuse of children, we should not always wait for the police and the government to take measures. We must ourselves act strongly to prevent these abuses." Bangladesh Shishu Academy Director Anjir Liton said that as a nation we are not playing an effective role in the development of children. There's not enough response to the ongoing Child Rights Week in the media, Liton said. Brac's Gender Justice and Diversity Director Anna Mini said that almost hundred percent children are now going to school, which is a good thing. "We are also proud that our girl footballers and cricketers are bringing honour for the country by winning international competitions," she said. Among others, Judith Herbertson, country representative of DFID and Nobonita Chowdhury, director, Violence against Women Initiative of Brac, also spoke at the programme. The discussion was followed by cultural programme and a prize giving ceremony.

HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK

Court summons last witness on Oct 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka court yesterday summoned the investigation officer, the last witness in the Holey Artisan café attack case, to appear before it on October 17 to narrate what he found in his probe. After recording statements of former Dhaka metropolitan magistrates, Judge Majibur Rahman of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka, asked Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crime Unit's Inspector Humayun Kabir to appear before the court. The tribunal recorded statements of 113 out of 211 witnesses including complainant of the case. The witnesses who gave their statements before the tribunal yesterday are: former Dhaka Metropolitan magistrates Golam Nabi, Maruf Hossain and Nur Nabi. On July 1, 2016, armed militants stormed Holey Artisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan and killed 20 hostages, mostly foreign nationals. Two police officials were also killed during the 12-hour standoff. Police held home-grown militant group "Neo JMB" responsible for the terrorist attack. On July 23 last year, investigation officer Humayun Kabir of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit submitted the charge sheet to the chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka, accusing eight people over the attack and naming 211 as prosecution witnesses. On November 26 last year, the tribunal framed charges against the eight accused.

Want to have Bangladesh ready for any calamity: PM

Equipment worth Tk 1,000 crore to be procured

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she wants to prepare Bangladesh so it can face any sort of disaster -- manmade or natural. "Whether a manmade or natural disaster strikes, Bangladesh will always remain prepared to tackle it. That's what we need," she said while addressing an event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) marking International Day for Disaster Reduction. Disaster management and relief ministry organised the programme, with the theme "Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services". State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Disaster Management and Relief Ministry AB Tajul Islam and Senior Secretary Md Shah Kamal also spoke at the programme. The Prime Minister distributed Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) awards to three volunteers from Chattogram, Barishal and Khulna divisions. This year, 82 volunteers got the awards. She also inaugurated 100 multipurpose cyclone shelters in 14 districts and 11,604 disaster resilient houses in 64 districts. Later, the premier inaugurated the Exhibition on Disaster Risk Reduction. After the country's independence, she said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had built 172 'Mujib Killa' to protect and save people's lives and property from devastating cyclones. With cooperation of the then

Red Cross, he had undertaken the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) in 1972, he said. "Presently, CPP has about 56,000 trained volunteers. Besides, there are 24 lakh Ansar-VDP members, 17 lakh scouts, four lakh BNCC members and four lakh Girls Guides ready to be engaged in humanitarian response at any time," Hasina said. She mentioned that the government has constructed 378 more Mujib Killa. Apart from this, 3,868 multi-purpose cyclone shelters have been built in the coastal districts and 1,650 more shelters will be constructed gradually. The PM said the government has taken a project on providing 5,00,000 household grain stores (silos) to families in 63 upazilas of 19 districts. By April 2019, the government provided silos to 3,28,000 families. Besides, the government is constructing eight silo complexes in eight districts with a storage capacity of 5,00,000 metric tonnes. "We're constructing silos so that we could preserve food grains for two years to face any adverse situation," she said. Hasina said the government has designed a project titled "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100" for combating climate change. "We've designed the project to provide a beautiful better future for the future generation," she said. To face any type of disaster, Hasina said, the country needs a large volume of equipment. "We have procured equipment worth Tk 236 crore, while the procurement of more equipment worth Tk 1,000 crore has been taken, so that we can face any disaster in every region of the country."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the inauguration for International Disaster Mitigation Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: P10

Pay Tk 10 lakh to Rajib's brothers in 30 days: SC to Sajan Paribahan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the owner of Sajan Paribahan to give Tk 10 lakh in a month to the brothers of Rajib Hossain, a college student who died last year after his right arm got stuck between two buses and got severed. A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain gave the order after hearing a petition filed by Sajan Paribahan, challenging a High Court verdict.

The HC on June 20 asked two bus companies -- Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation and Sajan Paribahan -- to pay in two months Tk 25 lakh each to Rajib's brothers Mehedi Hasan Bappi, 16, and Abdulla Hridoy, 15. Rajib, a third-year student of Government Titumir College, died on April 17 after he lost his arm while two buses of the aforesaid companies were trying to overtake each other in the capital's Bangla Motor.

'A vicious attack on freedom of speech'

Noted citizens say on Abrar killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent rights activists yesterday termed the killing of Abrar Fahad a vicious attack on freedom of speech, and said the government and university administration cannot avoid its responsibilities. "The ruthless killing of Abrar is an outcome of evil culture of forcibly curbing dissident opinion, political criminalisation, lack of justice and impunity," said a statement from the Committee for the Protection of Fundamental Rights. Expressing doubts over fair trial of the case, signatories said they are worried as trials of most university-based killing incidents were not held properly. Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Dr Shahdeen Malik, Prof CR Abrar, Dr Shahidul Alam, Prof Asif Nazrul, Syeda Rezwana Hasan, Prof Shahnaz Huda, Sara Hossain, Nur Khan Liton, Jyotirmoy Barua and Prof Rehnuna Ahmed, among others, signed the statement.

PROCUREMENT GRAFT AT RANGPUR MEDICAL

Top official of medical equipment company held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested a top official of a medical equipment supply company in connection with a case filed over misappropriating around Tk 4.48 crore from a procurement project of Rangpur Medical College (RMC). ACC Assistant Director Md Saiduzzaman arrested GM Syed Kamrul Ahsan, general manager of Bengal Scientific and Surgical Company, in the afternoon from the capital's Segunbagicha, said Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, public relations officer of ACC. On September 12, ACC filed the case against RMC Principal Dr Nur Islam and assistant professor Dr Sarawat Hossain; proprietor of Mercantile Trade International Abdus Sattar Sarkar, his son and proprietor of Bengal Scientific and Surgical Jaher Uddin Sarkar; and his grandson Ahsan Habib. Another accused in the case is proprietor of Universal Trade Corporation Asadur Rahman, who is the brother-in-law of Jaher. According to the case statement, there was no approval from the health directorate for the purchase and the tender process was flawed and lightning quick. The work order was issued only two days after the bidder was picked and the bill worth Tk 4.49 crore was collected in just 10 days. Meanwhile, a special court in Dhaka yesterday ordered to seize 605-decimal land of Crescent Group Chairman MA Kader, who brought

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Scrap Feni water-sharing deal immediately: LDA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) leaders at a protest rally yesterday condemned banning student politics at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) following the murder of its student Abrar Fahad. Citing the contributions of student politics in the country's history, they said putting an end to something instead of addressing the core problems cannot be a solution; rather it indicates failure. They also strongly criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for signing the Feni water-sharing agreement with India, demanding that the government withdraw the agreement immediately and do not make such "anti-national" treaties in future. LDA organised the rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital. On October 5, the Bangladesh PM -- during her visit in India -- signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian PM Narendra Modi, allowing the country to take 1.82 cusec water from Feni river for drinking purpose. Abrar, on that day, made a Facebook post criticising the agreement. The next day, a group of Chhatra League leaders brutally beat Abrar to death at a dormitory on Buet campus for the post. Following this, the university authority on Friday banned political activities on the campus. "Chhatra League killed such a bright student just for protesting the anti-national treaty!" said Nazrul Islam, a central leader of LDA. He alleged that the ruling Awami League is using its student and youth organisations to carry out various forms of "terrorism" -- including murder, rape and extortion -- which must be stopped. Shah Alam, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the PM offered water from Feni river without ensuring the due share of Teesta, which suggests her "obedience to India".

Labaid Cardiac gets int'l accreditation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labaid Cardiac Hospital has received an international accreditation for maintaining standards in healthcare services, said a press release yesterday. National Accreditation Board for Hospital and Healthcare (NABH) Providers awarded this accreditation recently, considering over 600 parameters in patient management and organisational structure standards. NABH is a constituent board of Quality Council of India. Following the accreditation, Labaid is observing a special health services week (Oct 12-18) in its centres.



ASM Abdur Rob, among other Oikyafront leaders, comes face to face with police in riot gear as the alliance brings out a mourning procession from Jatiya Press Club protesting the killing of Abrar.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Police foil Oikyafront rally

UNB, Dhaka

Police yesterday foiled a 'civic mourning rally' brought out by Jatiya Oikyafront in the city, protesting the killing of Buet student Abrar Fahad. Several hundred leaders and activists of the alliance, led by its convener Dr Kamal Hossain, brought out the rally wearing black badges and holding black flags from the Jatiya Press Club towards the Central Shaheed Minar around 5:10pm. Minutes after the rally started, police obstructed it saying the alliance leaders are not allowed to hold the rally. Oikyafront leaders tried to break the police barricade, but failed. At one stage, police allowed the vehicle, carrying Dr Kamal, to go to his Bailey Road residence while the alliance leaders left the spot in the face of obstruction by the law enforcers. Earlier, Oikyafront leaders held a public rally at the auditorium of the Jatiya Press Club protesting the murder of Abrar. At the programme, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna announced to hold a public rally at any open space or ground in the city on October 18 on the same issue.

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I don't believe

FROM PAGE 5
He said Zion passed SSC examination with GPA-5 from Shathibari High School in 2013. He achieved the same score in HSC exam from Notre Dame College, Dhaka in 2015, he added.
Zion has two other siblings. His elder brother is doing internship after completing MBBS course from a private medical college. His younger sister is a tenth-grader at a local school.
Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of Electrical and Electronic Engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), died after he was brutally beaten allegedly by some BCL men at a room of the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall on October 6 and 7.
Including Zion, law enforcers have so far arrested a total of 19 people in this connection.



Protesting Abrar Fahad's murder and demanding speedy trial of the killers, over a hundred students from seven universities in Sylhet formed a human chain in front of the city's Shaheed Minar in Chowhatta area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Nationwide protests continue

FROM PAGE 5
Abrar Fahad's village home in Kushtia.
Sources said Aman, advisor to BNP Chairperson Begum Khaldea Zia, was going to Fahad's house along with a group of leaders and activists of the party, including BNP's International Affairs Secretary Nazim Uddin Alam.
Abdur Razzak Bachchu, office secretary of Kushtia district unit of BNP, said Aman wanted to go to Abrar's home to console the latter's family on behalf of the BNP Chairperson.
Bachchu said a police team led by Additional Superintendent of Police (Kushtia's Bheramara Circle), Abul Kalam

Azad, stopped the BNP leader's microbus when it was crossing Lalon Shah Bridge in Bheramara at about 12pm.
He alleged that Aman was forced to go back from the spot.
In his reaction, Aman said, "On one hand, they are killing innocent people and on the other, they are obstructing people going to console the victim's family. Where will people go?"
Contacted, ASP Azad said, "Situation in the area is calming down gradually, and it might get worse with the visit of a political leader."
Our Satkhira, Barishal and Kushtia correspondents contributed to this report.

Panic and discontent

FROM PAGE 5
been asked to join their respective zones by October 20 while they will be considered as "Stand Release".
CMP sources said it has around 7,000-strong manpower and around 2,000 hail from different upazilas of Chattogram.
Following the order of making a list of employees who hail from Chattogram, they have been feeling insecure.
Seeking anonymity, several officers and constables from Chattogram told The Daily

Star that transfer of those who are allegedly engaged in corruption and irregularities is acceptable and rational, but they smell "conspiracy" behind office order.
A police official told The Daily Star "Chittagonian employees can easily identify Rohingyas and they have good knowledge of the geographical location of the region which helps CMP curb crime."
"There is no official provision that they [Chittagonians] cannot work in CMP," he said.

Salim Prodhan

FROM PAGE 3
with two money laundering cases. The same court rejected bail petitions of Shamim and Khaled, and sent them to jail after CID produced them before it in two money laundering cases filed with Gulshan Police Station.
Rab members on September 20 arrested Shamim on charges of extortion and tender manipulation. His seven bodyguards were also arrested at the time.
Rab also raided his house and office in Niketan and seized eight firearms, a huge amount of ammunition, fixed deposit receipt worth Tk 165 crore, around Tk 1.8 crore in cash, large stash of US and Singaporean dollars and foreign liquor.
The next day, Shamim was placed on a 10-day remand in cases filed under the Arms Act and Narcotics Control Act.
Khalid, president of Youngmen's Football Club, was arrested on September 18 from his Gulshan residence, in the wake of the crackdown at a casino in the club.
Khalid's arrest came after a Rab mobile court detained and sentenced 142 people raiding the "casino" in Fakirpool Youngmen's Club.

IR dept chair resigns

FROM PAGE 5
student of IR department claimed despite having second class in his undergraduate and graduate degrees, Parvez joined the university as he is a relative of former vice-chancellor Prof Khondokar Nasiruddin. He added that Parvez is running the department in an autocratic manner.
"Practicing illegal power, he intentionally gave zeroes to 34 students in their assignment paper," Pronoy claimed.
Meanwhile, agitating students withdrew their demonstration after their demand was met.
University's Proctor Raziur Rahman said they would take action against Parvez if he

is found guilty.
Acknowledging the resignation letter, BSMRSTU acting Vice Chancellor Prof Md Shahjahan said they will appoint a new chairperson in this department soon.
Meanwhile, students of livestock science and veterinary medicine (LVM), and law departments also demanded resignation of their respective department's chairpersons Md Abdul Kuddus Miah and Md Shafiquzzaman in two separate letters bringing the same allegations.
VC Shahjahan said they were aware of the students demands and will take steps according to the university's rules and regulations.


Top official

FROM PAGE 3
the property with the money borrowed from Janata Bank for export business.
ACC sources said the present market value of the land at Dasherhati of Manikganj would be about Tk 20 crore.
On February 10, ACC filed five cases against 22 individuals, including Kader, for allegedly misappropriating about Tk 1,746 crore from Janata Bank.
An ACC official said Crescent Leather Products Ltd misappropriated about Tk 500 crore; Crescent Tanneries about Tk 68.34 crore; Lexco Ltd about Tk 74.38 crore; Rupali Composite Leatherwear Ltd about Tk 454 crore, and Remex Footwear Ltd about Tk 648 crore from Janata Bank's Imamganj branch between 2015 and 2017.
The case's investigation officer and ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Prodhan found that Kader concealed information about the land.
ACC was concerned that the crescent group chairman might have transferred the ownership of the property, which is why it sought the seize order from the court, the ACC official said, adding that the IO will act soon in this regard.

Better an empty shed

FROM PAGE 5
representatives from eight districts raised similar complaints that the party's lawmakers have stalled political activities by avoiding grassroots leaders and sheltering newcomers and infiltrators.
AL presidium member Mohammad Nasim chaired the conference, while AL organising secretary for Rajshahi division Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury conducted it. AL joint secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak, food minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder and Rajshahi mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton spoke among others.
Sirajganj AL president Muhammad Abdul Latif Biswas said the party's newcomers got patronisation of local lawmakers and took part in upazila elections against party decisions, and they have remained unpunished.
Joypurhat AL leader Solaiman Haque said intra-party feuds left three persons dead during the last upazila parishad elections in the district.
Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury asked AL leaders of Bogura and Joypurhat districts to be "careful" in their political activities.
"We regained our political strength in the two districts where anti-liberation forces had ruled for many years. We must avoid rivalry there."
Naogaon AL president Abdul Malek said, Manda upazila AL committee cannot be formed in 14 years following unwillingness of former minister Emaj Uddin Pramanik.
Rajshahi city AL Dablu Sarker said the city committee is outdated for eight months.
Responding to grassroots leaders, Obaidul Quader in his address, observed that the party cannot sustain by cornering its dedicated and tested grassroots leaders.
"The party has no room for those leaders who indulged into terrorism, land grabbing, gambling, tender manipulating, extorting people and drug peddling. The ongoing cleaning operations will not spare them," he said.
He directed party men to form committees through holding "meaningful" councils at ward, union, upazila, and district levels, and in case they fail, the central committee would form the committees within mid-November.
On December 20-21 when AL holds the national council of the party, it would prefer new leadership, Quader said.
However, some leaders who attended the conference told this correspondent they hardly believe there was going to be any major change in the party.
"We have heard same things repeatedly; no change comes to effect. The leaders forget their remarks when they cross the Jamuna," one participant said.

A NOVEL OF NIRANJAN KUMER ROY



I am **NIRANJAN KUMER ROY**. I have written a novel named as "Niranjan". The book is published from "Salahuddin Book House" having address: 38, Bangla Bazar, Dhaka-1100. All of you can read out the book for a time at least.

Besides, I have another ready copy. If anyone wishes to publish the book. Feel free to contact at: 01981487936. D-256

Lost

This is to let all concerned know that I, Dilshad Karim Elita, have lost my certificates and smart card. CBSE (AISSE), 1998; 2. CBSE (AISCE), 2000; 3. BA in English, North South University, 2005 (Log No. 030772) and Smart Card No. 5958669698. In this regard, a general diary number 708 was filed with the Tejgaon thana, Dhaka, on October 13, 2019. D-257

DCI-RSC orphanage gets internet connection



CITY DESK

The Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI), and Rights and Sight for Children (RSC) have set up an internet connection in computer lab of SunChild Home orphanage in partnership with BRACNet.
The main objective of the programme is to make the orphans skilled in IT and computer, says a press release.
RSC and DCI have been taking care SunChild Home, a residence for orphans, since 2010. Fifty girls are living there with safe accommodation,

advanced healthcare, proper education and extracurricular activities.
Syed Farrukh Ahmed, CEO of BRACNet, inaugurated the ceremony by cutting ribbons. Shoaib Kabir, vice chairman, RSC; and Abdul Monaem, joint secretary of RSC, was also present.
Besides, Ifrat Ahmed Shusmit, senior executive of BRACNet; Abdus Satter, finance director, RSC; Jamal Abdun Nasher, programme manager, RSC; and Rajen Kumar Shaha, programme manager of RSC, were present among others.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

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(Abu Habib Khairul Kabir)
General Manager

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Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons

সিপিএস নং-৭৭৬/২০১৯/১৪০৭৫
তারিখঃ ১২-১০-২০১৯খ্রিঃ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এফসিপিএস ১ম পর্ব পাস করা অবৈতনিক প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের মধ্যে যাঁরা বিসিপিএস কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত সরকারি বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানে প্রশিক্ষণরত, তাঁদেরকে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে প্রতিমাসে ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা করে প্রশিক্ষণ ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে। বিসিপিএস থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরম সংগ্রহ করে আগামী ৩০ অক্টোবর ২০১৯খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে অনারারি সচিব, বিসিপিএস বরাবর আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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অনারারী সচিব, বিসিপিএস

জিডি-১৬৭৫

Request for Proposal

Request for Proposal Hereby JSC ASE notifies on holding of the first stage of open request of proposals for the right to enter into a contract for execution of construction and erection works for Lot:

1. No 2100' Common-station buildings and structures. Trestles'. The documentation has been placed at the official website of State Corporation 'Rosatom'
<http://zakupki.rosatom.ru>, procurement number No. 191011/1065/414

Bangladesh Skill Development Training & Research Center (BSDTRC)
Address: Expo Tower (2nd Floor), 28, Myemensing Lane, Banglamotor (Adjacent to Zohara Square), Dhaka-1000
E-mail: bsdtrc1@hotmail.com, Telephone No. 02-55168155

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Position
1. Senior Research Fellow/Researcher, 3. Occupational English Test (OET) Trainer (Foreign Faculty), 4. Mathematics Teacher, 5. Japanese Language Trainer, 6. IELTS Language Trainer, 7. Polish Language Trainer, 8. Arabic Language Trainer.

Pre-requisites
Must have certified in relevant field & teaching experience. **Applied End Date:** 31/10/2019. **Salary/Honorarium:** Negotiable. **D-255** **Managing Director**

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Position: Executive Chef
We are currently seeking a talented and dynamic Executive Chef to partner with us for new opportunities in Bangladesh.

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Requirements
Diploma in Food & Hospitality Service
Experience Minimum of Fifteen years Executive Chef Preferable.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.
Seniority level: Executive, Employment type: Full-time, Salary and Benefits: Negotiable, Industry: Hospitality, **Deadline: 19th October 2019**, Send your resume at career@holidayinn-dhaka.com You can send hardcopy of resume to Human Resource Management, Holiday Inn Dhaka City Center, 23, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Engineer
Health Engineering Department (HED)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Web: hed.gov.bd e-mail: hedhq@yahoo.com

Memo No. HED/JICA/Tender/Upgradation UzHC/435,436,437,438/2019/2228 Date: 09/10/2019

Amendment to Invitation for Bid

The tender invited against Tender Reference No. HED/JICA/Tender/Upgradation UzHC/435,436,437,438/2019/128, Date: 29-09-2019 Under 4th Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Program (HPNSP) has been amended as follows:

Sl No.	Description of item	Original	Amended as
15	Bid Package Name	Upgradation, Repair & Renovation of Upazila Health Complex from 31 Bed to 50 Bed, Re-construction of Upazila Health Complex & Construction of 5-Storeyed Consultant & MO Dormitory and 5-Storeyed staff Dormitory under HE, Head Office, Dhaka	Upgradation, Repair & Renovation of Upazila Health Complex from 31 Bed to 50 Bed, Re-construction of Upazila Health Complex & Construction of 4-Storeyed Consultant & MO Dormitory and 4-Storeyed Staff Dormitory under HED, Head Office, Dhaka.

All other terms and conditions of the tender notice will remain unchanged.

০৭.১০.২০১৭
Brigadier General Mohammad Osman Sarwar, SPP, afwc, psc
Chief Engineer
Health Engineering Department (HED)

GD-1677



Sylhet city's popular landmark, Ali Amjad's clock tower, is being renovated ahead of a celebration marking the 100th anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore's visit to the city. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will join the closing ceremony of the two-day event on November 8 at Sylhet District Stadium. The photo was taken yesterday.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, KUSHTIA BCL men drive their president out of campus

STAR REPORT

A group of leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) Kushtia Islamic University (IU) unit yesterday ousted its president Robiul Islam Polash from the campus, over allegations that he bribed the erstwhile BCL central leadership to get the post.

Earlier, the same group drove out the unit's general secretary Rakibul Islam Rakib from campus last month over the same allegations.

The protesting group has also demanded immediate cancellation of the committee announcement of a new one.

Witnesses said BCL president Polash, along with 10 to 12 activists, came to the party camp on campus from Kushtia around 2pm. Polash had been out of campus since September 20, the day general secretary Rakib was driven out from the campus.

Following Polsah's entrance, a faction led by Mizanur Rahman Lalon and Faisal Siddique Arafat along with some two hundred activists stormed the camp, and engaged in a scuffle with Polash, and at one stage, forced him to leave the campus.

Contacted, Polash admitted to the incident, but refused to comment over the allegations.

Leaders of the rebelling faction said the president and secretary have lost their moral grounds to hold the posts, as they "bought" those for a huge sum of money.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

'I don't believe my son is involved'

Says father of Abrar murder accused Zion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Father of Abrar murder accused Mefтахul Islam Zion has denied his son's involvement in the killing.

When this correspondent went to his Rangpur residence on Saturday, Shahidul Islam initially refused to talk to him. He simply shut the door saying, "I don't want to talk to anybody."

After a while, he opened the door and talked to him. "I saw the CCTV footage that showed him [Zion]," said Shahidul. Couple of hours later, he saw his son on TV that police arrested him on murder charge, said the father.

Zeon never had "bad reputation", he said. "It [the murder allegation] was beyond the entire family's imagination," said Shahidul.

"I don't believe that my son is involved in the brutal killing," said the father.

However, Mefтахul Islam Zion, sports secretary of Buet BCL, on Friday, confessed to a magistrate that he himself beat up Abrar with a cricket stump, said investigators.

Shahidul said, "I want the government to conduct a fair investigation into the case."

Former treasurer of Durgapur union unit of Awami League, Shahidul said he is involved in AL political activities. Zion also got involved with pro-AL Bangladesh Chhatra League soon after he was admitted to Buet. "I never asked him to stay away from politics."

Seeking anonymity, several residents in his neighborhood said Zion did not maintain decency while interacting with elders after he enrolled at Buet.

His father Shahidul Islam from Dholarpar village in Mithapukur upazila ran a grocery shop at nearby Shathibari. Now, he has rented the shop to others.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Better an empty shed than bad cattle: Quader

Warns corrupt leaders at AL's Rajshahi div conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Awami League wants to present the countrymen a new model of a smart, modern and clean political party through its national council scheduled in December, the ruling party's General Secretary Obaidul Quader said in Rajshahi yesterday.

"None other than Sheikh Hasina is essential to the party. So, form committees with new leadership of young and good persons if your committees are contaminated with corrupt politicians," the road transport and bridges minister said while addressing the party's Rajshahi divisional representative's conference at the district Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

"We don't need those who occupy party posts using muscle and bad influence, and do not care for party leaders' opinion. It's better to have an empty shed than bad cattle," he said.

Quader's comment came after party

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

ABRAR MURDER

Nationwide protests continue

STAR REPORT

Social and political platforms continued their protests demanding capital punishment for the killers of Buet student Abrar Fahad.

Nagorik Andolon Mancha's Satkhira unit formed a human chain in front of the Press Club of the city.

They demanded ensuring capital punishment for the killers and taking effective measures to stop all forms of torture at all educational institutions of the country.

Speakers at the programme said that banning organisation-based politics is not the solution, rather practice of fair politics is the way to avert recurrence of such incidents.

At Barishal, BNP district and city units held a rally in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall.

Speakers at the programme demanded immediate release of party chairperson Khaleda Zia, capital punishment of killers of Abrar and cancellation of the recently signed treaties between India and Bangladesh.

Mojibor Rahman Sorwar, Barishal city BNP president, presided over the rally. Among others, Ebaydul Haque Chan, district BNP President; Mejauddin Farhad, former lawmker and Zia Uddin Shikder, among others, spoke at the event.

Meanwhile, police yesterday barred BNP's central leader Amanullah Aman from going to slain Buet student

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

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তারিখ: ১৩ অক্টোবর, ২০১৯ খ্রিঃ

জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষা প্রবিধানমালা-২০১৮ অনুযায়ী বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি ব্যবহারকারী বিভিন্ন স্থানায় জ্বালানি দক্ষতা ও সশ্রয় নিশ্চিতের লক্ষ্যে নিরীক্ষা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করা হবে। সরকারের এ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (শ্রেডা), জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক সনদ প্রদানের উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে। এতদউদ্দেশ্যে শ্রেডা কর্তৃক জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে। উক্ত পরীক্ষায় অংশ গ্রহণের জন্য বাংলাদেশের যোগ্য নাগরিকদের কাছ থেকে আবেদন আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

২. জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষা প্রবিধানমালা-২০১৮ অনুযায়ী নিম্নবর্ণিত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীগণ জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষায় অংশ গ্রহণ করতে পারবেন, যথা:-

- ❖ বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে অন্ত্য ৩ (তিন) বছরের কর্ম অভিজ্ঞতাসহ মেকানিক্যাল, ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল, কেমিক্যাল বা ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল এন্ড প্রোডাকশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিষয়ে স্নাতক ডিগ্রি;
- ❖ বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে অন্ত্য ২ (দুই) বছরের কর্ম অভিজ্ঞতাসহ মেকানিক্যাল, ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল, কেমিক্যাল বা ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল এন্ড প্রোডাকশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিষয়ে স্নাতকসহ প্রকৌশলে অথবা বাবস্থাপনা বিষয়ে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি;
- ❖ বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে অন্ত্য ৩ (তিন) বছরের কর্ম অভিজ্ঞতাসহ পদার্থবিদ্যা, গণিতশাস্ত্র, ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স বা রসায়নশাস্ত্রে (স্নাতক পর্যায়ে পদার্থবিদ্যা এবং গণিতশাস্ত্র থাকিতে হইবে) স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি; অথবা
- ❖ বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে অন্ত্য ৭ (সাত) বছরের কর্ম অভিজ্ঞতাসহ মেকানিক্যাল বা ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল বা পাওয়ার বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোমা ও কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষা বিষয়ে প্রশিক্ষণ প্রাপ্ত।

৩. পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে আগ্রহী যথাযথ যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের "টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ" এর অনুকূলে তফসিলি ব্যাংক এর যেকোনো শাখা থেকে ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা আবেদন ফি এবং ৮০০০/- (আট হাজার) টাকা পরীক্ষা ফি বাবদ মোট ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংকড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) করত্ এর মূলকপি আবেদন পত্রের সাথে আগামী ০৫ নভেম্বর, ২০১৯ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকেল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (শ্রেডা), ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স ইনস্টিটিউশন (আইইবি) ভবন (১১তলা), রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০ বরাবর পৌছাতে হবে। নামের উপর অবশ্যই পরীক্ষার নাম, প্রার্থীর নাম, মোবাইল নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। আবেদন ফরম শ্রেডার ওয়েবসাইটে (www.sreda.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।

৪. আবেদন প্রাপ্তির পর শ্রেডা কর্তৃক প্রাথমিক যাচাইয়ে যোগ্য পরীক্ষার্থীদের মনোনীত করা হবে।

৫. বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রার্থীদের অভিজ্ঞতার সময়কাল গণনা করা হবে।

৬. মনোনীত পরীক্ষার্থীদের তালিকা, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, স্থান ও সময়সূচি পরবর্তীতে শ্রেডার ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশ করা হবে। পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাকমোমে প্রার্থীদের বর্তমান ঠিকানা বরাবর প্রেরণ করা হবে।

৭. স্বাক্ষরবিহীন ও অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

৮. আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সন্ধ্যা তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ৩ কপি সত্যায়িত ছবি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। পূরণকৃত আবেদন ফরমের সাথে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদ ও সর্বেশ্লিষ্ট অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ/ প্রমাণক এর সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

৯. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল/প্রত্যাহারের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

স্ব/=-
(মোঃ আব্দুল্লাহ আল মামুন)
সহকারী পরিচালক (জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষা ও এন্ট্রিডিউশন)

2 JMB suspects held in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Rab yesterday arrested two suspected members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from a madrasa in Fatullah area of Narayanganj.

The arrestees are: Mehedi Hasan alias Murad, 24, of Bandar upazila; and Md Amanullah, 33, of Pirojpur.

On information that some "JMB" men were holding a secret meeting at the institution, Rab conducted a raid there.

They also seized books on militancy, fliers and a laptop, said Alep Uddin, senior assistant director of Rab-11, in a press statement.

In primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed that they were planning to carry out subversive activities.

Murad said he joined JMB in 2014 through an associate. Since then, he had been maintaining contacts with other JMB members in different districts, said the Rab official.

He also motivated Amanullah, a madrasa teacher, to join the outfit. They used to hold meetings at the madrasa to hire new recruits.

5 'ABT MEMBERS' HELD
Meanwhile in Pabna, Rab arrested five suspected members of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) from Bera and Santhia upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees are Md Abdullah, 21; Md Wazed Ali, 30; Abul Kalam Azad, 27; Md Mizanur Rahman Mizan, 23, and Md Ruhul Amin, 23. ASP Hafizur Rahman, commander of Rab-14, said acting on a tip-off, Rab-14 raided the areas and arrested them from their residences.

Rab also seized huge amount of books on militancy from their possession.

Rab handed the arrestees over to Bera Police Station, said OC Shaikh Mahmud.



Apollo Hospitals Dhaka organised a seminar, marking World Obesity Day. Senior consultants from Apollo, BSMMU and BIRDEM were present at the event.

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Bending the rules for wilful defaulters

Match fixers can't cure match fixing

ANALYSTS again sounded the alarm on the government's lack of will to arrest bad loans which, according to the International Monetary Fund, stood at Tk 240, 167 crore as of June. Although still extremely worrying, the government's figure is much less than that but mainly because it has repeatedly eased policies for loan classification and rescheduling to artificially bring defaulted loans down on paper. And herein lies the problem—reducing it on paper doesn't actually bring defaulted loans down. And if anything, continued refusal to admit the true extent of the problem over the years has only aggravated it.

We have been talking about acknowledging this problem ad nauseum. There are basically two groups of defaulted loans—one that has been acknowledged and the other that has remained hidden. As analysts explained, the second group doesn't come up as bad loans since defaulters have been "fixing" the system in one way or another. Therefore, the acknowledged part is only half the amount of actual defaulted loans in the country. This reality poses grave dangers not only for the banking sector, but the country's economy as a whole.

As has been revealed through various newspaper reports, a handful of defaulters are responsible for an overwhelming amount of all bad loans. And most of them are wilful defaulters who are politically connected or are themselves part of the government machinery—and those who know they can get away with it, according to IMF. That is why the government's decision to repeatedly bend the rule for the sake of a handful of wilful defaulters perhaps comes as less of a surprise. Nevertheless, the decision by the regulators to allow these people to get away with defaulting on their loans has only encouraged such practices, leaving the banking sector now on the brink of disaster.

The practice of playing such games with public money should be stopped immediately. The authorities need to recognise the hole it is digging our entire economy into before the damage being done becomes irreversible.

Owning a home shouldn't be a rarity

Make a coherent and sustainable policy

SHELTER is one of three basic needs of people, apart from being a constitutional right, that governments should take as an obligation to ensure. And nobody will disagree that providing easy and affordable housing in Bangladesh, to the vast majority made up primarily of the middleclass, is by no means an easy task. And that is because of the overwhelming gap between demand and supply which is compounded even more by the acute scarcity of the most important component, the land. What we need, thus, is a coherent, well thought out plan which will be able to sustain the pressure of growing demand. And such a plan can be acceptable if the interest of all the stakeholders—the landowner, the developer, the financier and the buyer—is met.

Unfortunately, instead of tackling this critical factor, owing to bad planning resulting in ad hoc policies and initiatives that are at best piecemeal where resources are used in dribbles and often times dissipated, owning home has become a dream for the greater majority of the country's middle class. Many government projects have been catered exclusively to the most affluent and rich overlooking the need of the less affluent. The government agencies like Rajuk in the capital and the NHA for developing housing projects countrywide, have done little to make housing affordable for the middle class and the poor. And a glaring example of this is the Bhashantek project.

Our planners would do well to learn from some of the policies taken up by the neighbouring countries, particularly India where innovation and salutary steps like small unit community housing project, as in Mumbai, and providing tax breaks, have made it easier for people with limited means to own homes. It would be well also for the administration to take cognizance of the extremely relevant and doable suggestions offered at an RT on affordable housing organised by this paper on October 12, 2019.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

TV and the exposure to knowledge

In this era of globalisation, foreign TV channels have given us the chance to know the world.

The young generation, these days, are obsessed with foreign TV channels. They are watching these channels and learning so many things. But they are also at the risk of being exposed to unsuitable content. Often children end up watching programmes that are not appropriate for their age, thus picking up bad manners, learning inappropriate language and absorbing wrong cultural values.

In order to address this situation, the parents and guardians must play a more proactive role by monitoring and if required, vetting the programmes they are allowing the children to watch. It is important to watch foreign TV channels because of the treasure-trove of knowledge they offer us. However, we must also be careful about exposing our children to the wrong kinds of content. The parents should also encourage the children to learn about our own culture thereby strengthening their roots.

Israt Nawrin
Department of Business Administration
East West University, Dhaka

Evolution of the RMG sector

Why research, data and benchmarking are crucial for its growth



MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

the second most polluting on the planet. Says who? Well, quite a lot of people actually.

And yet, do we know that this is definitely the case? Is there concrete data to support such a proposition? No one seems to know where this data came from or how it was calculated.

Keep hold of this thought when considering Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) industry. A lot is said about this sector: we are told that it lacks efficiency, we are told there is a lack of investment in research and development, we are told productivity rates are low. It may well be that the above points are true—certainly, anecdotal evidence would support such claims and we would all agree that things can be better. But can we be sure?

The problem is, we don't have enough data on the specifics. The old saying "you can't manage what you can't measure" was never so true as in Bangladesh's RMG industry. For example, it is often quoted that the industry operates at 40 percent efficiency. Where does this figure come from and how did it become common currency in the industry? Again, we simply don't know, and yet we seem to take it as validated data.

If this figure is 100 percent verified, we all know what we have to do. We have to invest in better technology, better training and better research and development. Why? Because efficiency

levels this poor would provide a clear and unambiguous business case for working towards efficiency improvements. And that's what we are talking about here: making clear business cases using confirmed, substantiated evidence.

Metrics and specifics matter. We need the ability to measure better. With proper funded research to provide an accurate measurement of productivity and efficiency in the RMG sector of Bangladesh, implementation of baselines will provide yardsticks for future measurements leading to dynamic,

Bangladesh's RMG industry.

It would be easy to become negative on this issue, but let's look at it like this: Bangladesh's RMG sector has achieved remarkable success to date without the aid of a structured, coherent approach to data and statistical insight. Imagine what we could achieve if we put those ingredients in place. This is actually a huge opportunity.

The RMG industry is so valuable to the GDP of this country that it demands its own sustainable research centre to centralise data—creating a tool for success. The sustainable research centre



PHOTO: STAR

Major decisions impacting the future of the RMG industry must be built on the foundations of comprehensive research and proven facts.

productive, actionable benchmarks. With improved data collection processes, we stand to create paths of certainty, productivity and excellence. If data identifies weaknesses, we then know we have to make changes and try a different approach. There would be no more guessing.

A business can only make major financial spending decisions with a proven business case, and Bangladesh's RMG sector can be no different. Major decisions impacting the future of this industry must be built on the foundations of comprehensive research and proven facts. Such an approach also serves to ensure a sustainable future for

would serve to act as the market research arm supporting the RMG sector's global business practices.

What would such a research centre look like? We often talk as a country about learning lessons from China, a country whose textile industry is several years ahead of ours in terms of its development.

Research and data are two areas we can certainly work on. The China Textile Information Centre (CTIC) is a state-owned research institution in the Chinese textile industry and is managed by the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC). CTIC produces a wealth of research

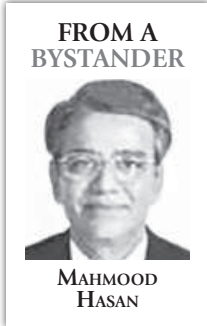
painstaking research. Bangladesh is leading the way here.

But we can and must do more in the research field, and I believe we will.

Good, thorough research is costly—we all know that. But it's also a crucial piece of the puzzle. Moreover, proper research which uncovers key market insights will pay for itself multiple times over. Spending in this area will prove to be the smartest investment Bangladesh's RMG sector makes in the coming years.

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE). He can be reached at mostafiz@denimexpert.com

Hongkongers' search for an identity



MAHMOOD HASAN

and protests, particularly from the millennials of Hong Kong, demanding immediate withdrawal of the law. It is not surprising that the current protests that began in June continues with violent weekend street battles with the police.

Almost all political movements have strong economic undertones. The income-curve of the eight million people living in Hong Kong is steeply skewed. Majority of the lower income group find it extremely hard to make ends meet with stagnant incomes and rising cost of living. Housing prices have tripled over the past decade and median rent has increased by almost 25 percent in the past 5-6 years.

generation has been leading this movement for democracy and social justice, which is in many ways a struggle for an identity.

According to Anthropology Professor Gordon Mathews of Chinese University, there has been a significant shift in how his students felt about their ethnicity since the handover in 1997. Most identified themselves as Hongkongers rather than Chinese. The term "Hongkonger" extends well beyond politics and nationality, and crosses into definitions of culture, ethnicity, race and morality. Mathews says the term "Hongkonger" has become synonymous with core values such as political transparency, rule of law and freedom of speech.

Dr Beatrice Oi-yeung Lam of Hong Kong University says there are different dimensions of "Chineseness". A Hongkonger identifying as Chinese may consider himself as culturally Chinese, but at the same time may have reservations about the political regime of the People's Republic of China and how "Chineseness" is framed under that political regime. She said the modern Hongkonger is a product of "a neo-liberal governmentality".

In the *Ethos of the Hong Kong Chinese* (1988), Liu Zhaojia and Kuan Hsin-chi summarised that those who claimed Hong Kong identity rather than a Chinese

Hong Kong".

Hong Kong's geographical location also has a particular influence on its people. The term "Hongkonger" is derived from a variety of sociological, cultural and economic factors. The port city of Hong Kong has had to adapt to large influx of traders and seamen from all over the world that gave them a distinct cultural identity.

The turmoil currently sweeping Hong Kong is driven primarily by four main factors: fear of Beijing's growing control; concern over erosion of its freedom and autonomy; very high cost of living; and Western "black hands" influences mainly from US, Britain, and the EU. Western media has been playing an aggressive role to project the confrontation between the protestors and Carrie Lam government—actually to discredit Beijing.

There is however no chance that Beijing will accept the demands of the protestors: universal suffrage; full democratic elections; independent inquiry into alleged police brutality. Beijing has condemned the protestors as "rioters" engaged in "colour revolution". However, Beijing has taken a wait and see policy and wants Carrie Lam to clear the mess her government has created. Beijing is currently concentrating its efforts on alleviating the economic pressures on Hongkongers. Carrie Lam's government has to focus on quickly tackling the wealth inequality, housing crisis and the high cost of living.

During the 70th founding anniversary of China on October 1, while the mainland was celebrating the occasion with pomp and grandeur, Hongkongers—in an act of defiance—came out in thousands and fought street battles with the police. President Xi Jinping addressing the nation reiterated that he will uphold the "one country, two systems" principle and integrate Hong Kong with the mainland. There is no chance that Beijing will allow this Special Administrative Region having a capitalist economy, different currency, different legal and administrative system, different passport, etc.—to secede and become another Taiwan.

The current wave of protests has done some serious damage to Hong Kong, known as Asia's financial hub. Businesses have slowed down significantly; tourism has gone down and normal civic life has been disrupted. Billions of dollars have fled to other financial centres, including Singapore. Strategically located, the port city of Singapore is expecting to benefit from the current turmoil in Hong Kong. It has good governance, stability and social harmony that are essential for pro-growth policies. Singapore is however, careful not to be seen as profiting from the unrest in Hong Kong.

Although the word "Hongkonger" does not define the nationality of the residents of Hong Kong, it gives them a cultural identity. The city's long history has helped shape this sense of identity which is yet to be established. Research and surveys conducted on the subject show that there exists an identity problem for the ethnic Chinese of Hong Kong.

The current unrest is the result of failure of China to culturally win the hearts and minds of the Hongkongers. The educated millennials are spearheading the movement not only for economic and political reforms but also to overcome the "identity vacuum".

Mahmood Hasan is former ambassador and secretary.



PHOTO: AMMAR AWAD/ REUTERS

Colonial-era emergency laws were introduced a week ago banning face masks at public rallies.

Together with economic woes, Hongkongers are also in search of an independent identity. Under the British colonial rule Hongkongers were neither British citizens nor Chinese nationals. The older generation may feel nostalgic over Hong Kong's colonial heritage but the younger millennials have little attachment with it or with mainland China. The mostly western-curricula educated younger

one, were "younger in age, more educated and higher in occupational status". They also had a more "modern political outlook" and were more "trustful" of Hong Kong government than China's. They concluded that this "identity differentiation" within Hong Kong society would continue to intensify and "inevitably have significant reverberations for future political changes in

FLASHMOB PROTESTS, CLASHES

HK police make dozens of arrests

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong pro-democracy activists and riot police clashed in chaotic scenes around the city yesterday with police in full riot gear chasing protesters through crowds of horrified lunchtime shoppers.

Several rallies in shopping mall started peacefully around midday with a few hundred people at each chanting slogans such as “Free Hong Kong”, but by late afternoon hardcore black-clad activists trashed shops and metro stations and erected road blocks around the city.

Police made dozens of arrests and deployed tear gas to disperse protesters, saying they used “minimum force”. Television footage showed shoppers screaming and some injured when police charged inside a mall.

The young protesters, many wearing face masks to shield their identity, were often supported by shoppers.

In one mall a group of riot police, shields out front and pepper spray canisters in, hand were forced to retreat backwards by chanting shoppers until they were outside of the mall.

In another incident, a group of 50 shoppers inside a mall faced off against riot police outside, chanting “Hong Kong police mafia”. The shoppers cheered when police drove off.

Hong Kong’s police, once praised as “Asia’s finest”, have been accused of using excessive force in dealing with protesters and have lost the confidence and respect of many Hong Kongers.

“Hong Kong used to be a prosperous city and now she has become a police state. Hong Kong is my home. We should protect her. We should resist,” said a 70-year-old who only gave his last name, Hui.



An elderly woman is evacuated from a building in Akcakale, a town near the Turkish border with Syria yesterday, after it was hit by a rocket reported to be fired from within Syria. *Inset, A Turkish-backed Syrian fighter fires during clashes in the border town of Ras al-Ain as Turkey and its allies continue their assault on Kurdish-held border towns in northeastern Syria.*

PHOTO: AFP



NEWSIN brief

16 killed in Burkina Faso mosque attack

AFP, Ouagadougou

Armed men stormed a mosque in the volatile north of Burkina Faso as worshippers were at prayer, killing 16 people and sending residents fleeing, security sources and locals said Saturday. The attack on the Grand Mosque in the town of Salmossi on Friday evening underscores the difficulties faced by the country in its battle against jihadists. One source said 13 people died on the spot and three succumbed to their injuries later. Two of the wounded are in critical condition.

Ecuador president orders curfew in Quito

AFP, Quito

Ecuador President Lenin Moreno on Saturday ordered the capital Quito and surrounding areas placed under curfew and military control, as an 11th day of deadly protests against government austerity measures roiled the city. The order would “facilitate the work of public forces against intolerable outbreaks of violence,” he announced on Twitter, as clouds of smoke hung over the city. Demonstrators on Saturday ransacked and set fire to the building housing the comptroller general’s office.

Tunisians vote in presidential runoff

AFP, Tunis

Tunisians voted yesterday in a presidential runoff pitting a conservative academic against a media magnate fresh out of jail, reflecting a shift in the country’s post-revolution political landscape. The political newcomers swept aside the old guard in the first round, highlighting voter anger over a stagnant economy, high unemployment and poor public services in the cradle of the Arab Spring. The vote, Tunisia’s second free presidential election since the 2011 revolt, follows the death of president Beji Caid Essebsi in July.

China boosts Nepal ties

Xi, Oli sign deals for rail, tunnel linking Tibet, Kathmandu

AGENCIES

Chinese President Xi Jinping wound up two days of meetings in Nepal yesterday with separate deals for a rail link to Tibet and a tunnel, an official said, as the Himalayan nation seeks to end an Indian dominance over its trade routes by increasing connectivity with Beijing.

The 70-km (42-mile) rail link will connect Gyiron in Tibet with Nepal’s capital city of Kathmandu, making it one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects in the country.

A Chinese team has already conducted a preliminary study for the project, which will be part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, Xi’s signature diplomatic and trade push that is attempting to recreate the old Silk Road joining China with Asia and Europe.

Alongside, a proposed 28-km (17 mile) road tunnel will more than halve the distance from Kathmandu to the Chinese border, saving on time and cost.

“China will now conduct a feasibility study of the rail project and help construct the tunnel way,” Rajeshor Gyawali, a spokesman for Nepal’s Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, told Reuters.

Nepal has sought to increase connectivity with China since a blockade along its border with India resulted in several months of acute shortage of fuel and medicine in 2015 and 2016.

“These facilities will give us alternative trade routes when we face border blockades,” Gyawali said.

China and India jostle for influence over Nepal, the natural buffer between them, and are investing in infrastructure. India accounts for nearly two thirds of Nepal’s trade and is the sole supplier of fuel.

Officials from both sides also signed 20 deals covering trade, water supply and traditional medicines at the end of Xi’s visit, the first by a Chinese president in 22 years.

During talks with Nepal’s Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli yesterday, Xi warned that any attempt to divide China will be crushed, as Beijing faces political challenges in months-long protests in Hong Kong and US criticism over its treatment of Muslim minority groups.

“And any external forces backing such attempts dividing China will be deemed by the Chinese people as pipe-dreaming!” he was quoted as saying.

Oli told Xi that the country would oppose any “anti-China activities” on its soil, CCTV reported.

At a dinner on Saturday, Xi said, “We will help Nepal realise its dream of becoming a land-linked country from a land-locked one.”

Xi arrived in Nepal from India where he had informal meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Pak PM arrives in Iran to defuse tensions in Gulf

AFP, Tehran

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday visited Iran on a mission to act as a “facilitator” between Tehran and Riyadh and try to defuse rising tensions in the Gulf.

Khan landed in Tehran around midday and met with President Hassan Rouhani at the presidential palace.

He was also scheduled to hold talks with Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, before travelling to Riyadh on Tuesday.

“The reason for this trip is that we do not want a conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran,” Khan told reporters as he stood alongside Rouhani.

“Whatever it takes we must never allow this conflict to take place, because we know, Mr. President, that there is a vested interest that wants this to take place,” he told Rouhani.

Noting that it was a “complex” issue that can be resolved through talks, Khan warned

that any conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia would “cause poverty in the world”.

Pakistan has strong relations with Saudi Arabia, with more than 2.5 million of its nationals living and working in the kingdom, but it also maintains good relations with Iran and represents Tehran’s consular interests in the United States.

This is Khan’s second visit this year to Iran, which shares a border of about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) with Pakistan.

Emphasising that the visits to Tehran and Riyadh were Pakistan’s “initiative”, Khan said he was also approached by US President Donald Trump to “facilitate some sort of dialogue between Iran and the United States”.

Tehran and Washington have been at loggerheads since the US withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal in May last year and reimposed sanctions on the Islamic republic.



Algerian protesters face riot policemen during a protest near the parliament building in Algiers yesterday against military’s role in politics as well as denouncing the draft plan for a law on hydrocarbons which is expected to be examined by the cabinet ahead of its adoption. PHOTO: AFP

Rakhine rebels abduct dozens in Myanmar

Suspected ethnic Rakhine rebels disguised as a sports team stormed a bus in rural Myanmar and took 31 hostages -- mostly off-duty firefighters and construction workers -- authorities said yesterday. The state-backed Global New Light of Myanmar said the bus -- travelling to the Rakhine state capital of Sittwe -- was flagged down by a man dressed in civilian attire before 18 rebels in sportswear emerged from the forest and ordered the passengers off at gunpoint. “We are still following them,” Colonel Win Zaw Oo told AFP, adding the insurgents may have mistaken the firemen for members of the armed forces.

Muslims in India are happiest: RSS chief

Asserting that the Muslims in India are the “happiest”, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) supremo Mohan Bhagwat said that people of other faiths have sought refuge in India due to the “Hindu culture”. Addressing a meeting of intellectuals on Saturday, Bhagwat said, “Muslims in India are the happiest. Why is that? It is because we are Hindus. Whenever a country in the world was confused and diverted from the right path, it came to India in search of the truth. When the Jews were being chased away, India is the only country which gave them shelter. The Parsis are also able to safely practise their religion here.” He said that “Hindu” is not a name of a language, province or country but a culture, which is the legacy of all people living in India.

Trudeau wears bulletproof vest at Canada rally



Canadian leader Justin Trudeau wore a bulletproof vest and was surrounded by heavy security during an election campaign rally after receiving a security threat, sources told the national broadcaster. Trudeau had body armour under his shirt and jacket, photos from the event showed, when he appeared an hour and a half late at the 2,000-strong meeting in a suburb of the capital Toronto on Saturday. He doesn’t normally wear a jacket while campaigning. As Trudeau left the stage to greet supporters he was surrounded by security officers, some with large backpacks on, footage showed.

SOURCE: AFP, ANI

IMPEACHMENT PROBE

Trump defends his lawyer Giuliani

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump defended his attorney Rudy Giuliani on Saturday as a “legendary crime buster” and “wonderful lawyer” after a media report that prosecutors are investigating whether the former New York mayor broke lobbying laws in his dealings in Ukraine.

“So now they are after the legendary ‘crime buster’ and greatest Mayor in the history of NYC, Rudy Giuliani,” Trump said in a statement on Twitter.

“He may seem a little rough around the edges sometimes, but he is also a great guy and wonderful lawyer. Such a one sided Witch Hunt going on in USA. Deep State. Shameful!” he tweeted.

The New York Times reported late on Friday that federal prosecutors in Manhattan were investigating Giuliani’s actions regarding Ukraine as part of a case involving two of his business associates, Ukraine-born Lev Parnas and Belarus-born Igor Fruman.

The two men, who helped Giuliani investigate former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden and his businessman son Hunter, were arrested on Thursday over what US prosecutors called a scheme to illegally funnel money to a pro-Trump election committee and other political candidates.

Asked about the Times report, Giuliani told Reuters: “I never did any lobbying for anyone. If they want to ask me I’m happy to prove it. But they haven’t.”

Brexit deal still possible

Johnson tells cabinet as EU leaders prepare to hold last-ditch talks before Oct 31 deadline

AGENCIES

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told his cabinet yesterday that a Brexit deal was still possible but that there was significant work to be done to reach one, a spokeswoman from his office said in a statement.

“The Prime Minister updated Cabinet on the current progress being made in ongoing Brexit negotiations, reiterating that a pathway to a deal could be seen but that there is still a significant amount of work to get there and we must remain prepared to leave on October 31,” the spokeswoman said.

EU leaders will meet in Brussels on Thursday and Friday for a summit held under the pressures of the October 31 Brexit deadline just two weeks away.

They would ideally like to have a full proposal to vote on by then.

But the sides are trying to achieve in a few days what they had failed to in the more than three years since Britons first

voted to leave the European Union after nearly 50 years.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was set to discuss the available options with French President Emmanuel Macron late yesterday.

European officials said the bloc’s Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier will also brief EU ambassadors on the state of play, reported AFP.



The few details that have leaked out suggest a compromise around the contentious Irish border issue that keeps Britain’s Northern Ireland partially aligned with EU customs rules.

Whether such a fudge suits both Brussels and the more ardent Brexit backers in parliament who must still approve a deal should become clearer in the coming days.

Johnson rose to power in July on a promise not to extend Brexit for a third time -- even for a few weeks.

Breaking that pledge could come back to haunt him in an early general election that most predict for the coming months.

Two men stabbed at London shop

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Two men have been stabbed in broad daylight and a third assaulted at a butcher’s shop in north London.

Police were called to West Green Road, in Tottenham, at 9:35am yesterday, following reports of an incident at West Green Halal Meat and Groceries store.

Officers found two males, aged 40 and 29, suffering from stab injuries and a third male who had been assaulted.

The two stabbed men have been taken to hospital, but the third did not require medical attention.

Witnesses have suggested that two shopkeepers were attacked by two teenagers - although police are yet to confirm the rumour.

The man aged 40 is reportedly in a stable condition, but a full update on the second victim has not been revealed.

No-one has been arrested but police say they are still looking for any information regarding the incident.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: “No arrests have been made. Enquiries continue. A crime scene remains in place.”

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: Dwip Gallery
 Date: October 7-November 3
 Time: 3 pm – 9 pm

Cultural Festival
 Title: Ganga-Jamuna Cultural Festival
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: October 11- October 20
 Time: 7 pm

Exhibition
 Title: Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesher Shoptosharothi
 Venue: National Art Plaza, BSA
 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

Moushumi stays adamant during election season



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Moushumi is one of the most beloved faces in the film industry, and has been ruling Dhalywood with an iron fist for more than 25 years. The celebrated actor is running for President at this year's Choloচিত্র শিল্পী সমিতি Elections. Recently, she caught up with The Daily Star, and talked about her ventures.

You are contesting the elections this year. Tell us about how you feel.
 I have participated in the elections earlier. However, I am running for President for the first time. I am overwhelmed with the love I am receiving, and I hope that I can do justice to all the good thoughts by my friends, family and fans.

What are the artistes' reactions on your participation in the election?
 My career in the film industry has spanned more than 25 years. This is where I have spent most of my life, and all of the people around here are my own. They are supporting me a lot. Again, I am grateful for the support.

Rumours previously surfaced that you will withdraw your name from

the election. How would you respond to that?
 This is completely a rumour. I am calling people for votes, meeting them and doing my shoots at the same time. I am very positive about this, so there is no chance that I am backing off.

Observing all the circumstances, do you expect a fair election?
 Every individual linked to the election is expecting a fair one. Let us hope that everything goes well. We have senior actor Ilias Kanchan as the Election Commissioner, and we believe that we will have a fair election under him.

If you win, what are the changes you will make as President?
 My first priority as an artiste will be ensuring the rights of all the artistes in the industry. I do not want to reveal everything now, as time will explain the rest.

Have you faced any difficulties while running the election?
 I was a bit hurt when some of my peers backed off from the election. They were the ones who brought me into the light, but then, they disappeared. However, I am determined, and I will fight for it until the end. Besides that, I am not alone. Everybody is supporting me, and I will try to make them proud.

Tell us something about your new film, Orjon 71.
Orjon 71 is based on the boundless contributions of the Bangladeshi police force during the Liberation War of 1971. Shatabdi Wadud will be seen as a courageous police officer in the film. I am playing the role of Firoza, his wife. *Orjon 71* will be filmed at BEDC, Rajarbagh Police Line and a few other locations in North Bengal.



Ramendu Majumdar (2-R) receives the award from Javed Ahmed Khan.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Ramendu Majumdar receives Gandhi Peace Prize

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

This year, noted thespian and cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar received the Gandhi Memorial Peace Prize, introduced by Gandhi Peace Foundation, India. Renowned mime artist Bidyannath Chakraborty was also honoured with the prize. The award-giving ceremony was organised by the West Bengal branch of the foundation, in association with *The Times of India* on October 10 in Naihati.

Javed Ahmed Khan, Disaster Management and Civil Defence Minister of West Bengal, was the chief guest. The ceremony was organised to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Dr Aniruddha Majumdar, Chairman of Gandhi Peace Foundation's West Bengal unit, gave the welcome speech.

Ramendu Majumdar also delivered the Gandhi Memorial Lecture on the topic, "Mahatma and Bangabandhu: Two symbols of nonviolence."

AN EVENING ON PERFORMANCE ART

Artists and art enthusiasts gathered in the quiet premises of Shunno Art Space in Lalmatia on Saturday evening to listen to noted performance artist Abu Naser Robii share his experiences.



Abu Naser Robii

not utter a word against the authorities. The grim and perilous environment, coupled with violence at the campus, muted everyone's freedom of expression. This was especially evident for artists, as there was not a single exhibition held during his eight years of university. The frustration of having his freedom taken away led him to pursue farming for a while. But when his best friend, Sanjay Talapatra, was brutally murdered in broad daylight, Robii decided to take a stand through performance art.

Robii describes his art as a "social engage act", due to its politically conscious nature. He also talked about his experiences of performing for social and political movements. "To be frank, performance art is like a guerilla in art. In many countries, artists had to hide soon after they made a statement against the authorities," he said. "You can create such an impact with the simplest of tools. A performance artist has to physically portray the art through their body, making it impactful, yet dangerous." Other artists also exchanged their views at the interactive session. Afterwards, Robii put up a short performance. "The base of a play is literature and the base of a performance is like a painting. In a play, the message has to be elaborated through characters and dialogues. Whereas in performance art, one has to portray the message in the limited space of the canvas," explained Robii, talking about the difference between performance art and acting.



Maqsoodul Haque with the featured artistes of the album.

PHOTO: COURTESY

MAQSOOD O' DHAKA announces 'Global Bauliana'

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Featuring strong environmental and social messages of peace, harmony and cohesion, Bangladeshi stalwart band Maqsood O' Dhaka has announced its newest album, Global Bauliana. The album is said to have versions of beautiful songs by Lalon Shah, Azam Khan and a Bangla rendition of a Bob Marley song, will also contain originals by the band. A female choir with Elita Karim, Musharrat Jahan Aanchal and CJ Racy will also be featured in the album.

The band's lineup consists of Maqsoodul Haque, Sekender Ahmmed Khoka, Fazlul Haque Montu, Ekramul Haque Shakil, Golam Raabbi Shohag, and Shakib Khan Mimo. "Reggae, jazz, blues and funk fusion is our genre - aside a variety of South Asian semi-classical influences have been incorporated. We are hoping to introduce a unique soundscape, which has global resonance," says Maqsoodul Haque, eminent band artiste and leader of the Maqsood O' Dhaka. The singer and visionary has used #wheelsofchange, indicating that change needs to come from us in these dire times. "The wind of change has passed, and is inevitable. It is now time to push the wheels of change, as it is vital that we act on the environment crisis ourselves."

The band has used a host of guest artistes -- local and expatriate musicians playing an assortment of instruments, including the axophone, trombone, trumpet, alongside Afro Caribbean and Indian percussions.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Under the shades of melody and rhythm

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Socio-cultural organisation Amra Surjamukhi arranged a musical programme featuring performances of Tagore songs by Bangladeshi artiste Tanjina Toma and Indian elocutionist Shovansundar Bosu.

The event was held at Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on October 12.

Eminent cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor attended the event as the chief guest, while the director of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Dhaka, Dr Nipa Choudhury graced the occasion as the special guest.

"Culture has the power to resist the evil. We will sing the song of humanity through music and poetry," said Asaduzzaman Noor. "We belong to and nourish the same cultural heritage. Arrangements



(From left) Shovansundar Bosu, Dr Nipa Choudhury, Asaduzzaman Noor and Tanjina Toma.

PHOTO: COURTESY

as such will inspire the practice of non-communal culture and artistic harmony among us," said Dr Nipa Choudhury.

Tanjina Toma started off the event with the song *Aji Bangladesher Hridoy Hote*, while Shovansundar Bosu recited a Kabir Suman lyrical, *Banglar Dhonuker Chhilaye Chhilaye Joto Taan*. The artiste duo rendered and recited 10 Tagore songs and 10 poems composed by

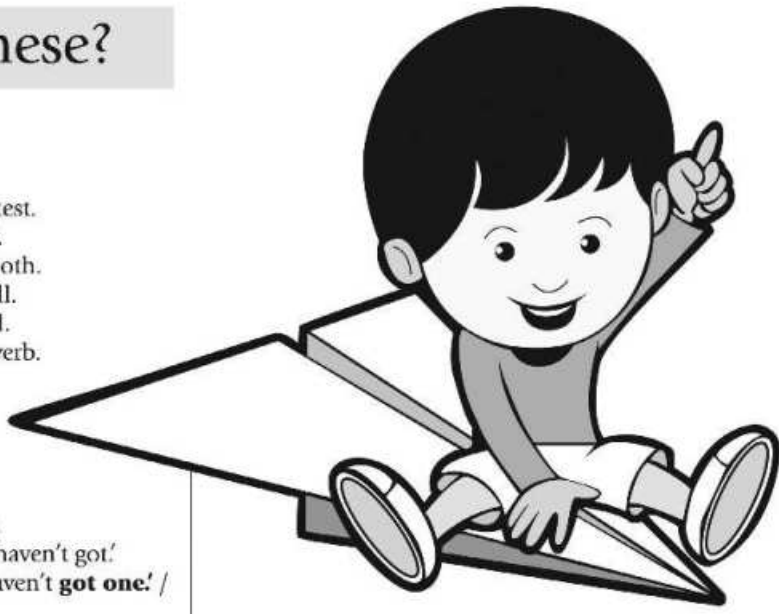
10 renowned poets of Bangla literature.

Tanjina Toma's repertoire included *Kar Milon Chao Birohi*, *Bhalobeshe Sakhi*, *Dui Haat-e Kaler Mandira* and more. Shovansundar Bosu presented the Tagore poem *Hridoy Amar Nacherey Ajike*, an Achintya Kumar Sengupta composition, *Purba-Pashchim*, a Nirmalendu Goon composition, *Aloukik*, among other soulful renditions.

Did you know these?

Common mistakes with pronouns ?

Incorrect: Both did not come.
Correct: **Neither came.**
Incorrect: Both of them did not pass the test.
Correct: **Neither of them** passed the test.
In negative clauses, we use 'neither' not both.
Incorrect: Each of these girls sing very well.
Correct: Each of these girls **sings** very well.
After **each and every**, we use a singular verb.
Incorrect: We all did not go.
Correct: **None of us went.**
Incorrect: We all had not been invited.
Correct: **None of us had been** invited.
Incorrect: One should love his country.
Correct: One should love **one's country**.
Incorrect: 'Have you got a pencil?' 'No, I haven't got.'
Correct: 'Have you got a pencil?' 'No, I haven't **got one**.' / 'No, I don't **have one**.'
Have is a transitive verb. It needs an object to complete its meaning.
Incorrect: 'Is he at home?' 'Yes, I think.'
Correct: 'Is he at home?' 'Yes, **I think so**.'
Incorrect: We enjoyed during the holidays.
Correct: We enjoyed **ourselves** during the holidays.
Enjoy is a transitive verb. It requires an object.
Incorrect: The boy **who works hard** he will get the prize.
Correct: The boy **who works hard** will get the prize.
Correct: **Whoever works hard** will get the prize.



Fill-in the gaps with the most suitable article:

- Gold is precious metal.
(a / an / the)
- reindeer is a native of Norway.
(a / an / the)
- An honest man always speaks.....
truth. (a / an / the)
- London is on river Thames.
(a / an / the)
- Look at sky. It is going to rain.
(a / an / the)
- Aladdin had magic lantern.
(a / an / the)
- rich are not always happy.
(a / an / the)
- Ganges is sacred river.
(a / an / the)
- lion is king of beasts.
(a / an / the)
- Which islongest river in India?
(a / an / the)

KEY:

1. a 2. The 3. the 4. the 5. the 6. a 7. The 8. The 9. The, the 10. the



Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word or phrase.

- He supported his arguments with quotations.
a) irrelevant
b) apposite
c) opposite
d) adjudged
- Don't be under the that you can succeed without working hard.
a) allusion
b) belief
c) illusion
d) faith
- The students were asked to give a/an of the whole novel in about 300 words.
a) content
b) abstract
c) extract
d) none of these

- He the bottle to show that there was not a drop left.
a) averted
b) turned
c) inverted
d) emptied

- The bill was actually passed in a/an form because members suggested several amendments.
a) extenuate
b) attenuate
c) mild
d) complete

- He has great for his grandchildren.
a) affection
b) affectation
c) affinity
d) none of these

- The government has introduced a project to help, especially the weavers and ivory makers, find a market for their products.
a) artisans
b) partisans
c) artists
d) technicians

- Spend wisely so that your expenditure does not your income.
a) accede
b) exceed
c) cross
d) outwit

- She asked him to his tongue.
a) bridal
b) bridle
c) rein
d) control

- The hoarders and black marketers deserve punishment.
a) corporate
b) corporal
c) competent
d) corpulent

- His blindness is
a) congenial
b) conjunctive
c) congenital
d) none of these

- He was by her beauty.
a) captured
b) decapitated
c) captivated
d) connived

KEY: 1. apposite 2. illusion 3. abstract 4. inverted 5. attenuate 6. affection 7. artisans 8. exceed 9. bridle 10. corporal 11. congenital 12. captivated

State whether the following sentences are in the active voice or passive voice.

- I can hear somebody coming.
- Suddenly I heard a strange noise.
- She has been told.
- We have not heard anything from them.
- The suspects were interrogated by the police.
- You needn't have woken me up.
- The students were praised by the teacher.
- This house was built in the 19th century.
- She has been waiting to hear from her husband.
- We have been invited to their party.
- Do you know this?
- He was shown the door.
- The child was injured in the accident.
- The bird had been caught by the cat.

KEY: 1. Active voice 2. Active voice 3. Passive voice 4. Active voice 5. Passive voice 6. Active voice 7. Passive voice 8. Passive voice 9. Active voice 10. Passive voice 11. Active voice 12. Passive voice 13. Passive voice 14. Passive voice

Complete the following sentences with an appropriate word or phrase.

- The visitor was given a welcome.
a) ceremonious
b) ceremonial
c) celebrated
d) cold

- Please convey my to your brother.
a) compliments
b) complements
c) feelings
d) emotions

- I shall tell you something, but keep it
a) confidence
b) confidential
c) confident
d) public

- This practice does not to the rules laid down by the council.
a) confirm
b) conform
c) support
d) rectify

- Cancer is not a disease.
a) serious
b) contagious
c) contiguous
d) contaminated

- Several Indians have to Australia in the last few years.
a) immigrated
b) emigrated
c) entered
d) visited

- In my, a Third World War is very unlikely.
a) calculation
b) estimation
c) belief
d) prospect

- In this collection, he has made a selection of light essays as well as thought provoking ones.
a) imprudent
b) judicious
c) judicial
d) legal

- Tokyo is a city.
a) popular
b) populous
c) inhabited
d) uninhabited

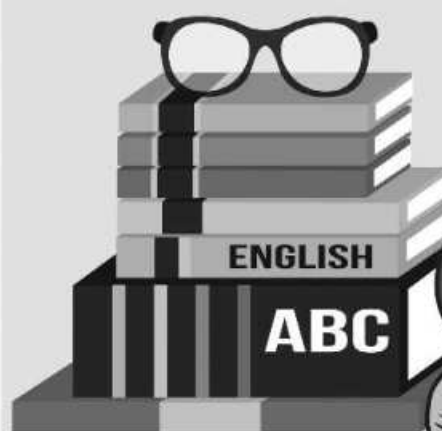
- In the olden days people believed that the earth was
a) stationary
b) stationery
c) moving
d) revolving

- I am about getting their support in this matter.
a) sanguine
b) hopeless
c) pessimistic
d) none of these

- The robber a pistol and threatened the passengers.
a) showed
b) displayed
c) used
d) brandished

- He was of the charge of theft.
a) released
b) acquitted
c) admitted
d) denied

KEY: 1. ceremonious 2. compliments 3. confidential 4. conform 5. contagious 6. emigrated 7. estimation 8. judicious 9. populous 10. stationary 11. sanguine 12. brandished 13. acquitted



Some of the Basics of Letter Writing:

Letters to friends and family should be written in a conversational style. They are a bit like a friendly chat. They should be spontaneous compositions and as such they should be unpremeditated. Compared with essays, social letters have a free style. When we engage in a friendly conversation, we touch on many topics. In the same way, you can write about just about any topic in a friendly letter. You can also present them in whatever order you like.

In letters to members of your family, the salutation should be:
My dear Father / My dear Friend / My Dear Sister etc.

Note that My Dear is more intimate and affectionate than Dear.
In letters to friends, the salutation should be:
Dear Peter / My dear Peter

If you are writing to an older person, you should address him as *Dear Mr Peter* or *Dear Ms Alice*.

In letters to strangers, the salutation should be Dear Sir or Dear Madam.
Avoid phrases like 'Honored Sir' and 'Respected Sir'. Native English speakers don't use expressions like these. After the opening salutation, Americans may put a colon or a comma. In British English, a comma is more common.

Subscription:

There is no apostrophe in **yours**, either before or after the s. Write *Yours sincerely* (NOT *Your's sincerely*)

Before the leave-taking phrase most people write an expression like *With kind regards*, *With every good wish* or *Hoping to hear from you soon*.

Informal letters may finish, for example, *Yours*, *See you* or *Love*. Note that Love is not usually used by one man to another.

Letters which begin *Dear Sir* or *Dear Madam* usually finish *Yours faithfully*. Formal letters which begin with the person's name usually finish *Yours sincerely*. In American English, *Yours faithfully* is not used.

Read the following sentences and add appropriate punctuation marks.

- Hurrah We have won the match
- We went to the beach yesterday
- Where have you been all this while
- A snake bit the man
- This is the best birthday gift I have received
- Mother made a delicious cake yesterday
- You saved my life with my advice
- This is exactly the same dress I bought
- Watch out
- How clever I'm
- How kind of you
- The boy has been missing since yesterday
- Where is John

KEY:

1. Hurrah! We have won the match! 2. We went to the beach yesterday. 3. Where have you been all this while? 4. A snake bit the man. 5. This is the best birthday gift I have received. 6. Mother made a delicious cake yesterday. 7. You saved my life with my advice. 8. This is exactly the same dress I bought. 9. Watch out! 10. How clever I'm! 11. How kind of you! 12. The boy has been missing since yesterday. 13. Where is John?



UN joins search for missing DR Congo cargo plane

AFP, Kinshasa

UN forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo have sent three aircraft to help search for a DRC government cargo plane with eight people on board missing since Thursday.

The plane, which had been supplying equipment for a visit to Goma by President Felix Tshisekedi, disappeared after taking off in bad weather from the eastern city.

The UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO sent two planes and a helicopter on Saturday to try to locate the Antonov 72 plane, whose crew included two Russians according to Moscow's embassy in Kinshasa.

If the plane is found, MONUSCO would do everything it could to get help to the crew, spokeswoman Florence Marshal told AFP.

"But the weather is not making the task any easier," she added.

Congolese aircraft are already searching for the missing plane, which according to the DRC's Civil Aviation Authority (AAC) was lost 59 minutes after takeoff.

One wounded in shooting in US church

AFP, Washington

A gunman opened fire Saturday in a small town church in New Hampshire, wounding one person before being taken into custody, police said.

The motive of the shooting and how the shooter was subdued were not known, said Tracey Hanes, dispatcher for the police in the town of Pelham in the largely rural northeastern state.

Hanes said a funeral ceremony was either under way or about to begin at the church when the gunman opened fire.

The wounded person was hospitalized in undisclosed condition.

Earlier reports said several people were injured in the shooting at the New England Pentacostal Church, a squat white building in Pelham, a town of 15,000.

The state governor confirmed the shooting incident.

"State officials are on scene assisting local first responders in the response and investigation of a shooting in Pelham, NH. While this remains a very active scene, the State of New Hampshire will provide all necessary resources to support the community and our local partners," Sununu tweeted.

Lost chapter

FROM PAGE 16

Murasaki, like the author.

Experts have confirmed the authenticity of the newfound manuscript, according to Japanese media.

The manuscript has been described as 21.9cm (8.6in) long and 14.3cm (5.6in) wide.

No original version of The Tale of Genji is believed to have survived, but other writers have transcribed the story.

The newly uncovered manuscript was transcribed by the Japanese poet Fujiwara no Teika, according to experts. Teika's transcriptions are believed to be the oldest available versions of the novel.

Four other chapters also transcribed by Teika have previously been recovered.

Current work on the newly discovered chapter was previously done using manuscripts completed two and a half centuries following Teika's era, Junko Yamamoto, a professor at the Kyoto University of Advanced Science, told the Asahi Shimbun.

"It is very significant that this discovery of the manuscript edited by Teika will be available for researchers," she told the publication.

'Robber' killed

FROM PAGE 16

Mohammad Abdul Jabbar, senior warrant officer of Rab-9.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the "robbers" opened fire on them, forcing them to retaliate that eventually triggered a "gunfight", he said.

Rab members recovered the bullet-hit body of Zainul from the spot and sent it to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said the Rab official.

Two killed

FROM PAGE 16

Metal Workers Federation told The Daily Star that the deceased might have inhaled toxic gas inside the tank.

Meanwhile, Assistant Inspector Mehedi Hasan of the department of explosives said it was unlikely that toxic gas would form inside a water tank of a tugboat. He said they were investigating the matter.

No case was filed regarding the incident as of filing of this report at 7:30pm.

Between January 2018 and this month, 40 workers were killed at shipbreaking yards of Sitakunda.



PHOTO: AFP

Hong Kong police detain a pro-democracy protester from outside a shopping centre in the Tai Koo area yesterday. Hong Kong riot police skirmished with small groups of masked pro-democracy protesters who held flashmob gatherings in multiple locations -- although crowds were smaller and less violent than recent weekends.

4 lakh can be displaced: UN

FROM PAGE 16

Kurdish authorities and foreign powers have warned repeatedly that the hostilities could undermine the fight against the Islamic State group (IS) and allow jihadists to break out of captivity.

The Kurdish administration in northern Syria said that Turkish bombardment near a camp for the displaced led to nearly 800 relatives of IS members fleeing.

US President Donald Trump has been accused of abandoning a loyal ally in the fight against IS after ordering American troops to pull back from the border.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor reported yesterday that 14 more civilians had been killed in fighting.

More than 50 civilians have now died on the Syrian side, with Turkish reports putting the number of civilians dead from Kurdish shelling inside Turkey at 18.

The Observatory said pro-Ankara fighters "executed" at least nine civilians on Saturday near the Syrian town of Tal Abyad.

The Kurds said a female Kurdish party official and her driver were among those killed.

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper

said yesterday President Donald Trump had ordered the withdrawal of up to 1,000 troops from northern Syria, **HUMANITARIAN FEARS**

Aid groups have warned of another humanitarian disaster in Syria's eight-year-old war if the offensive is not halted.

Some 12,000 IS fighters -- Syrians, Iraqis as well as foreigners from 54 countries -- are detained in Kurdish prisons, according to official Kurdish statistics.

Displacement camps meanwhile host some 12,000 foreigners -- 8,000 children and 4,000 women.

"The brutal military assault led by Turkey and its mercenaries is now taking place near a camp in Ain Issa, where there are thousands (of people) from families of IS," a Kurdish administration statement said.

"Some were able to escape after bombardments that targeted" the camp.

It said the Ain Issa camp was "now without guards" and 785 relatives of IS jihadists had fled.

The SDF, a coalition of Kurdish and Arab fighters, was the main partner on the ground in the US-led campaign against IS.

According to the Observatory, at least 104 of its fighters have been

killed since the start of the Turkish offensive.

FIERCE FIGHTING

According to Turkish media, Ankara aims to take control of a territory 120 kilometre (75 miles) long and 30 kilometres into Syria, up to the towns of Tal Abyad and Ras al-Ain.

Near Tal Abyad, "fierce combat" unfolded around Suluk, with Turkish air raids targeting the area, according to the Britain-based Observatory.

"The Turks are trying to take control, but there are fierce battles with our forces," an SDF official said.

Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP that fighting was ongoing on the western outskirts of Ras al-Ain, where Kurdish forces had pushed back Turkish forces and its Syrian rebel allies.

"Ankara's forces and pro-Turkish rebels pulled back in several areas where they had advanced the day before," the Observatory head said.

On Saturday, Ankara announced that it had overrun the town, but the SDF denied the claim.

SDF fighters have taken mounting losses against the vastly superior military firepower of Turkey, which has defied mounting international protests and the threat of US sanctions in pressing on with its offensive.

Typhoon leaves 26 dead in Japan

FROM PAGE 16

retirement home in Kawagoe, northwest of Tokyo, which was flooded up to its top floor.

One elderly woman wearing an orange life vest was brought out from a boat on the back of a hard-hat wearing rescuer. Others were hoisted onto wheelchairs and pushed along a muddy shore on arrival by boat.

Hagibis smashed into the main Japanese island of Honshu on Saturday night as one of the most violent typhoons in recent years, with wind gusts of up to 216 kilometres per hour (134 miles per hour). **'PLEASE DO YOUR BEST'**

The storm claimed its first victim even before making landfall, when high winds flipped a vehicle, killing its driver.

Landslides and flooding claimed more lives overnight, and the toll climbed higher after sunrise yesterday, as the scale of the devastation wrought by Hagibis became clear.

Bodies were retrieved from submerged homes and vehicles, from raging overflowing rivers, and from buildings buried in landslides.

The dead included a municipal worker whose car was overcome by floodwaters and two Chinese crew members aboard a boat that sank overnight in Tokyo Bay.

Four of the crew were rescued, but authorities were still searching for another six.

"The government will do its utmost," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, vowing that rescue efforts would run through the night.

"Please do your best," he told a disaster management meeting.

More than 110,000 homes were still without power by yesterday evening, with others experiencing water outages.

At the storm's peak, more than seven million people were placed under non-compulsory evacuation orders, and over 135,000 people were still in government shelters by yesterday evening.

The storm prompted the Japan Meteorological Agency to issue its highest-level rain disaster warning, saying "unprecedented" downpours were expected.

"The water came up higher than my head in the house," Hajime Tokuda, a finance professional living in Kawasaki near Tokyo told AFP.

He moved to his family's home nearby, but that flooded too and they had to be rescued by boat.

In Saitama's Higashi Matsuyama city, northwest of Tokyo, rice and flower farmers were counting their losses, with water submerging warehouses full of freshly harvested

produce.

"We never had a flood like this before in this neighbourhood," said one farmer, who declined to give his name.

"I don't know where to start cleaning this mess."

The storm brought travel chaos during a long holiday weekend in Japan, grounding flights and halting local and bullet train services.

Yesterday, train services began resuming and operations also slowly restarted at the two airports serving the capital, although many flights were cancelled.

But some lines remained halted, with aerial footage in Naganu showing rows of bullet trains partially submerged by flooding.

The storm also caused havoc for the sports world, delaying Japanese Grand Prix qualifiers and forcing the cancellation of two Saturday Rugby World Cup matches.

Yesterday morning, organisers cancelled a third fixture -- Namibia-Canada -- but gave the go-ahead to three others including a crunch Japan-Scotland game in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

Scotland faced elimination if the match was cancelled and had threatened legal action if it was not played.

Importers cash in on legal loopholes

FROM PAGE 16

done at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), popularly known as Science Laboratory, in compliance with the Import Policy.

The CCH had decided to send the samples to BCSIR for tests on August 27 and know if the samples contained any antibiotics, including two specific ones -- nitrofurantoin and chloramphenicol -- and by-products of pigs and cattle.

But following the HC order, it asked the laboratory not to test for the presence of "porcine and bovine derivatives."

Contacted, Customs Commissioner Fakhru Alam said they had withdrawn the request for the tests for swine and bovine by-products.

The Fish Feed Rules 2011 formulated under the 2010 Fish Feed Act has a long list of prohibited substances that fish feed might be contaminated with. The rules,

however, allow a maximum limit of 25 percent MBM in fish feed.

Experts, however, point out that that rule was negated after the ban on MBM imposed by the commerce ministry. They also suspect this was a case of MBM being disguised as fish feed.

As for the major arguments against the tests, the Bangladesh Aqua Product Companies Association in a written document said the test used for identifying presence of bovine and swine elements was highly sensitive and the results would be positive even for cases where there was the slightest of contamination.

Meat and bone meal might not be forbidden in the exporting country and so if local and exportable goods are produced in the same set-up, contamination may happen.

There is a solution.

Prof Mohammad Riazul Islam, of the biochemistry and molecular biology department of Dhaka

University, said quantitative PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test could measure quantity of MBM resolving the confusion whether goods had negligible contamination or were made of the forbidden substances.

But for that a legal provision had to be in place for the test upon arrival of consignments at ports.

The Customs have appealed with the Appellate Division against the HC order and the hearing on it is scheduled for today.

Bus conductor

FROM PAGE 16

he lives in Dhaka and works as a gardener there. His daughter is a school student in Baniachong.

The OC said the father filed a case against Manik with Madhabpur Police Station on Saturday night.

The accused was produced before a court that sent him to jail yesterday.

Canada vote pitches Trudeau into fight of his political life

AFP, Ottawa

The gloves have come off as Justin Trudeau struggles to hold onto his parliamentary majority heading into the last week of a tight campaign before Canada's October 21 general election.

The latest polls put his Liberals in a dead heat with the Conservatives, led by Andrew Scheer.

With only 32 percent support each, however, neither of the frontrunners is poised to win enough of the 338 seats up for grabs for an absolute majority in the House of Commons.

Barring a trip-up over the coming days, whoever wins the most votes may have to seek the backing of one or more minor parties to form the next government.

"Not since the 1980s have I seen an election campaign where the two major parties are so close, and where neither of them has really managed to captivate voters," said Christian Bourque of polling firm Leger.

"The Liberals' support is close to a historic low, which means Trudeau has not been able to convince enough progressive voters to stick with him," he told AFP.

"Meanwhile, the Conservatives have been unable to attract centrist voters (beyond their base) over to their side."

A lack of a defining issue, he noted, has been problematic for all parties in this election, but more so for the two mainstays that have led Canada since confederation in 1867.

"The traditional main parties are struggling to captivate, inspire and motivate voters to come out and cast a ballot," said Bourque.

The Liberals, who won 184 seats in the last election with 40 percent of the popular vote trouncing the Tories on 99 seats, have sought to make climate action a key issue this time.

Trudeau defended his record: introduction of a carbon tax to curb

Rid's Toxic

FROM PAGE 16

apex court did yesterday.

Between June and August 2009, at least 28 children across the country died of renal failure which was allegedly caused by the paracetamol syrups and suspensions manufactured by Rid Pharma.

Samrat victim of political

FROM PAGE 1

demanding his immediate release and proper treatment.

"My son is innocent. He is very sick. Please show mercy, release him and arrange better treatment for him," his 80-year-old mother Sayera Khatun Chowdhury appealed to the prime minister in a feeble voice at a press conference in Dhaka Reporters Unity.

On October 6, Rab arrested former Jubo League south president Samrat, an alleged kingpin of Casino business, in Cumilla amid the ongoing crackdown on the casino and other illegal business.

Following a search at his Kakrail office later in the day, Rab at a press briefing said it seized two devices used for torturing people, a pistol with five bullets, two Kangaroo hides, 1,160 yaba tablets and 19 bottles of foreign liquor from there.

Later, a Rab mobile court sentenced Samrat to six months in jail for possessing wild animal hides and another six months for possessing liquor.

Two days later, he was admitted to a city hospital as he complained of chest pain. But he taken back to jail on Saturday.

"Samrat is your worker. He is like your son. As a mother, I am requesting you to forgive his faults and mistakes," said Samrat's sister Farhana Chowdhury while reading out a statement on behalf of her mother.

"Samrat underwent an open-heart surgery in 1999. He is working for the party even though he has been ill since then," she said, adding, "He is not an infiltrator into the party."

The family gave a detailed account of Samrat's involvement in the Awami League politics and his role in anti-autocracy movement and torment he went through "during the BNP regime in 1991."

"He is the ideal soldier of the Father of the Nation," Samrat's sister said.

"Samrat had not been at his office for 10 days before his arrest. His office was unguarded. There was no liquor, yaba pills and pistol in the office. We suspect it is nothing but a part of a staged drama," the mother alleged.

The family claimed that Rab did not get any drugs from where Samrat was arrested. He was taken to his Kakrail office in the capital where law enforcers searched his office for over four hours, but no journalist was allowed to the office during the search.

"During live telecast [from outside], they saw some law enforcers entering

global warming, a strong economy with near-record low unemployment, and new trade pacts with Europe and Pacific nations, as well as the United States and Mexico.

The Conservatives, meanwhile, have stood alone among all of the parties in pledging austerity measures to return to a balanced budget within five years.

With time running out to sway voters, what started as polite discourse over policies turned to mudslinging.

Trudeau evoked the boogeymen of past and current Conservative parties, accusing Scheer and his Tories of fostering "politics of fear and division" and secretly planning to slash billions in social and infrastructure spending.

The full Conservative platform was only released late Friday, just before the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend.

Scheer retorted that Trudeau is a "compulsive liar," "a phoney and a fraud."

He raised Trudeau's wearing of blackface makeup, his meddling in the criminal prosecution of engineering giant SNC-Lavalin and his firing of the nation's first indigenous attorney general "for not going along with his corruption."

"Who do you trust to put more money in your pockets so you can get ahead?" Scheer said at a campaign stop on Saturday.

Scheer, untested since taking the reins of his party two years ago, has struggled to overcome his bland image of a minivan-driving dad of five trying to take down the Trudeau dynasty.

Anwarul

FROM PAGE 16

service in 1983.

He became secretary on January 31, 2013 and senior secretary on July 13, 2017. He is also the ex-officio executive director of Bangladesh Bridge Authority.

Before this, he worked in the cabinet division as additional secretary.

He joined Bridges Division under the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges as secretary (in-charge) from November 13, 2011.

Anwarul Islam earned his BSS (hons) and MSS in social welfare from the University of Dhaka. He also holds a postgraduate diploma in development planning.

BNP leader

FROM PAGE 1

about intelligence and law enforcement agencies by email".

Rapid Action Battalion after arresting him handed him over to police, said Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station.

Sub-inspector Abu Saied of Rab-4 filed the case accusing Hafiz and Col (ret'd) Ishaq Mian, the chief of BNP Chairperson's Security Force, with the police station.

Col Ishaq was arrested the same day and remanded for seven days.

In the case statement, SI Abu Saied said Col Ishaq sent an email to an unidentified person named Hiren Mukharjee on May 2 this year, in which he gave "false, misleading, fabricated, and ill-motivated information" on the role of law enforcers, administration, and intelligence agencies in the December 30 national election.

"Through his activities, he tried to undermine law and order by creating instability and tarnishing the country's image," the statement read.

It was also stated that his activities were part of an ill-attempt to destabilise the country by creating chaos in the armed forces.

During interrogation, Col Ishaq told Rab that Maj Hafiz, one barrister M Sarwar Hossain and some unnamed people were involved, according to the statement.

Yesterday, Sub-inspector Nure Alam of Pallabi Police Station, also investigation officer of the case, produced Maj Hafiz before the court and sought a seven-day remand.

In the remand prayer, the officer said Maj Hafiz should be interrogated to unearth the mystery behind the incident and know the whereabouts of accused on the run.

The court rejected the prayer after defense lawyers argued for bail and said their client was not involved in the incident.



(L) A procession brought out by local women during the Phulbari movement in 2006. Photo: Star; (M) “Tarikul’s Death” - a painting by Saiful Islam, an artist in Phulbari. Photo taken by the author with permission from the artist. (R) Torchlight procession in Shahbag, March 2013. Photo: Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo



Paradoxes of the Popular: Crowd Politics in Bangladesh

NUSRAT SABINA CHOWDHURY

The crowd fascinates and horrifies. The cheering populist rallies of European cities or the angry mobs meting out justice in our streets all signal the crowd as an enduring presence in global political life. It is also the main focus of my book, *Paradoxes of the Popular: Crowd Politics in Bangladesh* published by Stanford University Press in August 2019. I consider the crowd sociologically as well as conceptually, and come to the conclusion that it is both a solution and a scapegoat, that is, a true political enigma. The simultaneous vilification and validation of the crowd, or *janata*, in its Bangla iteration, is not new in the democratic culture of South Asia. It has also been the much-touted nemesis of the people and the public in scholarly treatises on democracy and public life. In the longer history of liberal political thought, the crowd is a permanent

coming face to face with what he likens to a force of nature. Khoka calls this unreflexive, uncouth, and hysterical entity by the name, *janata*.

To Khoka what was until then a skinny word wrapped in the wispy feathers of three letters, like *dayita* (beloved), *jamini* (night) or *madira* (wine), is suddenly spreading across the city in thunderous explosions – *janata*!

Janata is an active, affective and political configuration of *manush*, which is the word Khoka uses for “the people.” The Sanskrit-derived gloss for the human can be either singular or plural. *Manush howa* is the process of growing up; it is a progression towards becoming a fully functioning, humane adult. It is at once developmental and social like in the expression, *manush kora*. But the word does not pack a political punch in the same way *janata* or *janogon* does. *Manush* speaks to an innate humanity that need not include political maturation or participation. *Janata* is a higher level of collectivity than the more passive *manush* or even *bhir* (crowdedness).

Even in the mythic, nationalist crowds of the early 1970s, Huq identifies a duality that haunts the figure of the crowd. It is this constitutive paradox that I explore by focusing on some of the more important mass political events of the past decade. From Phulbari to Shahbag, the protests that form the content and the background of *Paradoxes of the Popular* have been public in the sense that they took over public spaces for their articulation. They have been formally akin to the spontaneous assemblies that dotted parts of the world this past decade. Whether against corporate capital, land grabs, military rule, or war crimes trials, they have defied easy labeling, their form and content veering between progressive, patriotic, secular, religious, reformist, violent, radical and reactionary. My book attends to the minutiae of these protests by locating in the crowd the energy, agency and indeterminacy of mass politics.

I had spent much of 2007-2008 in Phulbari, about 180 miles from Dhaka, tracking down those who took part in one of the more successful crowd protests of recent years. Three young men were shot to death when the paramilitary, serving a multinational company’s interest, tried to stop ordinary villagers from staging a *gherao* of the company’s office. The violence, and the protests that had come before and after it, put Phulbari squarely on the map. It managed, for the first time, to bring a national energy crisis, a seemingly technocratic problem to be resolved behind closed doors, into public consciousness. Here, I had met Majeda, a rural woman, who was party to the burning of cash in an episode of spontaneous protest. In August 2006, she and a few other women from the neighborhood had come out of their homes to challenge the brutality of the border patrol guards that had led to the deaths the day before. Interviewed multiple times by journalists and activists who thronged Phulbari, she was by far the best-known representative of the “women” of Phulbari, a potent and eminently utilizable token of local resistance. Her profession as a sex worker was also widely known but rarely talked about. It was a public secret.

“I set Hussain’s house on fire,”

Majeda blurted out, interrupting our conversation. “Then Hussain’s house was put to fire. The sack of money burnt down. At last when there was a light wind, one could only see the seals on the notes.” Addressing the older woman standing at the doorstep, she nearly shouted, “He kept money in the turmeric, *Nani!*” The reason behind her clear excitement in seeing the fire was not simply that money could be stored like condiment; money, when put to fire, also burnt in flames like any other object. Our conversation at the time of her interjection focused on the misdeeds of a particular “collaborator” whom I shall call Hussain. Locally known as a *dalal*, a collaborator was a ubiquitous figure in Phulbari, rife as it was with suspicions of profiting from the energy company, then called Asia Energy Corporation, and its insidious forms of corruption.

“How did you know that there was money there,” I asked her. In response, Majeda repeated herself: “Because all the sacks burnt down! Only the seals were there. If you blew lightly on it, the sack would be all ashes.” She went on to describe how the ashes were flying around in the wind, showing enough proof that the bills had indeed burnt down. What was offered as the ultimate evidence was the “seal” (for which she used the English word), the symbol of paper money’s source of authority. For Majeda, this was visible even when the rest of the bill was consumed by fire.

Majeda’s participation in crowd violence revealed the betrayal of a *dalal*, who had kept sacks full of money in his pantry. More important, the immolation of cash in protest elevated her and the money she had burnt, the latter deemed “dirty” because of its association with the energy company. She transformed and transcended her previously established role as a “public woman,” although as a part of a pillaging crowd whose ability to reason was suspect. Caught in the midst of an emergent crisis of representation when allegations of collaboration were everywhere, through this collective act of plunder, Majeda created value as an individual as well as a member of a protesting crowd. Her use – or abuse – of paper money was a political act lodged in a system of meaning that tied productivity with morality. She remains a powerful icon of Phulbari’s quest for justice.

The recuperation that had happened in Majeda’s case was simultaneously denied to another person whose life was also tragically, and accidentally, tangled with the same events. Tarikul was a 20-year-old man from Phulbari who was one of the three people killed in 2006. He was a part of the *michhil* that was trying to get to the office of Asia Energy and eventually confronted the paramilitary. For Tarikul’s mother, with whom I had the opportunity to speak, accident was the single operative theme. It dominated her version of how her son had become a victim of the events of August 26. Tarikul had no desire to join the procession. He was there only to see what was going on. In the midst of the chaos, his mobile phone fell out of his pocket. As he was about to pick it up, a paramilitary guard shot him. Had he not bent down to retrieve the phone, he would have been alive, his mother believed. A minor accident of a phone slipping out of his pocket eventuated in a fatal accident that was to become a critical event. The young man, as per

his mother, was only accidentally a part of the crowd.

Like any accident, Tarikul’s death was a culmination of missed cues and misrecognitions. When he bent down to pick up the phone, the border guards thought he was picking up a stone to hurl at them and reacted preemptively. Throwing stones or rocks at the police and other state agents was as common in this agitation as it has been elsewhere. It is a counter-hegemonic, violent, and potentially dangerous strategy that crowds employ when faced with an enemy of unequal force and might. Phulbari’s Tarikul, however, was no average rioter. Devoid of any express political will, according to those who outlived him, he was a bystander who got caught up in the motions and was in a hurry to leave. The simple act of picking up a phone looked like he had a subversive motive. The accidental seemed intentional and in turn solicited violent intervention.

The crowds in Tunis, Tahrir Square, or Phulbari, for that matter, have made amply clear that martyrdom is ad hoc, improvised, uneven, contentious, and precarious. The line between death and martyrdom is rarely settled. It is impossible to know whether and how Tarikul’s curiosity and attraction to spectacle would have set the stage for future politicization. Beyond his mother’s lament of his untimely death and the ascription of martyrdom and retrospective inclusion of Tarikul in the core script of the movement, one can only speculate the possibilities that exist in such exposure to situational convergences that may, and indeed have, led to political awakening for other people in other places.

Looking past the spectacular to remain loyal to the intimate and the ordinary, my book privileges the imperceptible nature of politics. This is the politics that arises from the emergence of the miscounted – the vagabond, the wandering poor or the unruly peasant, for example. Attempts to harness and work with these imperceptible potentials are generally misrecognized and translated into familiar terms of representation, such as resistance or protest. The concept also has significance, I believe, for understanding political crowds. It is no coincidence that “mobility” refers to movement but also, the common people, the working classes, and the mob. Imperceptible politics are about dissent, but they are not always easily recognizable as resistance. They are comprised of everyday, singular, contingent acts which cannot be reduced to one procedural and necessary form of politics. These everyday cultural and practical exercises of claim-making, I argue, make up the politics of the crowd.

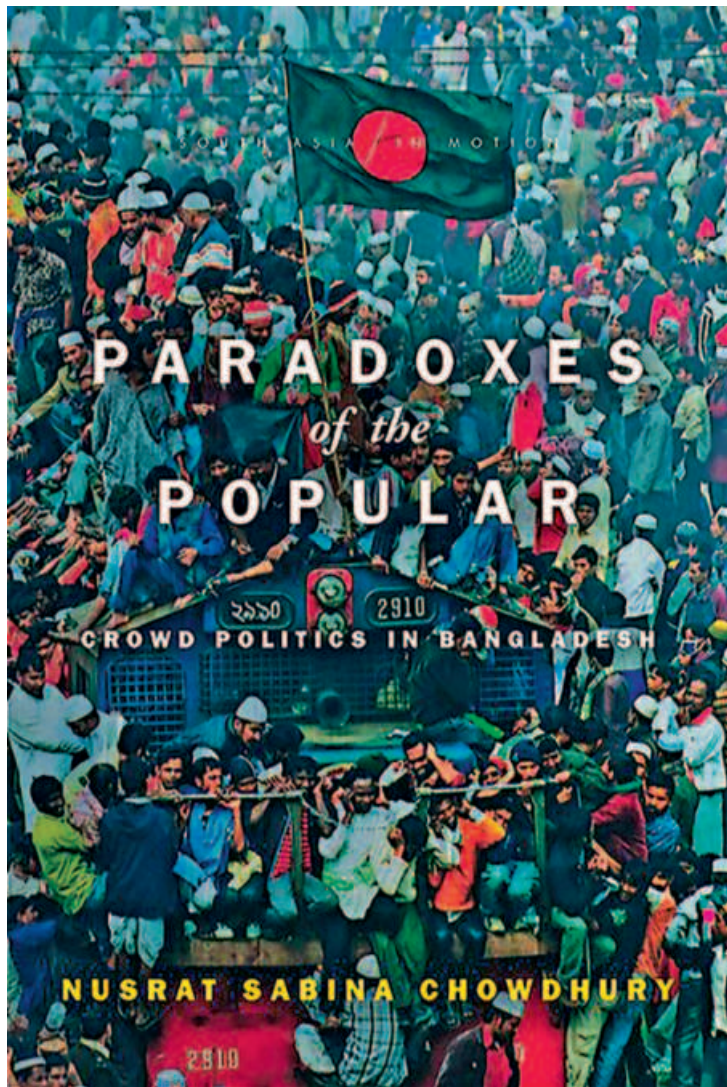
Situating the minutiae of crowd politics against this background, even when it defies a familiar script of resistance, is not the same as rehashing some “hoary revolutionary myth” about the crowd, as Jason Frank has recently suggested. This is not an attempt at finding in the crowd the direct expression of a unified and sacred popular voice but instead approaching it as a powerful, often self-contradictory, act of political representation. It is to ask when and how a group of individuals physically gathered in a public space can be understood to speak and act in the name of “the people.” It is also, ultimately, to interrogate what animates the popular that evokes

hope and despair about the fate of democracy itself, particularly the postcolonial version of which we experience in contemporary Bangladesh.

The crowd and not the coffee shop is where publicness is performed and communicated in Bangladesh as in many other places. Almost all postcolonial forms of politics rely heavily on the crowd to articulate claims to legitimacy. The protests featured in my book are, in effect, nodes in a long chain of negotiations, some more routine than others, between basic governance policies, state repression, and political violence that characterize a vast portion of the formerly colonized world. My book has captured many such moments in which the crowd has made its presence felt in assertions of democracy that may not look like so to those who stand behind more normative models of the concept, or seek them out in voting behavior surveys and nationalist histories.

While the glory of the crowd is inscribed in the memory of Bangladesh’s political founding, the other, less dramatic, figure of the crowd resides in the everyday, political life of Bangladeshi citizens. My book explores these myriad dimensions and hopes to occasion a rethinking of the phenomenon of popular politics more broadly. The unfolding trajectory of Bangladesh’s democracy, I argue, is best understood by historically and anthropologically locating the role and the rise of the crowd— *janata*. Bangladesh’s double postcoloniality bears on the present in a manner that is somewhat unique within the larger South Asian political landscape. The recent return of the crowd in the West has spurred scholarly and journalistic reflections on populism. Yet the crowd never left the postcolonial political scene. It is therefore my hope that the study of the fraught recent history of the crowd in Bangladesh in *Paradoxes of the Popular* will offer insights and resources to those interested in the global life of democracy.

Nusrat Sabina Chowdhury writes on popular sovereignty and political communication primarily through an anthropological lens. She’s the author of *Paradoxes of the Popular* (Stanford University Press 2019), her first book, and a number of articles on the political culture of Bangladesh. Her current research interests are in old and new forms of surveillance and development infrastructure in Bangladesh and their co-emergence. She’s an associate professor of anthropology at Amherst College in Massachusetts, USA.



Book cover

fixture against which the acts and utterances of the people are defined.

Crowds, *michhil*, and political gatherings have played formative roles in the origin story of Bangladesh. The crowd at Bangabondhu’s speech at the Ramna Race Course in 1971 is a significant part of national folklore. The event of March 7 was a grand moment of declaration where the boundaries between popular demands for independence and constitutionalism were blurred to produce one of the most iconic moments – and sound bites – of East Pakistan’s struggle for nationhood.

Mahmudul Huq’s novel *Jiban Amar Bon* (Life is My Sister; 1972) starts a few days before Mujib’s landmark speech. The war begins and ends within the novel, which is narrated in the third person. *Jiban Amar Bon* is largely about its central character Khoka’s struggle to make sense of the events that were sweeping away the region and with it a whole generation. It is a tale of the main character

ENDNOTES

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Naren Halder feeds fish at his enclosure at Dariabad village in Nazirpur upazila of Pirojpur. Inset, Naren and his wife hold crests, awarded at a programme in the upazila during the National Fisheries Week in July this year, for their success in fish cultivation.

PHOTO: STAR

Once broke, Naren gains solvency by fish farming

He earns profit of Tk 2 lakh every 3 months from 2 fish enclosures on 70 decimals

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Completely broke after failed attempt to go abroad six years ago, Naren Halder is now a successful fish farmer.

Naren, 45, from Dariabad village under Nazirpur upazila in the district, paid a good amount of money to a travel agency for going to Yemen to bring solvency in his family.

But suddenly he came to know that several of his acquaintances had left Yemen as a devastating war broke out there.

"I could not go to Yemen and the travel agency did not return my money, which I had managed by borrowing from relatives, neighbours and several NGOs. Losing everything, I had to pass days half-starved with my family," Naren said.

Then one of his lenders, a local fish farmer suggested him to start fish farming and also extended cooperation for the purpose.

"Then I started cultivation of walking fish of Vietnam variety and telapia in an enclosure. I made a good profit within a short time and continued fish farming with full cooperation from my wife Shamoly Halder," he said.

He has already made two fish enclosures

on 70 decimals of leased land. After every three months, he can sell fish that brings him profit of around Tk 2 lakh.

Naren also grows vegetables on the bank of the fish enclosures and sells the produces for good profit.

Now he leads a happy life with his wife and three daughters – the eldest of them is a university student, another attends a local high school and the youngest one is five years' old.

Naren demands that the authorities take steps to reduce the price of fish meal and arrange easy bank loan for the fish farmers.

Wholesale buyers from different areas buy fish from Naren's enclosure.

"The fish from Naren's enclosure has special demand to the customers as its quality is good," said Hasan Sheikh, a wholesale buyer.

Inspired by Naren, at least 20 people of the village have involved in fish farming, said Probhas Halder, villager.

Tapan Kumar Bepary, Nazirpur upazila fisheries officer, said they give logistic support to Naren for fish cultivation.

For success in fish farming, Naren and his wife has got prizes in the upazila level during the National Fisheries Week in July this year.

Easy-bike driver found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police recovered the body of a man from a ditch beside Dhaka-Khulna highway near Nagardia area in Nagarkanda upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Kalam Fakir, 60, son of late Khalil Fakir of Gajaria village in the upazila, was a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver.

Deceased's son Liton Fakir said his father went out of the house with his easy-bike on Saturday afternoon and did not return house.

Locals spotted Kalam's body floating in a roadside ditch around 9:00am and informed the police, who recovered the body and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy, Officer in Charge (OC) of Nagarkanda Police Station Sheikh Sohel Rana said.

The body bore marks of stab injuries on the back and its hands and legs were tied with rope, the OC said, adding that they are yet to find the auto-rickshaw.

DEFYING BAN ON FISHING

68 fishermen jailed in three districts

Mobile courts in separate drives also seized 6 trawlers, 3 lakh and 40 thousand metres of fishing nets

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Mobile courts in separate drives yesterday sentenced 68 fishermen to different terms of imprisonment and seized huge quantity of fishing nets in Barishal, Faridpur and Manikganj for defying a 22-day ban on netting hilsa.

Our Barishal correspondent reported that at least 32 fishermen were jailed by three separate mobile courts in Sadar upazila on charge of defying the ongoing ban on hilsa fishing.

Fisheries department in cooperation with district administration, coastguards and river police conducted separate drives in the Kalabador, Meghna and Gojara river yesterday noon and detained 32 fishermen from there.

They also seized about two lakh metres of fishing nets worth Tk 40 lakh and 54 kg of hilsa from their possession.

Of the arrestees, twenty people were sentenced to one year imprisonment while 12 others to three months imprisonment, District Fisheries Officer (DFO) Bimol Chandra Das said.

Away in Faridpur, mobile courts in separate drives detained 21 fishermen and sentenced them to one year imprisonment

in Sadarpur upazila, reports our correspondent.

A court led by Sadarpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Purobi Golder detained 13 fishermen and sentenced them to one year imprisonment.

Meanwhile, another court led by Executive Magistrates Sajal Chandra Shil jailed eight fishermen under the Protection and Conservation of Fish Act, 1950.

The two courts also sized 40,000 meters of fishing nets and two maunds of hilsa from different areas along the Padma and Arial Kha river. The seized fishes were later distributed among different orphanages.

Our Manikganj correspondent adds: A mobile court sentenced 15 fishermen to one year imprisonment for netting hilsa in the Jamuna river near Alokdia Char area under Shivalaya upazila for defying the government ban.

During the drive the court led by Shivalaya Upazila Nirbahi Officer AFM Firoz Mahmud seized six trawlers, one lakh metres of current nets and 20 kilograms of hilsa.

The seized nets were later burnt in presence of the officials.

Concrete chunks fall from ceilings at school

The building of the lone high school in Madhabpur union under Kamalganj upazila was declared risky two months ago

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Students and teachers were unscathed at Madhabpur High School in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila on Saturday evening when large chunks of concrete and plaster from ceilings in three rooms came off at the school building.

Serious injuries or fatalities could be averted as the school was closed for Durga puja when the incident took place.

This is the only high school in Madhabpur union, inhabited mostly by tea garden workers, and the only centre for PEC and JSC examinations in the union.

The school building had been declared risky by district education engineer two months ago, said Assistant Engineer Mofizul Islam at Department of Education Engineering in Moulvibazar.

One of the three rooms on the building's ground floor, where ceilings sustained damage, was being used as teachers' room while the other two on the same floor were classrooms.

Construction of the two-storey building was completed in 1995 and a number of cracks developed in it four to five years ago, said the school authorities.

Monir Mia, a guardian of a student, said they were worried about the students' safety as they also noticed many cracks on the school building.

Abdus Sobhan, the school's headteacher, said they continued academic activities at the risky building after being unable to find any substitute facility.

Upazila nirbahi officer and upazila secondary education officer have been informed of Saturday's incident, he said, adding that test examinations for SSC students, scheduled to start at the school on Monday, are now uncertain due to the incident.

Contacted, Kamalganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ashekul Haque said they would take necessary steps after inspection is conducted at the school building.



PHOTO: STAR

Heavy chunks of concrete fell from the ceiling in this room used by teachers at Madhabpur High School in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila on Saturday evening.

Satkania UZ polls today

Apart from 3 chairman candidates, six male and two female vice chairman candidates are vying in the polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

All preparations for today's election to Satkania Upazila Parishad are complete, with three candidates from running for the chairman post.

MA Motaleb, president of Satkania upazila unit of Awami league (AL), and Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, former joint secretary general of BNP's Chattogram south district unit, are contesting for the chairman post with their party tickets.

The third candidate for the post is running independently.

Apart from chairman candidates, a total of six male vice chairman candidates and two female vice chairman candidates are vying in the polls in the upazila where the number of total voters is 2,83,380. Electronic voting machines will be used at

all polling stations in the election.

Meanwhile, Gaffar, the BNP-nominated candidate for chairman post, speculated that the election would not be held in a free and fair manner.

"The ruling party [men] tore down my posters in different areas... I can't hold street rallies due to obstructions created by the ruling party men... the administration is in favour of the ruling party candidate," he said, claiming that his vehicle was vandalised and he was forced to leave an area during campaigning.

"I lodged a number of written complaints with the returning officer," but no action was taken, he also said.

The AL-nominated candidate MA Motaleb, however, refuted all the accusations made by Gaffar.

Abducted schoolgirl traceless for a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A schoolgirl who was abducted by a gang of youths in Daulatpur upazila on October 5 is yet to be rescued after over a week of the incident.

Father of the victim, a Class IX student at a local high school, filed an abduction case with Daulatpur Police Station accusing four youths on October 10.

According to the case statement, four youths led by Akhinur Sheikh, 20, abducted the girl on her way back from one of her classmates house at Rauha village in the upazila on October 5 evening.

Victim's father told this newspaper that Akhinur, son of Sadek Hossain, had long been stalking his daughter on her way to and from school.

Investigating Officer of the case Sub-Inspector Morshed Alam said they were trying to rescue the schoolgirl, adding that they have already arrested one of the accused Rajib, 22, son of Javed Matabbar of Par-Rouha village.



District chapters of Women Affairs Directorate and Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha in cooperation with the district administration form a human chain at Shaheed Rafiq square in Manikganj town yesterday marking Child Marriage Prevention Day 2019.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIRSHAH

**Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF)**
(A Company under the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of Bangladesh)
Grameen Bank Bhaban, Level-13, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216
Web: www.bmdf.gov.bd

Vacancy Announcement

Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF) is a company under Financial Institutions Division of the Ministry of Finance. BMDF carries out infrastructural developments of the municipalities and city corporations of the country.

BMDF invites applications from Bangladeshi Nationals for the position of **Assistant Accounts Officer** for Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP)-BMDF part. It is completely a temporary and contractual post for the project period of MGSP.

Service contract will be renewed annually on the basis of yearly performance. The service of the incumbent is terminable at any time showing no reason by giving one month's notice or one month salary. The service contract will be terminated at the end of the contractual period automatically.

Qualification: Master degree in Accounting/Finance/Management from any reputed university. CMA/PL-III/CA(AS)/ACCA (PE) will be preferred.

Experience: At least 7 years' job experience (Minimum 5 years' experience in development project). Involvement in any project under the World Bank financing will be an added advantage.

Age: Minimum 32 years and maximum 45 years on November 14, 2019.

Job Responsibilities:

- Perform payment activities in time by verifying documents and requesting disbursement;
- Maintain project bank A/C and prepare monthly reconciliation statement;
- Timely record keeping of the transactions in the General Ledger and prepare annual accounts/financial reports under MGSP.
- Maintain and update Tally and other Accounts Management Software;
- Check bills submitted by the ULBs for payment;
- Generate monthly expenditure & other reports in time;
- Assist employees of Finance Section of BMDF on various issues like audit, banking, budget, credit recovery, financial reports etc;
- Receive and file letter by the competent authority with comments by the Credit Approval Authority, with instruction to transfer loan and accrued interest to non-performing account.
- Prepare periodical reports on total disbursements etc. and replenishment claim to the World Bank;
- Computer literacy on MS Office tools is a must. Communication and written skill both in Bangla and English are essential.
- Any other duties assigned by the authority.

Salary and Others:

- Consolidated Salary Tk. 70,360/- per month, Bangla Nobo Barsho allowance and two festival bonuses for each completed year will be given as per BMDF's Service Rule.

Application Procedures:

- Candidates fulfilling the above requirements are requested to apply with detailed CV, one-copy of PP size color photograph, photocopies of all academic and work experiences certificates and national identity card within 1700 hours of November 14, 2019 to the Managing Director, Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF), Grameen Bank Bhaban, Level-13, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216.
- Employees of GoB/autonomous bodies and other organizations may also apply through proper channel.
- A non-refundable Bank Draft/Pay Order of Tk. 300/- should be enclosed in favour of the Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF) while submitting the application.
- Any attempt to influence the selection procedure in favour of any candidate will result in automatic disqualification of that candidate. Only short-listed candidates will be called for test/interview.

Managing Director
BMDF

GD-1676



Much will depend on coach Jamie Day's (L) tactical nous and the solidity of defenders like Yeasin Khan and Raihan Hasan, seen here practising some drills at the outer ground of the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata yesterday, when they take on favourites India in a World Cup and Asian Cup qualifying game tomorrow.



PHOTO: BFF

Problem of plenty in backline

ANISUR RAHMAN from Kolkata



When deciding upon a starting eleven for tomorrow's 2022 World Cup Qualifier match against India, Bangladesh coach Jamie Day will have the sweet headache of settling on a backline after non-regular defenders Raihan Hasan and Riyadul Hasan impressed during a spirited performance against Qatar last Thursday.

Raihan was included in the 23-member squad following a knee injury to midfielder Masuk Mia Jonny and started against Qatar in place of the suspended Bishwanath Ghosh. Riyadul started in place of fit-again centre-back Tutul Hossain Badsha against the reigning Asian Champions Qatar and impressed all despite a 2-0 defeat at home.

Bishwanath and Badsha are available for selection against India but British coach Day seemed to be in two minds about whether to pick the same eleven that played against Qatar or to revert to the four-man backline fielded against Afghanistan.

"We will have to see but it's nice to be in a position where we have problems like this," Day told The Daily Star yesterday.

With first-choice centre-back Tapu Barman being ruled out due to knee surgery before the start of the qualifiers, the backline had been a big concern for Day, who started against Afghanistan with a four-man defence manned by Yeasin Khan, Badsha, left-back Rahmat Mia and Bishwanath. They made hardly any mistakes in their opening match in Dushanbe, although the men in red and green lost 1-0.

Problems of scarcity arose once again before the Qatar match due to Bishwanath's suspension and Badsha's injury, but Raihan and Riyadul repaid the faith Day placed on them. Raihan played a dual role in the match with his signature long throw-ins causing havoc in Qatar's defence, while Riyadul also showed character to keep the Qatari strikers at bay for a majority of the match on a rain-soaked ground.

"The head coach will decide who will star against India but Bishwanath has been playing under Jamie for a long time and I have just entered the squad and played against Bhutan and Qatar. If I am given a chance in the starting eleven, I will be try to give my utmost best," Raihan said, adding that such competition will definitely help the team get stronger.

Interestingly, both Raihan and Bishwanath hail from Tangail and Raihan inspired Bishwanath to emulate his long throw-ins.

After a long time, competition between players to secure a place in the starting eleven has emerged in Bangladesh football, and Day will certainly be hoping that it spreads to players in other positions.

Booters ready for frenetic Kolkata

SPORTS REPORTER from Kolkata



"I can still remember wasting a chance to equalise about ten minutes before the final whistle. I watched the ball drift over the crossbar with the Indian goalkeeper [Atanu Bhattacharjee] out of position when I took the shot from the edge of the box."

Ashraf Uddin Ahmed Chunnun thusly recalled his memory of the Bangladesh-India qualifier for the Mexico World Cup in 1985 at the newly-built Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

34 years later, Bangladesh are again up against the hosts at the same venue and in the same competition. The home side, on the back of 10 days of preparation in Guwahati, landed in Kolkata yesterday, two days after Bangladesh reached the city known as the 'Mecca of Indian football'.

Bangladesh have played in eight World Cup qualifying campaigns after the 1986 World Cup but their best result remains from 1985 when they got wins against Thailand and Indonesia in Dhaka. However, they could not conquer the

group's other opponent, India, who twice beat Bangladesh 2-1.

"The weather was hot and humid and the gallery was packed. Although we could not play our natural game, we played well against India's best team which comprised

We have come to Kolkata, which is just another Bengal. It actually feels like we came to play to our own country and I believe we will get support from the people of Kolkata.

BDANGADESH MIDFIELDER
MAMUNUL ISLAM

players like Krishanu Dey, Bikash Panji, Atanu Bhattacharjee and many others," former Bangladesh international Chunnun, who scored a goal in a 2-1 win over Indonesia in 1985, added.

In the game against India, Bangladesh went ahead through a strike from Ashish Bhadra in the 15th minute before Bikash Panji, who also struck against Bangladesh in Dhaka, equalised in the 36th minute. Substitute Camillo Gonsalves found the winner in the 40th to help India finish second behind Indonesia in the four-team group.

Chunnun said that while Bangladesh felt the heat, they always got moral support from the crowd in Kolkata as many Bangladeshi played in the Kolkata League.

Current national team midfielder Mamunul Islam believes that they will continue to receive similar support.

"We have come to Kolkata, which is just another Bengal. It actually feels like we came to play to our own country and I believe we will get support from the people of Kolkata," Mamunul said yesterday when asked whether they expected support from the gallery.

Whatever the Bangladesh former captain expects, the Salt Lake Stadium -- officially known as the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Stadium -- is expected to be a full house as Kolkata will host the India national team after eight years.

Cricket-loving taxi driver Santosh, who drove this reporter from the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport to a Marquis Street hotel, did not buy a ticket to the game. However, he mentioned that the football lovers were euphoric about the game. The ground staff at the Salt Lake Stadium and local journalists also mentioned that most of the seats at the 85,000-capacity venue were already sold.

Jamie Day's charges will have to hurdle two challenges, the fast-improving India and its huge Kolkata support, in order to get one over India, who are now 85 places ahead of Bangladesh in the FIFA Rankings.

In 1985, players like Mohsin, Nasir Ahmed Alok, Imtiaz Sultan Jony, Badal Das, Azmat Ali, Swapan Kumar Das, Wasim Iqbal, Elias Hossain, Ashish Bhadra, Chunnun and Kaiser Hamid could not conquer India. Now the onus is on a new group of young footballers to make history.

"We are prepared. The team who will perform on the day will come out winners. We have remained in good shape after the Qatar match," said goalkeeper Ashraf Uddin Islam Rana following Bangladesh's nearly two-hour practice session yesterday.

Winning end to U-19s' dominant tour

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Under-19s signed off their New Zealand tour on a near perfect note as they wrapped up the five-match one-day series 4-1 with a comfortable 73-run win over their New Zealand counterparts in the final game at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln yesterday.

"I will not be surprised if the team win the series by a 5-0 margin," were junior team selector and former national cricketer Hannan Sarkar's words before embarking on the tour last month.

While the defeat in the fourth game dashed hopes of a blackwash as the home side chased down 295 runs with four wickets in hand, Hannan expressed satisfaction at the way the Young Tigers finished the job.

"It was definitely frustrating as the team failed to defend nearly 300 runs in the fourth game, but it was also a big lesson for the team, like they learned in the Asia Cup final in Sri Lanka when they failed to chase down 106 runs [in the final]. But in the final match, the boys not only crossed the 300-run mark for the first time in the series but also signed off with a big win," Hannan told The Daily Star over phone from Christchurch yesterday.

The visitors posted a mammoth 316 for eight in 50 overs after winning the toss and then bowled the hosts out for 243 in 43.4 overs in the final game yesterday. Tanzid Hasan and Parvez Hossain gave Bangladesh a perfect start, sharing 120 runs for the opening stand. Bangladesh's batting innings was a collective effort as Tanzid top-scored with 71 while three batsmen -- Parvez, Shahadat Hossain and Avishek Das scored 48 runs each.

Pacer Shoriful Islam then wreaked havoc on the New Zealand batting line-up, taking five wickets for 43 runs in 8.4 overs. Rakibul Hasan took two

HIGHLIGHTS

Bangladesh Under-19s will play their next series against Sri Lanka at home. Sri Lanka Under-19s are set to arrive on October 23 to play two four-day and five one-day matches.

Bangladesh Under-19s may then go to South Africa for a 10-day camp before the World Cup. ICC Under-19 World Cup will be held in South Africa from January 17 – February 9 next year.

wickets while Avishek, Tanzim Hasan Sakib and Shamim Hossain took one wicket each.

"Batsmen like Tanzid Hasan, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Towhid Hridoy and Akbar Ali are good prospects while it was nice to see pacer Shoriful Islam get back his rhythm. This team has been playing good cricket for the last few months, especially since the last England tour. We are really hopeful with this team and the performance in New Zealand is a big boost because the conditions in South Africa in the next World Cup will be more or less the same," observed Hannan.

Hannan, however, recalled the performance of the Mehdi Hasan Miraz-led Under-19 team which achieved the best result for the country till date by finishing third in the 2016 Under-19 World Cup. "It would not be wise to be over-excited because the Miraz-led team also had good results against England and South Africa before the World Cup. We have to prove ourselves in the knockout stages. This team has got the ability to knock out something big in South Africa. Most importantly when we are talking about the next generation of cricketers after Shakib [Al Hasan] and Tamim [Iqbal], these boys can fill the void if we can give them enough opportunities," he added.



Under-19 cricketers pose for photographs after defeating their New Zealand counterparts by 71 runs in the fifth and final one-day at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln yesterday. The young Tigers clinched the series by 4-1.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Barishal see off the competition

SPORTS REPORTER



Among the four National Cricket League first round games, only Barishal managed to clinch a win while all the others ended in draws. Barishal beat Sylhet by an innings and 13 runs but the level of competition in the country's premier first-class competition was outstanding.

There was a double hundred from Imrul Kayes, an all-round performance from Mahmudullah Riyad and two five-wicket hauls from seamers in separate games. That reflects the competitiveness, something selectors were desperately seeking.

An anticipated fourth and final day at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi started with Barishal eyeing a win as Sylhet were left with the daunting task of negotiating the day after being bundled out for just 86 in their first innings.

Resuming the day on 27 for two after



You have noticed there is a lot of competition as the youngsters are doing really well. I had to take the challenge if I want to make a place among them and I have to give my best. It is tough to survive if I am not able to score big and I wanted to score big, finally it happened.

IMRUL KAYES
KHULNA DIVISION CRICKETER

Barishal took a lead of 145, Sylhet again failed and were bowled out for 132. Jaker Ali's 45 was the top score for Sylhet while Tanvir Islam bagged four and Monir Hossain took three wickets for Barishal to clinch an easy win.

Perhaps the highlight of the opening round was the first double hundred of the season from Imrul. The left-hander smashed his second first-class ton against Rangpur at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium yesterday.

Khulna resumed on 192 for three and took a first-innings lead after Rangpur posted 227. Overnight batsman Imrul, who resumed on 29, reached his hundred off 183 balls and remained unbeaten for a 319-ball



Barishal Division players celebrate after taking Sylhet Division's last wicket (Ruyel Miah) and sealing a comprehensive win in their National Cricket League first-round match in Rajshahi yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

202 which featured 19 fours and six sixes.

Khulna declared on 454 for nine and Rangpur were on 33 for one before stumps were drawn. Imrul, who lost his place in the national team, will definitely get some confidence ahead of the selection for the Tigers' upcoming tour of India.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, Dhaka division and Rajshahi created some excitement.

Dhaka were bowled out after adding 48 to their overnight score of 206 for six, with man-of-the-match Taibur Rahman once again top-scoring with 88. In face of 298-run target, Rajshahi stumbled into a spot of bother and were 106 for five before the game ended in a draw.

After a maiden fiver in the first innings, Dhaka's right-arm seamer Sumon Khan was again the pick of the bowlers, bagging two wickets alongside Shuvagata Hom.

Mahmudullah shone with both bat and ball for Dhaka Metropolis in the star-studded encounter against Chattogram at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Resuming the day on 349, Dhaka could add only five to their overnight score before being bundled out after a 151-run eighth-wicket stand between Zabid Hossain and Shahidul Islam was broken early on the final day.

Zabid was dismissed for 85 while Shahidul added 83.

Chattogram ended with on 227 for five, riding on fifties from Pinak Ghosh, Tasamul Haque and Masum Khan. After

scoring thirty in the first innings, Tamim Iqbal once again got a start before he was dismissed for the second time in the game by Mahmudullah after scoring 46.

Mahmudullah, who scored a fifty in the first innings and bagged three wickets with his off spin, again remained instrumental with the ball and scalped three wickets in the second innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF
CHATTOTGRAM V DHAKA METRO
CHATTOTGRAM: 290 and 227 for 5 (Masum 61 not out, Pinak 57; Mahmudullah 3-25)

DHAKA METRO: First innings 349 for 7 (Shahidul 83, Zabid 85; Afridi 3-103)

Result: Match drawn
DHAKA V RAJSHAHI

DHAKA: 240 and 254 (Taibur 88, Raqibul 65; Tajul 5-105)

RAJSHAHI: 197 and 106 for 5 in 64 overs (Jahurul 40 not out; Sumon 2-21)

Result: Match drawn
RANGPUR V KHULNA

RANGPUR: 227 and 33 for 1 in 9 overs (Nasir 23 not out; Al Amin 1-10)

KHULNA: First innings 454 for 9 declared (Imrul 202 not out; Shuvo 3-74)

Result: Match drawn
SYLHET V BARISHAL

SYLHET: 86 and 132 (Jaker 45 not out; Tanvir 4-29)

BARISHAL: First innings 231 for 8 decl (Fazle 70, Shahriar 63; Rejaur 3-74)

Result: Barishal won by an innings and 13 runs

What to WATCH

SONY SIX

FIFA International Friendly

Czech Republic v North Ireland

Live from 11:00pm

SONY ESPN

2020 Euro Qualifiers

France v Turkey

Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

TEN 1

2020 Euro Qualifiers

Ukraine v Portugal

Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

TEN 2

2020 Euro Qualifiers

Estonia v Germany

Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

NEYMAR INJURED AGAIN

Neymar's injury woes continued as the PSG forward lasted just 12 minutes against Nigeria on international duty before limping off clutching the back of his left thigh while playing for Brazil in the National Stadium in Singapore yesterday. Five minutes before he was replaced by Philippe Coutinho, Neymar was attended to by the Brazil medical staff on the touchline but deemed fine to continue. However, the Brazil number 10 could not continue and it remains to be seen what the extent of his injury is. In total, Neymar has suffered nine separate injuries during his spell at PSG, missing around 40 games in all competitions during his two seasons in Paris.

—AGENCIES





India bowler Ravichandran Ashwin (2nd from L) celebrates with captain Virat Kohli after dismissing Faf du Plessis (L) in spectacular fashion, with the South Africa skipper having added just five to his side's total, on the fifth day of the second Test in Pune yesterday. India won the match by an innings and 137 runs to seal the series 2-0. PHOTO: COLLECTED

India seal series with record win

AFP, PUNE

Umesh Yadav led an inspired bowling display as India thrashed South Africa by an innings and 137 runs in the second Test to clinch a record 11th straight series triumph at home on Sunday.

The tourists were dismissed for 189 after following-on in the final session of day four in Pune, as India took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Vernon Philander, who made 37, and Keshav Maharaj, who scored 22, put up a brief resistance during their 56-run eighth-wicket stand, but Yadav broke through with

We are lucky to have the group of players we have in the last three-four years. It's amazing to see that hunger and passion for all the guys to keep improving. Looking at the larger picture of the Test Championship, every game has value so we're not going to take our foot off the gas in the third Test. No one's going to relax at any stage, that's a guarantee.

VIRAT KOHLI
India captain

MOST CONSECUTIVE SERIES WINS AT HOME							
TEAM	SERIES	START	END	MAT	WON	LOST	DRAW
India	11	2012/13		31	25	1	5
Australia	10	1994/95	2000/01	38	28	5	5
Australia	10	2004	2008/09	27	23	1	3
West Indies	8	1975/76	1985/86	37	21	3	13
South Africa	7	1997/98	2001/02	21	15	1	5
England	7	2008	2012	23	16	2	5

the wicket of Philander.

He took his third wicket after sending back Kagiso Rabada for four and spinner Ravindra Jadeja trapped Maharaj lbw to wrap up the game as India went past Australia's 10-series wins on home turf. Jadeja returned figures of 3-52.

The win also consolidated India's number-one position in the world Test Championship with 200 points.

Skipper Virat Kohli set up the win with his unbeaten 254 -- a record seventh double-century for the star batsman -- in India's 601 for five declared.

Ravichandran Ashwin struck twice in the morning session after the tourists started their second innings trailing by 326.

Ashwin had du Plessis -- who promoted himself to number four in the batting order -- caught behind for five with wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha holding on to a juggling catch.

The off-spinner soon got opening batsman Dean Elgar caught for 48 as South Africa slipped further.

Paceman Ishant Sharma struck with his second ball of the day to trap Aiden Markram lbw for nought.

Markram had a long discussion with Elgar over whether to review the on-field call but walked, only for the replays to suggest the ball would have gone over the stumps.

Kohli, who now has 7,054 runs from 81 Tests, put together crucial partnerships including a 225-run fifth-wicket stand with Jadeja, who made 91, to extend India's dominance.

Du Plessis admitted Kohli's knock and India's mammoth total made the tourists play catch-up after the hosts elected to bat first.

"The way India batted, especially Virat with 250, it takes a lot of mental toughness. Two days in the field can wear you down," said du Plessis.

"Especially that second evening, the batsmen were a bit weak in the mindset. From then it's playing catch-up. We were found wanting in this Test match."

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 601 for 5 declared.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 275 and second innings 189 all out (Elgar 48, Bavuma 38, Philander 37, Maharaj 22; Yadav 3-22, Ashwin 2-45, Jadeja 3-52)

Result: India won by an innings and 137 runs and lead the three-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli.

Italy through, Spain trudge on

AFP, Paris



Italy became the second team to qualify for Euro 2020 after a 2-0 win over Greece on Saturday, while three-time champions Spain edged closer to the finals despite conceding a stoppage-time equaliser away to Norway.

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho dispatched a second-half penalty as Italy, wearing green kits for just the second time in history, registered a seventh straight win in Group J.

The Azzurri, who failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, added a second in Rome on 78 minutes through a deflected strike from Juventus forward Federico Bernardeschi.

Roberto Mancini's side joined Belgium in the draw for next year's finals, where Italy will play their first two group games at the Stadio Olimpico.

Spain dropped their first points in Group F as Joshua King converted a 94th-minute spot-kick to rescue a 1-1 draw for Norway following a foul by goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga on Omar Elabdellaoui.

Sergio Ramos broke the Spanish international appearances record as he won his 168th cap in Oslo to overtake Iker Casillas.

The visitors led when Saul Niguez slammed home from 20 yards moments after half-time but Spain were denied a seventh win in a row as King's equaliser kept Norway in the running.

"It's a real pain to lose points in the final seconds. It's complicated to play against a team who knew that if they lost they were pretty much out," said Spain captain Ramos.

Norway last qualified for a major tournament at the 2000 European Championship and are fourth in the group, four points adrift of neighbours Sweden with three games to play.

Sebastian Larsson netted two spot-kicks as Sweden cruised to a 4-0 rout of Malta to reclaim second place behind Spain. Marcus Danielson broke the deadlock on 11 minutes in Ta' Qali and home skipper Andrei Agius also scored an own goal.

Romania remain a point behind Sweden following a 3-0 win in the Faroe Islands secured by second-half goals from George Puscas, Ionut Mitrita and Claudiu Keseru.

Kasper Schmeichel produced a series of excellent saves as Denmark defeated Switzerland 1-0 to pull level with the Republic of Ireland in Group D.

Leicester City goalkeeper Schmeichel pulled off superb stops to deny Granit Xhaka, Admir Mehmedi and Ricardo Rodriguez before Yussuf Poulsen grabbed an 84th-minute winner for Denmark in Copenhagen.

The Danes moved up to 12 points alongside group leaders Ireland, who drew 0-0 away to Georgia, while Switzerland are four points off the pace but with a game in hand.

"We battled for the whole game, there was a tremendous atmosphere. I think that was one of my best performances for Denmark," said Schmeichel.

Mick McCarthy's Ireland couldn't establish any momentum earlier in the day in Tbilisi and were left frustrated by wayward finishing from their few opportunities to break the deadlock.

Bosnia and Herzegovina reignited their qualification hopes in Italy's group with a 4-1 win over second-placed Finland.

A brace from Juventus midfielder Miralem Pjanic and goals from Izet Hajrovic and Armin Hodzic pushed Bosnia to within two points of Finland.

Armenia blew the chance to move level with the Finns as Liechtenstein substitute Yanik Freggi cancelled out Tigran Barseghyan's effort in a 1-1 draw in Vaduz.

SHORT CORNER

Shakib's Tridents lift CPL title

Barbados Tridents won their second Hero Caribbean Premier League (CPL) title as Guyana Amazon Warriors' perfect season unraveled at the worst possible moment on Saturday.

After Jonathan Carter's unbeaten 50 off 27 balls led a recovery from 108/6 in the 15th over to an imposing 171/6 from 20 overs, the Tridents bowled and fielded for their lives to defend the target by 27 runs and break the Warriors' hearts at the last, Raymon Reifer leading the way with remarkable figures of 4/24 from his four overs.

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who made a 15-ball 15 before being run-out while going wicketless

in his two overs conceding 18 runs, lifted his second CPL title following his triumph with the Jamaica Talawahs.

--STAR SPORT DESK

U-19s lose to Qatar 2-0

Bangladesh lost 2-0 against Qatar in their first match of the Under-19s Three Nations Cup at the Aspire Academy in Doha on Saturday night.

The hosts took the lead through Mekki Tombari in the 33rd minute before Diyab Taha wrapped up the victory for Qatar with the team's second goal in the 52nd minute.

Bangladesh will take on Kuwait in their second and final match of the tournament tonight. The tournament will end following the match between Qatar and Kuwait on Wednesday night.

--SPORTS REPORTER



Italy players celebrate after booking a place in the 2020 UEFA Euro Championships with a 2-0 win over Greece in Rome on Saturday. (Inset) Sergio Ramos became the highest capped Spaniard with 168 by featuring in his side's 1-1 draw with Norway in Oslo.

PHOTO: AFP

Medvedev clinches fourth title

AFP, Shanghai



Daniil Medvedev conceded that he had been "invincible" after he won his fourth title of a spectacular year with a thumping 6-4, 6-1 victory over Alexander Zverev in the Shanghai Masters final yesterday.

Victory for the 23-year-old Russian, contesting a sixth final in a row, was more evidence that he is the prime contender to join the "Big Three" of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer.

The US Open finalist is also able to say that he has finally beaten the German Zverev, another young contender at 22, at the fifth attempt.

This was an emphatic statement from the world number four, needing just 74 minutes to seal the crown and failing to drop a set all week.

Starting with Washington, DC, in July, the Russian has reached six finals



Daniil Medvedev (L) beat Alexander Zverev 6-4, 6-1 in the Shanghai Masters final in Shanghai yesterday to secure his fourth title of the year. PHOTO: AFP

on the spin -- including the US Open -- winning three of them.

Asked in what respect he has improved, Medvedev, who now

threatens to usurp Federer at three in the world, said: "I think it's everything together, something clicked in my game in the US, I don't know why."

1-1 draw in final's dress rehearsal

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh and India played out a 1-1 draw in their last round-robin match, which was also a dress rehearsal of the final of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship, at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

Having already ensured their place in Tuesday's final, the two sides -- champions of the first two editions -- came into the match with unbeaten record and looking to boost confidence with a victory.

India took the lead in the 24th minute when Amisha Baxla, who was allowed acres of space inside the box, tapped home following a cross from Astam Oraon.

However, Bangladesh hit back just two minutes later through Sapna Rani, who chipped the ball into the net over the onrushing India goalkeeper Adrija Sarkhel whose drop kick was headed back by Rumi Akhter towards the box where Sapna pounced ahead of two India defenders.

Both teams had chances to take the lead thereafter, but neither could capitalise on those chances as Bangladesh goalkeeper Rupna Chakma produced a fine save to deny Sunita Munda right after the hour-mark while Sapna wasted a glorious chance at the other end in the 74th minute.

India finished the stronger of the two sides with a number of attacks in the last half hour, but Bangladesh held on to earn a point.

WORLD JR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Swarnavo, Noshin to represent BD

SPORTS REPORTER

With the World Junior Chess (Open & Girls) Championships set to get underway from October 15th in New Delhi, a three-member contingent will depart for India today to represent Bangladesh.

The team consists of open section player Swarnavo Choudhury, girls section player WFM Noshin Anjum, both of whom are students of the Elegant Chess Academy in Uttara, and the Head of Delegation, National Instructor WCM Mahmuda Hoque Chowdhury Moly. The Bangladesh Chess Federation will cover all the team's expenses on the tour.



Swarnavo **Noshin**



“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



AWARDED

ASIA RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD 2015



TURKISH OFFENSIVE IN SYRIA

4 lakh can be displaced: UN

14 more civilians killed; Kurds say 800 IS relatives escaped

AFP, Geneva

Turkey's deadly assault on Kurdish positions in northeastern Syria has forced 130,000 people to flee their homes, the UN said yesterday, adding it was preparing for that figure to more than triple.

"We have moved into a planning scenario where up to 400,000 people could be displaced within and across the affected areas," Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency OCHA told AFP in an email, adding that these people would be "in need of assistance and protection."

The UN had said Friday that some 100,000 people had been forced to flee their homes since the beginning of Turkey's military incursion on Wednesday, after US President Donald Trump ordered American troops to pull back from the border.

But by yesterday it warned of further displacements from rural areas around Tell Abiad and Ras al-Ain with latest estimates "surpassing 130,000 people".

"Exact numbers cannot yet be ascertained," the agency said in a updated assessment document.

Meanwhile, hundreds of relatives of foreign jihadists escaped from a displacement camp in northern Syria, Kurdish authorities said yesterday.

Fighting raged along the border on the fifth day of an offensive that has provoked an international outcry and left dozens of civilians and fighters dead.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Sky lanterns, known as fanush, take flight, as people gather at Buddha Mandir in Chattogram's Nandan Kanon area to celebrate Prabarana Purnima, the second biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community in Bangladesh yesterday. This full moon night marks the conclusion of a three-month long seclusion of Buddhist monks -- in their monasteries -- for self-edification and atonement.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Anwarul made new cabinet secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior Secretary to Bridges Division Khandker Anwarul Islam was made the cabinet secretary yesterday.

Ministry of Public Administration issued a gazette in this regard, mentioning that the order would come into effect immediately.

Khandker Anwarul Islam has replaced Mohammad Shafiu Alam.

Shafiu will be serving as alternative executive director of the World Bank from November 1 for next three years, according to a separate gazette published by the public administration ministry.

Current alternative executive director of the World Bank Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan's tenure will end in October.

The newly appointed Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam joined civil

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Rid's Toxic Paracetamol

SC upholds restraining order on 2 drug officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order restraining two drug administration officers from working due to their negligence in dealing with a case regarding toxic paracetamol syrups and suspensions.

The officials are Assistant Director Shafiqul Islam and Deputy Director Altaf Hossain of the Directorate General of Drug Administration.

Following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), a four-member bench of the SC's Appellate Division passed the restraining order.

Shafiqul and Altaf were held responsible by the Dhaka Drug Court in 2016 for knowingly violating the due legal procedures in a case against Rid Pharma, a company accused of manufacturing the toxic paracetamol.

On July 18 this year, the HC issued the restraining order against Shafiqul and Altaf for their negligence in duty, which was later stayed by the SC following a petition filed by the duo.

Later, lawyers of HRPB filed another petition with the SC seeking cancellation of the chamber judge's order which the

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TOXIC FISH FEED

Importers cash in on legal loopholes

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

A battle between the Chattogram customs and fish feed importers over the jurisdiction of the port authority to check hazardous substances in imported consignments has laid bare loopholes in the import policy.

A few months back, the Chattogram Customs House (CCH) seized 2,717 tonnes of imported fish and poultry feed containing hazardous ingredients like meat and bone meal (MBM), animal bones and by-products of pigs.

The CCH then conducted tests on some samples of fish feed at the Poultry Research and Training Centre, ICCDDR, B and Customs Lab. The tests revealed the presence of MBM.

The commerce ministry banned the import and sale of MBM on December 26, 2018, following a report of the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority.

The ban came after the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority found by-products of swine and bovine in MBM and alerted the ministry to its hazardous impact -- including cancer -- on human health.

Fishtech BD Ltd, a fish feed importer, took issue with the tests and brought the matter before the High Court.

It said the Import Policy Order 2015-18 does not allow the Customs to test the presence of MBM and other harmful medicine.

The Policy says "competent authority of the exporting country" will certify that goods are free from swine, by-product of tannery and chromium. Such certifications were also furnished before the court, copies of which were obtained by this newspaper.

Furthermore, it pointed out that according to the policy, local authorities were only tasked with checking nitrofurans, chloramphenicol and melamine upon arrival of consignments at the port.

After hearing the petition, on August 14, the HC ordered tests to be

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Bus conductor sent to jail for attempted rape of minor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj court yesterday sent a bus conductor to jail on charges of attempting to rape a third-grader girl in a running bus in the district's Madhabpur upazila.

Manik Mollah, of Noakhali's Sonaimuri upazila, is the conductor of Ena Paribahan.

KM Amiruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Madhabpur Police Station, said the girl, along with her parents, was going to Dhaka in the bus from Baniachong upazila on Saturday afternoon.

Manik took the girl, 10, to the back seat and tried to rape her at Itakhola of Madhabpur.

Hearing her screams, her parents and other passengers rescued her and caught Manik.

Later, he was handed over to police.

The girl's father said

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Lost chapter of 'world's first novel' found



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A lost, ancestral chapter of what is widely considered to be the world's first novel has been found.

The manuscript was located in the Tokyo home of the descendant of a former feudal lord, according to the Asahi Shimbun, a national newspaper in Japan.

The Tale of Genji, composed by novelist Murasaki Shikibu, was written in the 11th century while the author was a lady-in-waiting at the Japanese court.

It tells the story of a prince named Genji, who meets and eventually marries a woman named

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

'Robber' killed in Srimangal 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A suspected robber was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar early yesterday.

The dead, Zainul Islam, 36, was from the district's Barlekha upazila, said Abdus Salek, officer-in-charge of Srimangal Police Station, adding that he was accused in several cases.

Tipped off that a gang of robbers was taking preparation to commit a robbery in Satgaon area, a Rab team went to the spot around 3:00am, said

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 14

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

Two killed in shipbreaking yard in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two workers lost consciousness and died inside a tugboat while dismantling it at a shipbreaking yard in Sitakunda of Chattogram on Saturday night.

The deceased were identified as Masudul Islam, 22, son of Jahangir Alam from Sitakunda, and Saiful Islam, 23, son of Ali Hossen from Nilphamari.

Quoting co-workers, inspector (investigation) Shamim Sheikh of Sitakunda Police Station said while working inside a water tank of MV Sierra in the evening, Masudul and Jahangir lost consciousness.

Other workers took them to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where on-duty doctors declared them dead on arrival at 10:00pm, he said, adding that the bodies were sent to CMCH morgue for autopsy.

Mentioning poor safety measures for workers at the yards, General Secretary Md Ali of Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



This aerial view shows flooded homes beside a collapsed bank of the Chikuma river in Nagano, Nagano prefecture yesterday, a day after Typhoon Hagibis swept through central and eastern Japan.

PHOTO: AFP

Typhoon leaves 26 dead in Japan

15 missing; thousands of troops, rescue workers deployed to save stranded residents, fight floods

AFP, Tokyo

At least 26 people were killed by powerful Typhoon Hagibis, local media reported yesterday, a day after the ferocious storm slammed into Japan, unleashing unprecedented rain and catastrophic flooding.

More than 100,000 rescuers, including 31,000 troops, were working into the night to reach people trapped after torrential rain caused landslides and filled rivers until they burst their banks.

The destruction forced the Rugby World Cup to cancel a third tournament match, though a key Japan-Scotland fixture was ruled safe to play.

The storm moved off land yesterday morning, and while it largely spared the capital, it left a trail of destruction in surrounding regions.

The government put the death toll at 14, with 11 people missing, but local media said at least 26 people had been killed, and at least 15 were still unaccounted for.

Rivers overspilled their banks at nearly a dozen locations, including in central Japan's Nagano, where a levee breach sent water from the Chikuma river gushing into residential neighbourhoods, flooding homes up to the second floor.

Military and fire department helicopters winched survivors from roofs and balconies in several locations. In Iwaki City, Fukushima, a rescue went tragically awry when a woman died after falling while she was being winched to safety.

Elsewhere, rescue workers carried out an hours-long boat operation to evacuate hundreds of people from a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2