



# The Daily Star



REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXIX No. 267 | KARTIK 2, 1426 BS | **Your Right to Know** | SAFAR 17, 1441 HJRI | 20 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE: Tk 12.00



## Administrator for GP, Robi soon

Private entities may get first-ever govt appointees as telecoms regulator initiates process; minister says govt to make it official today

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The government has started the process of appointing administrators at Grameenphone and Robi to run their business operations, a move unheard of in Bangladesh's private sector.

Multiple sources familiar with the development said the decision to appoint administrators came from the highest authorities of the government in a bid to recover Tk 13,446 crore the companies reportedly owe to the government.

The amount was determined through two separate audits by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission in 2016.

The BTRC on Tuesday sent two separate letters to the telecom ministry for its approval in this regard.

The letters propose appointing at least four administrators in each of the two mobile carriers.

"We have the telecom regulator's recommendation and will go for it as the highest authorities of the government



directed us to take prompt action," Mustafa Jabbar, post and telecommunication minister, told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Jabbar also said the formal approval will be given today.

"I have verbally directed the BTRC to make preparations and find people suitable for the post of administrators."

Sources at the telecom division also said the telecom regulator and the ministry moved forward with the consent of the top authorities of the government.

On September 5, the BTRC issued two show-cause notices to the carriers asking why their 2G and 3G licences would not be revoked for their failure to pay the dues.

In their replies, the operators this month claimed that the BTRC notices were invalid as the audit-claim was a subjudice matter.

BTRC Chairman Jahirul Haque yesterday said the mobile operators' replies were not satisfactory and the commission had decided to suspend their 2G and 3G licences before appointing administrators

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Buet students taking a vow to make sure no one is tortured or killed on campus again. The programme attended by the vice-chancellor and many hall provosts started with a one-minute silence for Abrar at the Buet Auditorium.

PHOTO: STAR

## Be alert to avert road accidents

PM urges drivers, and pedestrians

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for introducing education on traffic rules and regulations at the school level.

"Students should know which sides of the roads will have to be taken to move," she said while addressing a programme through videoconferencing from the Gono Bhaban.

The event was organised marking the opening of 1.2-km Bhulta Flyover on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, Patia bypass road on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway, Satkhira town bypass road, Aldi Bazar Bridge, and Banar Bridge on Mymensingh-Gafargaon-Toak district

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## SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

## Not many urban poor getting help

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and SOHEL PARVEZ

Poverty is urbanising rapidly, but most of the poor people in the cities remain deprived of the government's social protection benefits.

Only 17.84 percent of the poor people living in towns and cities receive support from social safety schemes, whereas 35.77 percent of the poor people in rural areas get the benefits, according to a World Bank report.

The large gap in allocation in social safety net remains although the pace of poverty reduction has slowed in urban areas since 2010 and the ratio of extreme poverty edged up in urban areas since then, says the assessment report unveiled last week.

The government has allocated Tk 74,367 crore for the safety net programmes for the current fiscal year, up 15 percent from a year ago.

The WB report said that urban poverty rate declined to 19.3 percent in 2016 from 21.3 percent in 2010. Extreme poverty rate rose to 8 percent in 2016 from 7.7 percent in 2010.

On the other hand, the rate of rural poverty fell 8.5 percentage points to 26.7 percent in 2016 from 2010, according to the report.

"Even though poverty is still highly rural, it is urbanising rapidly and that will require new solutions," the WB

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## No to terrorism, communalism

Still smarting from brutal murder of Abrar, Buet students vow to resist repeat of such incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the murder of Abrar Fahad fresh in everyone's minds, protesting students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology yesterday took an oath to resist terrorism and communal forces on the campus.

"We will collectively prevent the rise of all sorts of terrorist activities and evil communal forces on the campus. Imbued with morality, we will uproot all the discriminatory cultures and abuses of power," the students said in unison.

"Together we will make sure that no innocent life falls apart and the innocent do not fall victim to torture on this university ground."

Several hundred students took the oath in presence of Buet vice-chancellor Prof Saiful Islam, deans of different faculties and provosts of the halls.

The programme was held at the university auditorium after being shifted from the earlier planned venue of the Shaheed Minar due to inclement weather.

As per their earlier announcement, the students

did not take part in academic activities.

The vice chancellor, acting director of the directorate of Student's Welfare (DSW) Prof Mohammed Abdul Basith and provosts of all eight halls took the oath with the students.

Prior to the oath-taking, the teachers and students observed a minute's silence in memory of Abrar Fahad.

The students also took an oath to ensure the welfare and security of all concerned in the university, and perform their moral responsibilities with honesty and sincerity.

The students also swore to remain vocal against wrongdoings, injustices and discrimination on the campus.

Rafia Rizwana, a second-year student of the Mechanical Engineering Department, conducted the oath-taking programme around 1:00pm.

After the programme, Mahmudur Rahman Sayem, a batch-15 student of the electrical and electronic engineering department and a spokesperson for the protesters, thanked the Buet authorities and the prime minister for their

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## Abrar wasn't even given water to drink

Says an accused in the case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While Abrar was being brutally beaten before his death, he repeatedly begged for some water to drink but was not provided with even a drop, an accused in the case told journalists yesterday.

"When senior brothers were striking Abrar mercilessly, he begged for some water to drink several times. But they [the seniors] did not allow us to provide him with water even though we requested them," said SM Nasmus Sadat, one of the 19 accused in the Abrar murder case.

Sadat also said that while Abrar was being beaten, he fell seriously ill at one stage. "We wanted to take Abrar to hospital for treatment, but again the seniors did not allow us," he said while replying to journalists' queries inside the room of a Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

Abrar, a batch-17 student of electrical and electronic engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and

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A man leaps over a large puddle on Manik Mia Avenue near a gate of the parliament complex yesterday after about an hour of moderate rain that flooded parts of the wide street.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Death of man in custody sparks clash in Rangpur

25 hurt; teargas, rubber bullets fired; five cops closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 25 people including five cops were injured as villagers clashed with police protesting the death of a man in custody in Rangpur's Pirganj upazila yesterday.

Most of the villagers suffered minor injuries and received treatment at local hospitals, but the condition of one of them, Robin, 22, was critical because of rubber bullet wounds in the head. He was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

The clash broke out around 12:00noon when a few hundred villagers besieged the Police Investigation Centre at Bhendabari village after the news of the death spread. The villagers threw brickbats at police.

In response, police charged batons and fired 30 rounds of rubber bullets

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Internet Package Details

10 Mbps	12 Mbps	15 Mbps
20 Mbps	25 Mbps	30 Mbps

- Providing Real IP
- BDIX Connectivity
- Low Latency
- GGC & Facebook Cache Services
- Own IIG (Delta Infocom Ltd.)
- Optical Fiber Connectivity
- 24 Hours Customer Services

**Delta Software & Communication Ltd.**  
Mobile: 01731748911, 01732066687, 01751694171, 01639030375, 01735419858  
deltainfocom.com /deltainfocom sales@deltainfocom.com



## Be alert to avert

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highway, reports BSS.

Hasina urged all, including the drivers and pedestrians, to be responsible in using roads to avoid accidents.

She said it would not be wise to hold only the drivers responsible for road accidents. Everyone, including the drivers and road users, should have awareness of driving vehicles and crossing streets, the PM added.

Referring to the law regarding road safety, she said everyone should follow the traffic rules and regulations.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader also addressed the programme, moderated by PM's Principal Secretary Md Nojibur Rahman.

Hasina exchanged views with local lawmakers, administrative officers and distinguished personalities of Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Satkhira, Chattogram and Mymensingh through videoconferencing.

'Railway to be made profitable sector'

Meanwhile, speaking at another programme at the Gono Bhaban, Hasina yesterday vowed to make the railway a profitable sector, reports UNB.

"We want to show those who once wanted to shut down non-profitable rail routes that these can be made profitable and modernised," she said.

The premier made the pledge while flagging off the intercity train "Kurigram Express" on the Kurigram-Dhaka-Kurigram route and launching the newly-imported coaches of Rangpur

Express and Lalmoni Express through videoconferencing.

She said the government was working to bring the whole country under railway network.

Hasina said the railway is most popular among the common and middle-class people, but the former BNP government had planned to shut down rail routes following suggestions of international organisations saying that those were not profitable.

"I think it was a suicidal decision for our country because the common people choose rail for their communication. It's essential for a country to have rail, water, air and road transport system."

The PM said her government has been implementing a massive programme to spread railway connectivity to every division, including Barishal.

The government would extend the railway network to Barishal, Mongla in Bagerhat, and Payra Port in Patuakhali, Hasina said.

Later, she exchanged views with locals from Kurigram, Rangpur and Lalmonirhat through videoconferencing.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed were present.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan also spoke at the programme from Kurigram through videoconferencing.



Decorated brand-new carriages have been hooked up to the Lalmoni Express. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the carriages and a new train service called Kurigram Express yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Former PNG PM temporarily avoids arrest

AFP, Port Moresby

Papua New Guinea's ex-prime minister Peter O'Neill won a temporary reprieve in a corruption case yesterday when a court agreed to a brief suspension of his arrest warrant.

Acting police commissioner David Manning announced Tuesday that a warrant for O'Neill relating to graft allegations had been issued by a district court, but he refused to give details due to the "sensitivity" of the investigation.

O'Neill has denied the charges, calling them politically motivated, and refused to cooperate with police -- claiming a lack of legal process, including not being officially presented with the warrant.

"If this were a serious matter, not a political power play, a formal process would be in place that would have seen legal representation made to my office," the former leader said in a statement on Tuesday.

Papua New Guinea's national court yesterday granted O'Neill a short suspension of the arrest warrant until Monday, when the court will hear further arguments.

O'Neill's long tenure was marked by a string of corruption allegations, including the purchase of 40 Maseratis for an Asia-Pacific leaders' summit he hosted -- in a country where few homes have reliable electricity.

He was forced to step down in May after allies balked at his decision to sign a multibillion-dollar liquefied natural gas deal with France's Total and US firm ExxonMobil.

Local communities had complained bitterly about not benefiting from similar deals in the past.

After promising to resign and then trying to cling to power via the courts, he was ultimately replaced by his former finance minister James Marape, who vowed to clean up the government.

## Administrator

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to run the businesses.

In the meantime, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal last month stepped in as the mediator and announced that he would start a negotiation to settle the issue amicably. In a meeting on October 3, a proposed solution was placed where it was decided that two neutral committees would be formed to revise the audit findings.

After that meeting, the mobile carriers received a separate proposal through e-mails to pay immediately their principal dues (excluding the fines for delaying the payment) which were undisputed. But in response, the operators said the principal amount was not undisputed. The mobile operators said they had not received any reply after that.

The telecom regulator has run a

long auditing process and in 2016, it claimed that Grameenphone owed it Tk 12,579.95 crore and Robi Tk 867.23 crore for dodging revenue sharing, taxes and late fees accumulated since their inception to December 2014.

Of the total, the principal amount for Grameenphone is Tk 2,299.71 crore and Robi is Tk 319 crore.

The telecom minister yesterday also hinted that the commission will complete the appointment of the administrators within this month. The administrators will remain at the carriers until the dues are realised.

Contacted, BTRC Chairman Jahirul also told The Daily Star that they will appoint the officials at mobile carriers where one will act as the chief executive officer, three others will be legal experts, one will be engineer and another will be an expert in finance and marketing.

## Death of man in custody

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and tear gas shells, leaving at least 20 protesters injured. The situation was brought under control with police reinforcement, but tension was still prevailing.

Meanwhile, five policemen of the Bhendabari Police Investigation Centre were closed to Rangpur Police Lines for their "negligence in duty". They are Sub-inspector (SI) Aminul Islam, the centre in-charge, and Assistant Sub-inspectors Shah Alam, Hari Kanta Barman, and Tamiz Uddin, and Constable Ariful Islam.

According to locals, a police team from the centre picked up Md Shamsul Islam, 59, of a resident of Shantipur village of Mithapukur upazila, on Tuesday night. He was found dead inside the lockup of the centre yesterday morning.

Santana Begum, daughter of the deceased, alleged that the centre in-charge, SI Aminul Islam, and police informer Md Zia beat her father to death because he refused to pay them Tk 1 lakh as extortion. She said her father was a cattle trader, but police unleashed the torture labelling him as a drug peddler. SI Aminul denied the allegations.

Gopalpur Union Parishad Chairman Aminul Islam said, "To

my knowledge, Shamsul was a cattle trader, not a drug peddler."

Meanwhile, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Pirganj Police Station Soroj Kumar said police arrested Shamsul at neighbouring Borodarga village with 15 litres of local liquor. The detainee committed suicide by hanging himself in the lockup, he claimed.

The OC also said five policemen were injured in the clash, and acknowledged that police charged batons and fired 30 rounds of rubber bullets and tear gas shells.

Shamsul's daughter Santana told The Daily Star that if her father had committed suicide, why the villagers found his body on the floor of the lockup instead of it hanging? Police are giving misleading information to save the accused, she said.

Shamsul's wife Momena Begum said her husband is innocent and demanded a fair investigation into the incident.

Meanwhile, a three-member probe body was formed with Rangpur Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Abu Maruf Hossain as head and was asked to submit the report within three days, said Rangpur SP Biplob Kumar Sarkar.

The body was sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.



Decorated brand-new carriages have been hooked up to the Lalmoni Express. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the carriages and a new train service called Kurigram Express yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## No to terrorism, communalism

FROM PAGE 1  
sincerity in implementing the students' demands.

They, however, said although their protest had ended, they would monitor the progress of their 10-point demand.

The demands include death sentences for the killers, identification and expulsion of the killers from the university, quick disposal of the case under a speedy tribunal, publication of a copy of the charge sheet of the case, ban on organisation-based politics in the university, explanation for the VC's absence for 30 hours after the incident, disclosure of previous incidents of violence and establishment of a common platform to regularly review and act on complaints from students.

After the oath-taking programme, the Buet VC said the accused would be expelled after getting the report of the investigation committee.

"All the accused would be expelled. Nothing will happen on the basis of individual decisions. We will need the probe report and take a unanimous decision. There has been a lot of progress [in these regards]," the VC told reporters.

Abrar, a second-year student of Buet's electrical and electronic engineering department, was murdered by a group of Chhatra League men at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall between the night of October 6 and early hours of October

7.

The Buet students had been demonstrating since the day.

The protesters relaxed their agitation on October 13 and 14 after the Buet authorities issued separate notices regarding their demands and taking the university's admission tests into consideration.

On Tuesday, the students held a meeting with acting DSW Prof Mohammed Abdul Basith at 3:00pm at the university central cafeteria.

Later in the evening, they called off their protest, but said they would not resume academic activities until the authorities expelled the accused on the basis of the charge sheet submitted by the law enforcers.

The academic and administrative activities of Buet were supposed to resume at the end of Puja vacation on October 12, but the students are yet to start attending classes and examinations.

In the face of protests, the Buet authorities suspended 19 students whose name were mentioned in the case complaint, evicted people living illegally in the halls, sealed off rooms of political leaders and office of the student body, and installed more CCTV cameras inside all the dormitories.

'OFFENCES IN THE NAME OF RAGGING TO BE TRIED'

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday assured of trying offences committed in the name of ragging at educational

institutions.

"Any kind of torture, including slapping in the name of ragging, is an offence under the penal code of the country. If anybody lodges complaints of being tortured in the name of ragging, the offence will be tried under the existing laws," he said.

The law minister's remarks, which comes against the backdrop of the death of Buet student Abrar Fahad, was made after a meeting with a delegation of the European Union led by its Ambassador to Bangladesh Rensje Teerink at his secretariat office yesterday afternoon.

Minister Anisul said holding trial of the offences of ragging through the court was the only way to stop the practice.

He said the government would take necessary steps to hold the trial of the Abrar murder case and ensure swift justice.

"The prosecution concerned has already been asked to take preparations for moving the Abrar Fahad murder case before the court quickly as per directives from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The trial proceedings of the case will begin as soon as the police submit the charge sheet of the case to the trial court," he said.

The law minister informed that a discussion on human and labour rights took place with the EU delegation and they were ready to provide assistance to Bangladesh to this end.

## Extinction Rebellion to fight London protest ban

AFP, London

Activists from the environmental pressure group Extinction Rebellion yesterday vowed to challenge a blanket protest ban imposed by the London police.

The authorities told activists late Monday to leave their designated site in Trafalgar Square after a week of disruptions across the UK capital.

But pop-up actions continued Tuesday outside a few government buildings, resulting in more arrests.

London police reported making 1,457 arrests as of Tuesday morning. An overwhelming majority of those detained were booked and immediately released.

The group said in a statement that its lawyers "will submit an application for judicial review to the High Court for an urgent hearing".

"The ban is a disproportionate and unprecedented curtailment of the right to free speech and free assembly," the Extinction Rebellion statement said.

The group is protesting what it sees as government inaction in the face of climate change.

The British government has adopted guidelines aimed at reducing polluting emissions to a net level of zero by 2050.

But Extinction Rebellion wants all governments to hit that target by 2025.

It concedes that it has no specific proposals for how businesses and governments can radically alter their way of doing business in six years.

The group wants to set up special "citizens' assemblies" in which the mechanisms could be discussed.

## Twitter says world leaders 'not above' its rules

AFP, Washington

Twitter said Tuesday world leaders are "not above" the rules of the online platform and could see their messages removed or demoted for egregious conduct violating its terms of service.

In a statement aimed at clarifying its policies, Twitter said it reserves the right to take "enforcement action" on offending tweets, notably those including threats of violence or posting of private information.

The move comes with social media, and Facebook in particular, facing pressure over enabling false and misleading statements from political leaders.

Both Facebook and Twitter have said they would not attempt to remove "newsworthy" comments from political leaders, and Facebook has exempted political ads from fact-checking.

Twitter said its policy does not give free rein to political figures.

"We want to make it clear today that the accounts of world leaders are not above our policies entirely," the company said in a blog post.

Twitter said it would take action against any account for "promotion of terrorism" or "clear and direct threats of violence" as well as the inclusion of private information, such as a home address or phone number.

It would also act on the posting of intimate photos or videos of someone without consent, and any post related to child sexual exploitation or promoting self-harm.

Twitter said it has not changed its policy which gives leeway to political speech.

The policy announced in June exempts most political commentary from its rules.

It previously indicated that if a tweet from a world leader violates Twitter's rules but there is a "clear public interest" in the information it may require users to click on a notice acknowledging they want to see the message.

## Abrar wasn't even given water to drink

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Technology, was beaten with cricket stumps and skipping ropes for hours by Buet unit BCL leaders and activists at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall between October 6 night and the early hours of October 7, leading to his death.

Abrar was struck over 100 times on his knees, legs, soles of the feet and his arms with cricket stumps.

The gruesome murder triggered a firestorm of protests on university campuses across the country.

Sadat, also a batch-17 student of Buet, said that upon instructions given by accused Moniruzzaman Monir, he and some other students of his batch brought Abrar to room 2011 of the hall on October 6.

Seniors from batches 15 and 16 of Buet, including Mehedi Hasan Robein, Anik Sarkar, Ifi Mosharraf Shakal, Muzahidur Rahman Muzahid

and Moniruzzaman then started beating Abrar indiscriminately.

Sadat also said that around 12:30am on October 7 he left for his room in the hall.

As no lawyer stood for Sadat, Metropolitan Magistrate Morshed Al Mamun Bhuiyan asked Sadat why they committed the offence. He replied that he did it because he was "instructed by seniors".

Md Wahiduzzaman, inspector of the Detective Branch (DB) of police and also the investigator officer of the case, produced Sadat before the court with a 10-day remand prayer, but the court granted a five-day remand.

Abrar's father filed a murder case against 19 students of the university, mostly Buet BCL leaders, and several other unnamed accused with Chawkbazar police station on October 7.

Detectives have already arrested 20 persons, including 16 FIR-named accused, in connection with the murder.

Six of the accused have already made confessional statements in which they narrated the horrific story of torturing Abrar to death.

According to the statements, Abrar was taken to the room after the accused suspected him to be an Islami Chhatra Shibir activist and was so severely beaten that he vomited thrice and lost consciousness.

Even when he fell unconscious, the accused said he was pretending and could be beaten for another two hours.

Meanwhile, detectives yesterday sent two mobile phones and a laptop of the victim, mobile phones of the accused and a CCTV footage to Criminal Investigation Department for forensic tests.

## Not many urban poor getting help

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said in the report ahead of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty being observed today.

The theme of the Day this year is "acting together to empower children, their families and communities to end poverty".

The report said, "Given the country's rapid urbanisation there are now more people living in extreme poverty in urban Bangladesh than in 2010."

According to the WB, 35.01 percent of Bangladesh's population lives in urban areas.

Even though 8 in 10 poor live in rural areas, at current trends of urbanisation and poverty reduction, more than half of Bangladesh's poor households will live in urban areas by 2030, it said.

The report said Bangladesh recorded 3 percent increase in its urban

population share between 2010 and 2016, and the urban population grew at an average of 3.9 percent per year since 2000.

"Rapid urbanization in Bangladesh plays a modest role in poverty reduction," it said said, adding that safety nets could contribute more to poverty reduction in the country.

The report mentioned that a third of poor households have access to social protection programmes, compared to 18 percent of non-poor households.

"This suggests there is room to increase coverage and improve the quality of targeting. Coverage in urban areas is particularly low and safety nets for families with young children and elderly members could have a strong impact in reducing urban poverty.

"There is a natural life cycle to

poverty, and well-designed safety nets can target support to households when they need it most: when children are young and when elderly household members must be cared for."

Talking about the issue, economist Zahid Hussain said the coverage of safety net schemes should be expanded in slums in the urban areas.

He said quality education, adequate healthcare and sanitation should be extended in the slums.

"A child born in a slum is not responsible for the poverty of the family. It is the responsibility of the state to provide proper education and nutrition to children so that they can break out the vicious circle of poverty," he said.

He added steps were necessary to protect slum dwellers from various types of exploitation.

## Parents of UK crash victim meet Trump at White House

AFP, Washington

The parents of a British teen killed in a road crash involving an American diplomat's wife met with President Donald Trump at the White House Tuesday to urge that she be returned to Britain to face justice.

Trump met with Tim Dunn and Charlotte Charles and dropped a "bombshell" that the woman at the wheel, Anne Sacoolas, was in the building and willing to meet them.

The couple said they refused.

"We made it very clear that, as we've said all along, we will meet with her...

and we would still love to meet with her, but it has to be on our terms and on UK soil," Charles told reporters after the meeting, which lasted about 15 minutes.

"She needs to come back and face the justice system," she said.

Harry Dunn, aged 19, died on August 27 in a head-on collision between his motorcycle and a car being driven on the wrong side of the road in Northamptonshire in central England.

Sacoolas was interviewed by police but flew back to the United States after claiming diplomatic

immunity.

She has not been charged with criminal wrongdoing, but her claim of immunity and return to the US have provoked an uproar in Britain.

In his surprise meeting with Dunn's parents, Trump indicated Sacoolas would not be returning to Britain but was sympathetic.

"When we first got there, he extended his condolences to us, which did feel sincere. I don't suppose we would have expected anything else. Many of his staff also did the same," Charles said.



## PM to attend NAM Summit in Baku

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to be held on October 25-26 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has confirmed the Prime Minister's participation at the Summit.

The Summit will be preceded by the preparatory senior officials' meeting on October 21-22 and the preparatory ministerial meeting on October 23-24.

Foreign Minister Dr Momen will attend the ministerial meeting.

The host, Azerbaijan, will formally take over the chairmanship of NAM for the next three years at the Baku Summit, said an official.

NAM was founded during the collapse of the colonial system and the independence struggles of the peoples of Africa, Asia,

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A group of teachers from non-MPO schools hold a protest, demanding suspension of 2018 MPO guidelines. They demanded that the previous guidelines be followed, and asked for a meeting with the prime minister. The photo was taken yesterday in front of Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## MJF concerned over surge in child killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday expressed grave concern over the alarming rise in child killing in the country.

Issuing a statement, the rights group called upon the government to take effective measures to prevent ongoing violence and torture against children.

Besides, MJF also expressed deep sorrow over the recent killing of five-year-old Tuhin in Sunamganj's Derai upazila, reportedly in the hands of his family members. The brutal murder was executed by Tuhin's uncle and cousin with his father's help to implicate their rivals.

MJF in the statement said violence against children and women reached an "extreme level of barbarism" in the country due to an absence of concerted resistance and also because of a culture of impunity.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, urged the government to ensure safety for women and children through taking effective measures and to find out the reasons behind increase in child killing and torture.

## NUSRAT MURDER

# HC sets Nov 3 for passing order on Moazzem's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday set November 3 for passing order on the bail petition of suspended officer-in-charge of Sonagazi Police Station Moazzem Hossain, in a case filed over charges of recording statement of Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi and circulating the video on social media.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman set the date after concluding hearing on the petition.

During the hearing, Moazzem's lawyer Advocate Abdul Baset Mazumder prayed to the HC for granting bail to his client, saying that he (Moazzem) did not circulate the video and has been suffering in custody for a long time.

Meanwhile, Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi opposed the bail petition, saying the trial court has already recorded statements of eight witnesses and is scheduled to record the

statement of the investigation officer (IO) of the case on October 30.

At this stage, Moazzem cannot be granted bail, he argued.

Moazzem submitted the bail petition to HC on July 31 through a lawyer -- Advocate Rana Kawser -- in the case filed under the Digital Security Act.

On April 15, Supreme Court lawyer Syed Sayedul Haque Suman filed the case with Dhaka Cyber Tribunal against Moazzem for recording the statement of sexual assault victim Nusrat on camera, without her consent, and circulating it on social media.

Nusrat, a student of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa in Feni, made national headlines after she was set on fire on April 6, allegedly for refusing to withdraw a case filed against madrasa Principal Siraj Ud Doula for sexually harassing her.

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## ROAD ACCIDENT

# Students block Dhaka-M'singh Highway over peer's death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Students of Tongi City College yesterday blocked Dhaka-Mymensingh highway for around half an hour yesterday, protesting the death of one of their peers in road accident.

The deceased was identified as Habibur Rahman, 18, a student of the college.

Police said Habibur sustained severe injuries when a speeding bus hit him on Tuesday morning when he was going to college.

He was rushed to a

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## DHAKA TODAY

### MUSIC

EMK Happy Hour presents F Minor  
Venue: EMK Center  
Time: 6pm

Venue: EMK Center  
Time: 9:30am

### FAIR

National Food Fair 2019  
Organiser: Agriculture Ministry  
Venue: Krishibid Institution  
Bangladesh (KIB)  
Time: 8am

### WORKSHOP

IELTS: English for International  
Opportunity  
Venue: LCBS, Dhanmondi  
Time: 3pm

### EXHIBITION

Act together to end poverty

### MUSIC

Rabindra Ecstasy  
Venue: Satori Meditations,  
Banani  
Time: 8:30pm



An elderly man stops in front of a name plaque lying on the footpath, which reads "Shaheed Captain... Sarani" as other parts of the name are illegible due to damage. The road is named after Captain M Mansur Ali, one of our four national leaders. The photo was taken near Kakrail Mosque on Tuesday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## DRIVES AGAINST CORRUPTION

# Inu seeks exemplary action against culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Calling for strengthening and continuing the ongoing drives against corruption, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President and lawmaker Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said all corrupt persons have to be caught and punished, no matter how powerful they are.

"Those who are destroying vigorous efforts of Sheikh Hasina and putting a 'bad spot' on the government's positive activities, must be punished, so that none can dare to commit corruption in the name of party," he said while speaking at a rally organised by his party in front of its office at Bangabnadh Avenue. Leaders and activists of JSD also brought out a procession and paraded roads surrounding the office.

The former information minister said a three-prong drive must be conducted against corrupt persons, corrupt officers, and corrupt politicians.

"The last destination of corrupt persons will be in jail, like that of Khaleda Zia -- irrespective of the jersey of political parties they wear," he warned.

## Govt confirms 98 deaths from dengue this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday confirmed that 98 people died of dengue since January.

The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research has reviewed 158 cases out of 246 suspected dengue deaths.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 283 new dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country in 24 hours till 8am yesterday, of whom 188 are outside Dhaka.

A total of 92,750 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country this year, of whom 48,371 are in Dhaka, according to DGHS.

A total of 1,173 dengue patients are now undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, of whom 726 are outside Dhaka.

## Foreign minister leaves for Europe

# Economic diplomacy in focus

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen yesterday began his visit to a number of European countries, as Bangladesh lays importance to boosting its export to the European market, with diversification of products as part of its economic diplomacy.

The minister, who left for Berlin yesterday morning, will also visit France, Italy and Greece. "We want to boost export and diversity it," he said, adding that he will also raise the Rohingya issue everywhere in his meetings in the European countries.

Dr Momen will be in Germany until October 19, where he will also have a meeting with his German counterpart, a senior official said.

President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Dr Rubana Huq is also visiting Berlin. "Germany happens to be the single biggest importer. So it's important," she told UNB before her departure on Wednesday morning.

Bangladesh also seeks German and French companies' investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and high-tech parks, that being developed by the government.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

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CORRUPTION ALLEGATION

Demo, counter-demo at Jahangirnagar univ

JU CORRESPONDENT

Demanding removal of the vice chancellor for her alleged involvement in corruption, agitating students and teachers of Jahangirnagar University (JU) continued their protest yesterday afternoon.

On the other hand, a newly-formed platform by VC-backed teachers and staffers -- "Jahangirnagar against injustice and for development" -- brought out a silent procession on the campus around 11am.

The afternoon procession by agitating students and teachers was brought under the banner of "Jahangirnagar against Corruption".

Afterwards, a rally was held, addressed by Prof Kamrul Ahsan of philosophy department.

"A section of teachers are now trying to show their 'popularity' by staging demo. They are actually for corruption," he alleged.

He also said they have submitted an appeal to the university chancellor (the president) to look into the allegation of corruption.

Meanwhile, the new platform, headed by Prof AA Mamun of Physics department, was formed on Tuesday with 35 teachers, to promote development activities and protest injustice and irregularities in the university.

Prof Ajit Kumar Majumder, president of JU Teachers' Association, said, "A group of people are trying to create unrest in the name of protest. They are just opposing and trying to halt development activities when the university is trying to reduce seat crisis and eliminate ragging. We will do our best to continue development works."

"We urge protesters to resolve the crisis through discussion and work for development of the university," said Prof Majumder, a member of the platform.

Students block Dhaka

FROM PAGE 3

local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries yesterday afternoon.

When the news of his death spread, students of the college blocked the road near Tongi from 5pm for half an hour, said Kazi Newaz, sub-inspector of Tongi Poschim Police Station.



This Khulna-bound bus, after hitting a rickshaw-van from behind, fell into a roadside ditch and overturned in Madaripur early yesterday. Due to the incident, a van passenger was killed and 17 bus travellers sustained injuries, reports our Faridpur correspondent. The injured are being treated at local health centres. Police seized the bus but its driver fled the spot.

PHOTO: STAR

'Street Food Market' by Four Points concludes

CITY DESK

With the theme "Walk, pick and eat your favorite food", this season's "Street Food Market" hosted by Four Points by Sheraton Dhaka, Gulshan ended on Tuesday.

The food festival took place at the signature restaurant of Four Points Dhaka "The Eatery", located on the 24th floor of their main tower building, from 6:30pm to 10:30pm. The festival started on October 8, said a press release.

The event created a lot of buzz amid food lovers. This was the third time in a row Four Points arranged the festival. The Daily Star was the event's print media partner.

Residents of Geneva Camp

FROM PAGE 3

Police filed a case against 51 named and many unnamed with the Mohammadpur Police Station after the incident.

Officer-in-Charge of Mohammadpur Police station GG Biswas, however, said they are not harassing anyone uninvolved and are not forcefully shutting down shops.

He said they are arresting people with specific charges. Anisur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon division) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, earlier said the camp residents did not pay electricity bills worth Tk 33 crore to Dhaka Power Distribution Company.

The camp residents had been experiencing frequent load shedding for 20 days.

They said different international agencies used to provide funds to Bangladesh Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief for paying the electricity bills.

Local ward councilor Habibur Rahman Mizan, who is now in jail, earlier said those organisations stopped providing funds after the camp residents were given national identity cards.

On November 20 last year, the ministry wrote to the Power Development Board, saying the funds were not coming anymore.

Foreign minister leaves

FROM PAGE 3

From Berlin, the foreign minister will visit Paris from October 20-22, and attend an economic forum, apart from other engagements. The forum will be organised by the French Senate, which representatives of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority BIDA are also expected to attend.

The minister will visit Rome on October 27 and Athens on October 28-29, a ministry official told the news agency.

Dr Momen will join the 18th NAM ministerial meeting on October 23-24 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The foreign minister will return home on October 30.

PM to attend

FROM PAGE 3

South America and other regions of the world and at the height of the Cold War.

Its actions were a key factor in the decolonisation process, which later led to the attainment of freedom and independence by many countries and people and to the founding of tens of new sovereign states.

Throughout its history, NAM has played a fundamental role in the preservation of world peace and security.

The chairmanship of NAM will be built on three main priorities, among others, increasing the effectiveness of the Movement to further enhance the reputation of the organisation on the global stage.

Other priorities are promotion of the Bandung principles and strengthening of unity within the Movement.

NAM has 120 member countries, 17 observer countries and 10 observer organisations.

HC sets Nov 3

FROM PAGE 3

With 75 percent burns, she was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. After fighting for her life, she succumbed to her injuries at the hospital on April 10. Her death triggered a huge public outcry across the country.

A video clip showing Moazzem asking Nusrat humiliating questions did the rounds on social media, drawing widespread criticism. Moazzem was suspended on May 8 over negligence of duty.

Too risky to use

FROM PAGE 5

Pijush Nandi of Gomdandi village added, "Due to gridlock, my daughter was 30 minutes late to reach an SSC exam centre this year."

Around 10,000 vehicles use the bridge on a daily basis, according to NA Enterprise, a firm that took lease of the bridge from BR to collect toll.

When asked about allegations that overweight vehicles also ply the bridge regularly, Selim Uddin Jahangir, in-charge of NA Enterprise, denied it.

LOCALS DEMAND ROAD, RAIL BRIDGE

Meanwhile to mitigate the crisis, the government is considering a new rail bridge in the area, but locals and a public representative want a road and rail bridge instead.

At a recent press conference at Chattogram Club, lawmaker Mainuddin Khan Badal placed the demand. Badal, also executive president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said, "To meet the demand, I will join the ruling Awami League, if necessary."

Locals said along with rail communication, they also want a road over the bridge to travel to and from the city.

Contacted, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan told The Daily Star that a feasibility study is underway to build a rail bridge in Kalurghat. "The study will be completed in December," he said.

About locals' demand, the minister said earlier a proposal to construct a road and rail bridge was rejected by Ecne, he said. He could not provide further details.

Kalurghat Bridge was constructed as a rail bridge between Janalihat and Gomdandi railway stations in 1930. It went into operation the next year. It was turned into a road and rail bridge in 1962.

Apart from other vehicles, a pair of passenger trains of Chattogram-Dohazari route plies the bridge daily while another pair of oil-wagon trains uses it to go to Dohazari Peaking Power Plant on every alternative day.

Bangladesh Railway sources said BR labeled it as risky in 2001. A major repair was conducted in 2004. Later, its condition deteriorated and a team from Chattogram University of Engineering and Technology declared the bridge unsafe in 2011.

Man sentenced to

FROM PAGE 5

in-charge of Santahar fertiliser warehouse, over gaining assets worth 4.96 core beyond his known source of income, reports our Bogura correspondent.

Aminul Islam, assistant director of Bogura ACC, filed the case yesterday against former in-charge of Santahar urea buffer warehouse Nabir Uddin Khan, 62.

"Bogura ACC issued a notice on Nabir and his wife Mohsina Begum on June 25. Within the time, Nabir did not respond to the notices but his wife did."

After investigation, ACC found that Nabir gained immovable property worth Tk 4.94 crore and movable assets worth Tk 14.55 lakh, beyond his government salary, which are illegal, said Aminul Islam.

Nabir had secured bail from a previous corruption case and is now on the run, Aminul added. On October 31, 2018, Bogura ACC filed a case against him with Adamdighi Police Station on allegation of embezzlement of Tk 93 crore by selling fertiliser in black market from the same warehouse, said ACC sources.

### 11th Death Anniversary

The 11th Death Anniversary of former Ambassador Major General Quazi Golam Dastgir, KAAO, psc will be held after Asr on Thursday October 17, at his Dhanmondi residence. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to please attend and join in prayer for him.

D-258

## INVITATION FOR TENDER

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

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Please visit our web site, <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase the Tender document by **24 October, 2019** duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer in the Tender Box by **27 October, 2019** (before 11.00 A.M).

**(Abu Habib Khairul Kabir)**  
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Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Nilphamari  
Telephone No. 0551 61403  
E-mail: [eenil@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eenil@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 1479

Date: 15-10-2019

## e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-Tender is invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by The Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Nilphamari for the procurement of:

Tender ID & Tender No.	Name of works	Tender document price (in BDT)	Tender security (in BDT)	Last selling & opening (date and time)
<b>e-TID No. 368962, Tender No. e-GP-03/EE/RHD/Nil/2019-2020(PMP-B&amp;C)</b>	Reconstruction of 01 No. RCC box culvert (2x6.00m Span. 5.00m Height) at 2nd (P) km of Domar (Boragari)-Jaldhaka (Vadurdargah) Road (Z-5704) under Road Division Nilphamari during the year 2019-2020	2000	350000	Date: 17-11-2019. Time: Up to 17.00 & Date: 18-11-2019. Time: After 12.30
<b>e-TID No. 369038, Tender No. e-GP-04/EE/RHD/Nil/2019-2020</b>	Repair of damaged pavement by aggregate base type-II, carpeting and seal coat work at 1st (P) km to 3rd (P) km of Jaldhaka-Dimla-Tunirhat Road (Z-5703) under Road Division Nilphamari during the year 2019-2020.	2000	120000	Date: 30-10-2019. Time: Up to 17.00 & Date: 31-10-2019. Time: After 12.00

(Md. Aklas Hossain)  
ID No. 700075  
Sub-Assistant Engineer (Addl. C),  
RHD  
Road Division, Nilphamari

(Md. Sajedur Rahman)  
ID No. 602406  
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**Admission Form** will be available for a fee of Tk. 2000 at the Office of the Department of International Business, University of Dhaka during 10am-8pm on working days (Saturday - Thursday). Program Starts: January 2020.

**Apply now; last date of application:** 14 November 2019.

Written test for admission will be held at the Department of International Business, DU at 10.00 am on 22 November 2019.

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## 17 OCTOBER

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Doctors, nurses  
excelling  
despite limited  
resources: mayor  
*Coronary Care Unit at  
CMCH extended*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of Chattogram Medical College Hospital's Cardiology Ward was extended -- from 16 to 31 beds -- yesterday.

Mayor of Chattogram City Corporation AJM Nasir Uddin inaugurated the extension at a programme jointly organised by CMCH Patients Welfare Association and CMCH Cardiology Department.

Taher Brothers, a business conglomerate of the port city, donated the beds through CMCH Patients Welfare Association, said Mujibul Haque Khan, president of Bangladesh Medical Association's Chattogram chapter.

Mayor Nasir said the doctors and nurses of CMCH have been doing a tremendous job -- delivering healthcare services to patients despite limited resources.

He praised the Patients Welfare Association and Taher Brothers for providing assistance towards the welfare of patients. He also urged the well-off section of society to extend their support.

Laxmi Pada Das, registrar of CMCH Cardiology Ward, told The Daily Star that the CCU had 15 beds but the number of patients was almost 40 every day.

Many patients had to stay on the floor in CCU due to shortage of beds, he said, adding that now, after extension of the unit, patients will be benefited.

He said apart from beds, a total of 15 monitors have been donated to the CCU by Patients Welfare Association.

Head of CMCH Cardiology Department Prabir Kumar Das was present, among others, at the programme with CMCH Director Brig Gen Mohsen Uddin Ahmed in the chair.



Built during the British era, a little less than a century ago over Karnaphuli river in Chattogram, Kalurghat Bridge is in a sorry state. The run-down bridge is now dotted with numerous potholes while its metal fencing and pedestrian decks have worn out in places, increasing the possibility of a serious accident any time. Long tailbacks have also become a common phenomenon there. Often times, the gridlock ensues way before entering the bridge.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

KALURGHAT BRIDGE  
TOO RISKY TO USE

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With British era Kalurghat Bridge over the Karnaphuli river becoming unsafe during the last two decades, Chattogram residents have long been demanding a new bridge to ease their sufferings.

Around 10 lakh people from Boalkhali, east of Patiya, south of Rangunia upazilas and Chandgaon and Mohora areas of the city have no alternative to the bridge.

Every day, hundreds of vehicles, plying the bridge, are facing difficulties as the deck and iron fencing on its both sides have become worn-out and numerous potholes developed on it, giving way to mishaps.

As a result, long tailbacks on the bridge -- which linked the port city with south Chattogram -- have become a common phenomenon. The tailbacks often extend way beyond the bridge's entrance point.



Bangladesh Railway (BR) is entrusted with looking after the road and rail bridge -- 239 metres in length and 3.05 metres in width. Traffic is halted when a train crosses the bridge.

"While passing through the bridge, I feel my safety is at stake," said Shamsul Haque from Boalkhali's Saroatoli.

BR has put up signboards at both ends of the 89-year-old bridge, terming it risky. The owning agency has banned movement of vehicles weighing more than 10 tonnes each.

Pedestrians' movement has also been prohibited there.

Contacted, Nasir Uddin Ahmed, general manager of

BR (east zone), said the bridge exceeded its lifespan around 29 years ago.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found at least 81 potholes on its surface and cracks around the fishplates (metal bar that is bolted to the ends of two rails to join them together in a track).

When any vehicle gets stuck there, it creates a long tailback, said locals. Such a situation has become common now-a-days, causing immense sufferings to commuters, they added.

Abdul Hamid from Shakpura in Boalkhali said couple of months ago a pregnant woman, who was being taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, felt labour pain and gave birth to a baby in the stranded vehicle.

Mohammad Rashed, an auto-rickshaw driver, said a tailback usually lasts for half-an-hour to two hours.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

JOURNO SHIMUL MURDER CASE

SC clears way to resume trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday cleared way for the Speedy Trial Tribunal of Rajshahi to run the trial proceedings of journalist Abdul Hakim Shimul murder case.

The apex court declared infructuous (ineffective) the writ petition, filed by some accused of the case with the High Court challenging the government decision to transfer the case to the speedy trial tribunal from a district court.

In the writ petition, the accused had also prayed to the High Court to order the Rajshahi court to hold trials of all four cases filed in connection with the murder.

The HC on August 29 stayed the case's trial proceedings for six months.

Later, the government filed a leave to appeal petition with the SC's Appellate Division, challenging the stay order.

Yesterday, writ petitioners' lawyer Advocate AM Aminuddin told the SC

that his clients will not proceed with the petition before the HC.

A four-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain also dismissed the leave to appeal petition as the petition has become ineffective.

There is no legal bar for the speedy trial tribunal to run the case's proceedings following the SC order, Deputy Attorney General Bishwajit Debnath told The Daily Star.

Shimul, Shahzadpur correspondent of Daily Samakal, was hit when Halimul Haque Miru, suspended mayor of Shahzadpur municipality in Sirajganj, allegedly opened fire during a factional clash of Awami League on February 2, 2017.

He died the next day.

The following day, Shimul's wife filed a murder case with Shahzadpur Police Station against Miru, his two brothers, and 15 others.

RiverWoods School  
opens in Uttara



PHOTO: COLLECTED

CITY DESK

A soft opening ceremony of RiverWoods School was celebrated last Saturday (October 12) at Uttara sector-14, said a press release.

The schools chief advisor, Brigadier General (retired) Md Obaidul Haque attended the programme as chief guest, while Lynnet Rita Martin, the school's principal, delivered the keynote address.

Colonel (retired) Babar Selim, Barrister Riadz Ahmed Tushar and agriculturist Md Sarwar Murshed Akanda also spoke at the event. The school's first academic year will start on January 2020.

Man gets life sentence for  
raping madrasa student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court in Chattogram yesterday sentenced a man to life-term rigorous imprisonment on charge of raping a madrasa student after abduction in the district's Banshkhali upazila in 2016.

The convict is Mahmudur Rahman Haidar, hailing from Cox's Bazar, said court sources.

The court of Chattogram Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 Judge Moshir Rahman handed down the verdict, crossing all the records and witnesses, said Public Prosecutor Advocate Jesmin Akhter.

Advocate Jesmin said the court sentenced Mahmudur to 14 years in jail for abduction.

He was handed down life-term imprisonment for rape, after he was found guilty beyond doubt.

"Apart from that the court also fined the convict Tk 40,000," she said.

The convict was sent to jail after the verdict, the public prosecutor told this correspondent.

According to the case statement, a tenth grader of a local madrasa was abducted on her way to class from home in Chambal area of Banshkhali on August 4 of 2016.

Later, failing to trace her, the victim's father filed a missing complaint with Banshkhali Police Station.

Police rescued the girl from Hamidchar area of port city's Kalurghat and arrested Mahmudur red-handed.

Victim's father filed a case accusing Hamid of abduction and rape.

Law enforcers later pressed charges against the accused on October 27 the same year.

Meanwhile, a court framed charges against him on August 27 in 2017.

The public prosecutor said the court recorded the deposition of 11 witnesses.

GRAFT CASE  
Man sentenced  
to 18 years' jail

STAR REPORT

A Faridpur court yesterday sentenced a former junior auditor to 18 years' imprisonment and a fine of Tk 9,14,00 in a corruption case, filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Mujibur Rahman, Public Prosecutor (PP) of ACC said, "The convict is Md Shamsul Haque, 62. He worked as a junior auditor officer in Pangsha upazila in Rajbari from April 3, 1997 to March 3, 2002."

Judge Md Motiar Rahman of Special Judge's Court in Faridpur delivered the verdict in presence of the convict, according to the PP. He was sentenced to different terms and fined different amounts under sections 409, 467 and 877 of the Penal Code, and the Prevention of Corruption Act. He has to serve the jail terms concurrently, he added.

According to the case statement, Shamsul Haque misappropriated Tk 8,09,000 through corruption and misusing power while he was a junior auditor of Pangsha upazila in Rajbari, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

Gazi Md Shamsul Arefin, the then sub-deputy director of Faridpur ACC failed a case in this connection with Pangshi Police Station on August 9, 2016, and submitted charge-sheet against Shamsul Haque on August 21, 2017.

ACC SUES FORMER FERTILISER WAREHOUSE IN-CHARGE OVER GRAFT OF TK 5CR  
Bogura Anti-Corruption Commission has sued a former

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

ULAB celebrates 15th  
Foundation Day

CITY DESK

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) celebrated its 15th Foundation Day yesterday in the auditorium of its Dhanmondi campus.

Planning minister MA Mannan, attended the programme as chief guest, while Sheikh Kabir Hossain, chairman of Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) was present as special guest.

Dr Kazi Anis Ahmed, vice president of ULAB board of trustees, delivered the welcome speech. Founder and president of board of trustees, Kazi Shahid Ahmed, and National Professor Dr Rafiqul Islam also spoke at the programme. ULAB Vice Chancellor Prof HM Jahirul Haque delivered the closing remarks.

ULAB's Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Shamsad Mortuza; Special Advisor to board of trustees Professor Imran Rahman; Treasurer Professor Milan Kumar Bhattacharjee; Registrar Professor Akhtar Ahmed; members of board of trustees; deans; heads of departments; faculty members; admin members; students and alumni attended the celebration.



ULAB celebrated its 15th Foundation Day yesterday.



Defying a government ban, locally improvised three-wheelers continue to haunt Dhaka-Barishal Highway. The highways in Barishal division have become unsafe due to movement of thousands of these unauthorised and slow moving vehicles -- a major contributor to accidents. The photo was taken in Kashipur area of Barishal around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

One-stop service  
for elderly,  
disabled at BCC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Barishal City Corporation (BCC) has introduced a one-stop service for senior citizens and persons with disabilities recently at Nagar Bhaban in the city.

"We undertook this initiative to bring BCC's utility and other services under one umbrella for the elderly and persons with disabilities," said Israil Hossain, chief executive officer of BCC.

Faizul Islam Rafi, in charge of the centre, said around 9-10 people avail their services every day. "We try to make the processes as smooth as possible."

Al-amin Khan, a differently abled man, visited BCC to get a new holding number. He expressed satisfaction over the service and said it was very helpful as he didn't have to visit multiple offices to get a signature.



**Islami Bank**  
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**CORRIGENDUM**

An advertisement was published in The Daily Star on September 30, 2019 inviting applications for the post of **Deputy Managing Director** of the Bank. As decided, the following amendments have been made in the subject advertisement:

Sl. No	Particulars	Previous Requirement	Revised Requirement
01	Experiences	Experiences for at least 20 years absolutely in Bank including minimum 02 years as SEVP or equivalent rank	Experiences for at least 10 years in Bank/ Financial Institutions including minimum 02 years as SEVP or equivalent rank
02	Application deadline	October 15, 2019	November 05, 2019

All other terms & conditions of the advertisement will remain unchanged. The candidates already applied earlier need not apply further. For details please visit **career.islamibankbd.com**.

**Deputy Managing Director & CHRO**  
Head of Human Resources Wing



The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 2019, KARTIK 2, 1426 BS

## Overseas labour markets shrinking

*Address malpractices, explore new destinations*

IN the first eight months of the year, Bangladeshis got 4,17,084 jobs abroad, 2,08,536 fewer than the government’s projected number for this period. The traditional labour markets in the Gulf are on the decline and the reasons are multifaceted. Although we are all aware of the irregularities in recruitment practices, there is also the emerging case of restrictions being placed on our workers. For instance, Saudi Arabia which is the largest destination for Bangladeshi workers reopened its market in 2015 after a break of seven years. But the Kingdom is enforcing a Saudization policy, which means reducing dependence on foreign workers. When we look at the second largest market, the UAE, that country imposed a ban on our workers back in 2012 because, apparently, Bangladeshi recruiting agencies have been found to be involved in corruption and irregularities.

The situation is more or less the same with other countries in the Gulf and South East Asian nations, which have either frozen access of our workers to their markets, reducing the numbers of Bangladeshi migrant workers—or their numbers have remained stagnant. Nepal for instance successfully negotiated and struck a deal with Malaysia for their workers whereas we have not. This highlights procrastination on our part, which is hardly acceptable given the warning signs.

Besides tackling the obvious irregularities associated with recruiting agencies, Bangladesh needs to move into high gear on a number of other issues. We signed our MoU with Japan on recruiting skilled workers recently. Migration researchers believe that efforts need to be expedited in language training so that skilled workers are made language-proficient in a fast-paced manner, because Bangladesh is not the only country that will be vying to get a share of this lucrative market. Similarly, we have to wake up to new ground realities that the Middle East market for our workers is on the wane and we need to earnestly explore new markets for both unskilled and skilled workers, because inward foreign remittance brings in about USD 15 billion a year and we cannot take foreign labour markets for granted. Every country that has large overseas migrant populations is moving fast and unless we do the same, Bangladesh may miss the opportunities with disastrous impact.

## Bank robbery over four years!

*No trace of BASIC Bank’s 4,500 crore taka*

IT is mystifying that nobody knows what happened to the Tk 4,500 crore that was swindled out of BASIC Bank between 2009 and 2013. The investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) have not been able to find any clue as to what happened to this astronomical amount and has not submitted any charge sheet in the 56 cases filed in 2015 over its disappearance.

There is little justification for such a slow investigation. It is a tragedy that a bank that was once healthy had to fall from grace because of some unscrupulous individuals who transferred this huge amount of money in phases no doubt, in cahoots with the senior management of the bank. But what is even more disappointing is that the ACC has not been able to trace a single one of these illegal withdrawals.

It is also strange that the investigators have not found anything on the former chairman and the directors of the bank despite a central bank probe report that has detailed how loans were approved and then withdrawn in clear violation of bank rules. This was done through fake companies and suspicious accounts. Even the bank’s branches had expressed their concern regarding a number of loans yet they were all approved at the headquarters. Why did the bank’s board and credit committee approve of such loans without vetting them properly? According to the same probe report, the then management and board headed by the former chairman recruited a huge number of employees violating the rules and increased the number of branches to maintain them.

Even the High Court has expressed its disappointment at the snail’s pace of the ACC investigation. It is hard not to wonder whether this delay will serve to ultimately protect those officials who have been complicit in this horrendous scam that has practically robbed the bank of huge amounts of money, destroying its goodwill and reputation as a healthy, successful bank that it once was. The finance minister has said that the culprits involved in the scam during those four years will be brought to book. We urge the government to put pressure on the ACC to jumpstart this lethargic investigation and identify the individuals involved in this systematic bank robbery that has affected other banks too.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Stress can trigger suicides

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death amongst the youth in Bangladesh. The rate of teenage suicides has gone up in recent years, according to reports. There may be various reasons, but stress is definitely one of them.

Our society has a habit of comparing students with one another throughout their academic years, ignoring the harmful effects it tends to unleash. Constantly students are reminded, mostly by their parents, that they have to do better than their peers. And at times it seems when they do, it is not enough; thus, the cycle continues. There are many cases where a young individual, unable to meet the “expectations”, decided to end their life.

It is so high that we realise that each individual is unique. So, instead of burdening the youth with high, and at times unrealistic, “expectations”, guardians must acknowledge their unique abilities. School authorities too, should ensure the wellbeing of the students by nurturing their talents and also provide counselling sessions to prevent suicides.

Ramisha Rawnak Khan, East West University

# Is banning student politics the solution to campus criminality?



ZOBAÏDA NASREEN

eliminate political rights on campus is wrong. He did not deserve such betrayal.

The choice before the administration was to create more space for political dissent or to shut down oppositional voices. It went for the second option.

It is no secret that the student leaders sponsored by the ruling parties have been routinely abusing and torturing not only rivals but also ordinary students. No doubt we must wipe out the reign of terror on campus. But as long as the roots of the problem—ruling party’s desire to control universities and erosion of institutional autonomy—are not addressed, we would not be able to scratch beyond the surface.

Abrar’s murder has exposed the failure of the institution in its basic duty to protect its students. It is impossible to run “torture cells” without the knowledge of the university and hall administrations. After being tortured many students had reported the incidents but to no avail. If the ruling party’s students could routinely commit such crimes, it was because the authorities remained silent or patronising. The Buet administration has failed to accept its responsibility for the crime committed against one of its students and to recognise its inefficiency and complicity. Instead of takings steps to bring any systemic change or to dispel concerns about student safety and security, it has washed the blood of one of its own by banning organised political activities on campus.

This ban provided an easy way out for the administration when students could demand and even realise institutional autonomy, democracy, end of unlawful government control, and much more. This ban has effectively snatched away the students’ rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly. Not only the organisations accused of committing serious crimes (murder, rape, and maiming) were banned, but also the ones whose peaceful expressions put forward a vision of democratic campus and offer a defence against administration behaving autocratically. Even if such organisations are weak in terms of the number of members, their views are important to consider. It is sad that the university producing future leaders of Bangladesh cannot show them that their institution can be run competently and democratically.

The ramifications of this ban could be huge. It is a real possibility now that many other universities would feel encouraged to follow Buet’s path in denying student organisations the rights to exist and to campaign. In a country where student organisations have always been important entities of civil society and have consistently offered the public sphere, not only for students but also for the people in general, to take up matters of common concern, banning student politics would

be a huge blow to our democratic aspirations.

What good will it bring if we suppress the spirit of students to come together and build political imaginations? Surely it will further alienate conscientious students from getting involved in emancipatory struggles and lead to a society in which people are more self-centred and careerist. As a practical matter, students would also be pressured to support dominant political views.

Many people argue that the ban will not come in the way of students launching movements. While this is true, the limitations of non-organisational student movements are that they are situational, spontaneous, and temporary and can rarely go beyond daily affairs. The achievements are usually short-term. They rarely build on legacy of previous

party’s student wings can only be understood in the national historical context of those parties’ desire to control universities. The current trend of student organisations—student wing of ruling party enjoying control and being allowed to commit crimes with apparent impunity while oppositional student bodies are marginalised or silenced—started to take this definitive shape in early 1990s. At the heart of it was a great betrayal of the ruling class that took up destruction of democracy in universities as an insurance for their lasting rule.

Earlier, the military regimes of 1960s, 1970s and 1980s in their quest for establishing brutal control pushed students towards anti-autocratic struggles. Soon the military regimes tried to suspend universities’ autonomy and adopted the strategy of co-opting student leaders.

and were forced to leave educational institutions without completing studies. Independent student organisations got weakened.

That power grab and the attempt to avoid elections had implications far beyond campuses. Soon it became a common story of our national politics too.

Much of these current problems stem from the basic question of university autonomy. It has been under attack not only in the shape of state interventions, but also through government-sponsored student and teacher associations.

Of course, far-reaching reforms within the student wings of the ruling parties is a must. But no matter how deep reforms are made they will not be enough to end criminality and abuses on campus unless the ruling parties show the political will



At a time when politics is effectively in exile, banning student politics would only serve the purpose of the rising totalitarian tendency.

PHOTO: RAFIUL ISLAM

movements and thus fail to create a political imagination that could go beyond the walls of a campus and build a lasting change.

We should not forget that in our history of democratic struggles, student organisations have always been at the forefront of countering hegemonic thoughts. The role of student vanguards has been crucial to show how their demands relate to broader struggles of the people. Without student organisations, it is difficult to imagine student movements actively raising questions of human rights and democracy.

It is very important not to allow any authority to deny or repress political rights and freedoms. It is true that many students are not benefiting directly from those rights. For some, those rights do not even exist. Still we must protect those rights if we want democracy to flourish.

On the other hand, the deterioration in student organisations has not been solely their own making. Rather the external influence of the ruling class had a dominating role in creating and backing an atrocious system that turns some students into “monsters”.

The political criminal turn of ruling

Many leaders caved in and created loyal student organisations. Still they could not silence the independent voices of student organisations.

When the BNP government came to power after Ershad’s autocratic regime, it imported a disastrous governance culture: it stopped holding student union polls providing its student wing Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal and its ally’s student wing Islamic Chhatra Shibir control over campuses across the country. The new system of campus power neither required participation of student organisations other than the one affiliated with the ruling party nor any election. It was a permanent settlement that handed full control to a stable system of thuggery, which sought to destroy oppositional groups.

Later governments found it beneficial too. Consequently, the student wings of the ruling parties were able to suppress movements by imposing political control and dispossessing the students of their social and political rights. As a result, hundreds of students were forced to join political events of the ruling parties, abused, tortured or killed on campuses,

to abolish government sponsorship and abandon the ideology of controlling academia. There is no other way to break the normalisation of thug regimes on campus.

Student politics no longer remain in the hands of the students alone. Collective student actions may bring short-term cultural change, but it will revert to its previous state unless the political parties recognise the right of students to organise and govern themselves according to their own free will. For that matter, the ruling parties must stay out of student politics.

Banning student politics is no solution to the problem we are facing on campuses today. At a time when politics is effectively in exile, banning student politics would only serve the purpose of the rising totalitarian tendency. Therefore, politicians and educational policymakers should not abandon students coming into political consciousness and should widen the space for them to engage, educate, and agitate. Not just culturally, but politically too.

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## What creates these criminals?



NOUSHEEN SHARMILA RITU

seems not to fathom how some fellow students could commit such a ruthless act in cold blood. While this heinous crime is ubiquitously being condemned by all, it is equally important to comprehend what made criminals in the first place; what have been the motivations and push factors compelling these young students to take the life of an innocent person. Over the past week, a lot has been said and written regarding the growing prevalence of a culture of impunity and lawlessness that has eroded our political institutions and law enforcement system. While all of these factors play an enabling role in this pattern of criminality, we also need to pay heed to the deriving process through which these university students become so inhumanely deviant.

In criminal psychology, criminals can be classified into five distinct groups, including individuals who have compulsive criminal drives, psychological deficiencies or simply anti-social tendencies due to developmental aberrations. But one type of criminal also belongs to groups of ordinary individuals who become criminals due to external sociological or sub-cultural influences. All of the criminals in the Abrar murder case are above average students studying in the most prestigious engineering institution of the country, so it is improbable that they had precursory psychological deformities. Also, the

father of one of the key suspects, Anik Sarkar, claims that his son has always been a meritorious and distinguished boy from their locality and he fails to fathom how or why his son got involved in such murderous activities. Thus, it is more likely that the culture of dirty politics and violence in campus took him down that path.

The culture of pro-government student bodies beating up regular students at campus is not new. This disturbing

to be anti-establishment or allies of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir.

The Chhatra League has become the so-called protector of the campus from insurgency or anarchy, which in reality has only smothered the voice of dissent and democracy at large. It also must be noted that while it is undeniable that Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir had their share of criminal records, it is not up to Chhatra League to penalise them for who they are. But members of the former



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

practice has been observed since the regime of BNP and Jamaat with their student wings, Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir adopting these same means of control and supremacy n campus. This squalid legacy has ever since been kept alive as a tool of exploitation by consecutive regimes. On the other hand, over the past few years, it also has become a reality that anyone who criticises the establishment is considered

groups have been dehumanised to such an extent that it has become normal to “teach them a lesson” through whatever means possible: ragging, battery or even murder.

The golden epoch of student politics at campus has waned to non-existence. Corrupt practices like bribery, favouritism, sycophancy and intolerance have taken over collective and democratic values. People who do not even believe

in Bangabandhu’s ideologies can today become an ardent member of Chhatra League by means of sycophancy and preferential treatment. However, it also must be remembered that fear and insecurity at campus compelled these students in the first place to take refuge under the umbrella of Chhatra League. When they get over their own fears and insecurities, it is their turn to instil the same fear and insecurity among hundreds of other students.

Fear is one of the most powerful motivators of behaviour. Power, on the other hand, gives an individual control over their environment and over their fears. Dictators like Stalin, Hitler or Saddam Hussein, all had fearful and abusive parents that sowed the seeds of desire for fear inducing power in them.

Similarly, when the vulnerable students at campus are left with options between fear and power, most make their way to power through whatever means necessary including, blind obedience to authority.

Today, students have developed so much resentment and abhor against Chhatra League that they are protesting for the ban of this and all other forms of party affiliated student political organisations on campus. Years of torture, exploitation and injustice have pushed students to believe this to be their only way out. But will this ban really result in a healthy and safe campus, in the face of the prevailing malady of detrimental social, cultural and political practices? The root issues that turn meritorious students into criminals: culture of impunity, lawlessness and strangulation of freedom of speech are yet to be addressed. And until then, Abrar’s will be just another name in the growing list of victims.

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NEWSIN  
brief

Rouhani's brother  
starts 5-yr jail term

AFP, Tehran

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's brother entered prison yesterday to begin a five-year sentence after he was convicted of corruption, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported, citing his lawyer. Hossein Fereydoun was arrested in July 2017 and put on trial in February this year on allegations of financial violations. Fereydoun acted as a key adviser and gatekeeper to the president before his arrest.

Taliban truck bomb  
attack kills 3; 20 hurt

AFP, Jalalabad

At least three people were killed and about 20 children wounded when a Taliban truck bomb detonated near a rural police station and partially destroyed a nearby religious school, Afghan officials said. The early morning attack happened in Alishing district in eastern Laghman province, said interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi.

2nd French academic  
detained in Iran

AFP, Paris

A prominent French academic has been in detention in Iran since June, when he was arrested with his Franco-Iranian colleague, a researchers' group announced yesterday. Roland Marchal, a sociologist whose research focuses on civil wars in Africa, and Fariba Adelhkhah, an anthropologist, both work at the Sciences Po university in Paris. Adelhkhah's arrest was confirmed by Tehran on July 16. The reason for her detention has not yet been made public. French foreign ministry in a statement confirmed Marchal's detention and said it strongly condemned his arrest.



Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam (2nd L) leaves the chamber for a second time while trying to give her annual policy address as she is heckled by pro-democracy lawmakers (at background) at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

HK leader abandons key  
speech amid heckles

US lawmakers back bill to support protesters

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's embattled leader abandoned a State of the Union-style speech yesterday after she was shouted down by opposition lawmakers on a day that also saw a prominent protest leader left bloodied by hammer-wielding thugs.

The speech by chief executive Carrie Lam was billed as an attempt to win hearts and minds after four months of seething pro-democracy protests.

Instead the day laid bare the intense polarisation coursing through the semi-autonomous financial hub after four months of huge and increasingly violent rallies.

Lam's speech was swiftly dismissed by protesters who called for a new rally on Sunday.

Hours later the leader of the group organising that march was rushed to hospital after an attack by suspected government loyalists.

The city's unelected pro-Beijing leader, who has historic low approval ratings, tried twice to begin her policy address inside the Legislative Council, three months after the

building was trashed by masked protesters.

But pro-democracy lawmakers -- a minority of the pro-Beijing stacked legislature -- heckled her and called for her resignation.

Lam instead released a pre-recorded video, announcing plans to increase housing and land supply in a city that has one of the least affordable property markets in the world, as well as various subsidies.

Meanwhile, US House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday sought by pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong that aims to defend civil rights in the semi-autonomous territory, prompting an angry response from China.

The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which will now move to the Senate before it can become law, has drawn rare bipartisan support in a polarized Congress.

The law would end the Hong Kong-US special trading status unless the State Department certifies annually that city authorities are respecting human rights and the rule of law.

'Basic foundations' ready

Says Tusk as EU, UK scramble for Brexit deal on eve of key summit

AFP, Brussels

British and European negotiators ploughed on with Brexit talks yesterday hoping that at least an outline deal can be found in time for the European summit.

European leaders will head to Brussels today hoping to decide whether to give the go-ahead to officials to draw up a final withdrawal treaty.

But first, EU negotiator Michel Barnier and European diplomats want to know if Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson can sell the draft deal at home.

"The basic foundations of an agreement are ready and in theory tomorrow we could accept this deal with Great Britain and avoid the chaos and the misfortune linked to an uncontrolled, chaotic exit," Donald Tusk, the president of the European Council, said on Poland's TVN24 news.

"Theoretically, in seven or eight hours everything should be clear," summit host Tusk added as negotiators prepared for a second gruelling late night shift at the Brussels conference

table.

In London, Johnson met his sceptical Northern Irish allies the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) for the third time in three days to try to shore up support for a compromise deal.

The DUP will find it hard to accept



a reported offer to allow Northern Ireland to stick to EU customs rules after Brexit, which the EU wants to see to avoid the return of a hard border on the island of Ireland.

Brexit minister Steve Barclay described the closed-door meetings in Brussels as "intensive" and confirmed Britain would ask for another Brexit extension if there is no deal by Saturday.

Briefing European commissioners, Barnier confirmed that "ongoing talks have been constructive but there still remains a number of significant issues to resolve."

Earlier, Barnier had said a draft of any deal would have to be ready by early Wednesday if it was to go before European leaders at their summit, which begins today.

European diplomatic sources said, the leaders expect to make one of three choices. They could either give the nod to the draft text that Barnier and UK negotiators are drawing up as the basis to a formal treaty or agree that the talks are promising and set a timetable for further work. Or, more pessimistically, they could conclude that the two sides are still so far apart that new ideas are needed if Britain is to avoid crashing out of the bloc without a deal on October 31.

Johnson has promised to take the UK out of the European Union on October 31, with or without a follow-on agreement to maintain orderly economic ties with its former partners.

TURKEY'S OFFENSIVE AGAINST KURDS IN SYRIA

Europe must brace for  
refugee wave: Greek PM

AFP, Athens

Europe must be ready for the possibility of a new refugee influx, Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said yesterday, as an unfolding Turkish offensive in Syria could see more people flee the conflict-ridden region.

"Europe must be prepared for the eventuality of a new migratory and refugee wave coming through Greece," Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told AFP in an exclusive interview 100 days after taking office.

With some 70,000 asylum-seekers on its soil, -- including nearly 33,000 on islands near Turkey -- Greece is concerned that the Turkish offensive against Kurdish-controlled areas will overwhelm already overcrowded camps.

Turkey houses some 3.6 million Syrian refugees, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has already threatened to "open the gates" to allow more to leave for Western countries if his plans to resettle them in northern Syria fail.

Mitsotakis, who has already met with Erdogan in New York, rejects this as blackmail.

"The idea that Europe can be blackmailed by a threat of unleashing waves of refugees and migrants within Europe is not acceptable as a proposition," he said.

He added the EU had been "generous" with Ankara, a fact he said was not fully acknowledged by the Turks.

The UN refugee agency this week said Greece in 2019 had received over 46,000 people -- more than Spain, Italy, Malta and Cyprus combined.



A woman gestures in front of a police officer during a students' protest near Plaza Espana square in Barcelona, Spain. Police in Spain yesterday said they arrested 51 people across Catalonia overnight after violent protests over the jailing of nine separatist leaders for their role in a failed 2017 independence bid.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Brexit-free' TV channel!

A British broadcaster will launch a new "pop-up channel" dedicated to Brexit-free coverage, in a bid to attract viewers tired of hearing about the divisive issue. Sky News Brexit-Free, which was schedule to go live at 1600 GMT (5:00 pm local time) yesterday, has been set up after surveys showed Britons are avoiding the news due to fatigue with the arguments over Britain's fractious withdrawal from the EU. It will air for five hours from the same time every workday. The broadcaster's main free-to-air news channel will continue to cover Brexit, with negotiations ongoing before the country's planned October 31 departure date from the European Union.

Overeating is 'personal  
destruction': Pope

The pope yesterday contrasted the world's 820 million hungry people with those who turn food into "an avenue of personal destruction" through overeating, in comments to mark World Food Day. Pope Francis noted that the "distorted relationship between food and nutrition" has left almost 700 million people overweight, "victims of improper dietary habits". "We are in fact witnessing how food is ceasing to be a means of subsistence and turning into an avenue of personal destruction," the pontiff said. He called for "the cultivation of lifestyles inspired by gratitude for the gifts we have received and the adoption of a spirit of temperance (and) moderation."

Kim's horseback ride spurs  
policy shift speculation



New pictures of Kim Jong Un riding a white horse through a winter landscape to the summit of Mount Paektu, a sacred peak for North Koreans, have fuelled speculation that the young leader may be set for a major policy announcement. Analysts said the hike may signal a new policy direction for the nuclear-armed North. "In the past, Kim has climbed Mount Paektu ahead of major political decisions," said Shin Beom-chul, an analyst at the Asan Institute of Policy Studies. Kim hiked to the peak in December 2017 before launching diplomatic overtures that led to his first ever summit with US President Donald Trump. But negotiations have been gridlocked since then.

SOURCE: AFP

Schiff claims 'dramatic progress'

Says witnesses gave more info on president's alleged misuse of power

AFP, Washington

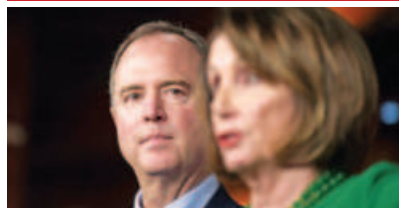
The leader of the impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump said Tuesday that witnesses had provided substantial support for allegations that Trump illegally tried to force Ukraine to investigate his political rival Joe Biden.

While the White House and Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani refused to turn over subpoenaed documents on the Ukraine affair to Congress, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said five witnesses had backed up allegations of misuse of power that could underpin formal impeachment charges.

Witnesses have supplied information showing that Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine leader Volodymyr Zelensky, in which Trump appeared to tie military aid to getting dirt on Biden from Kiev, was planned in advance and then followed up, Schiff said.

"We've made dramatic progress

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT PROBE



in answering some of the questions surrounding that July phone call... in which the president of the United States sought to coerce a vulnerable ally into conducting what can best be described as sham investigations involving his opponent," Schiff told reporters.

"We have learned that call was not in isolation. There was a great deal of preparatory work that was done before the call. There was a lot of follow-up work done after the call," he said.

Schiff spoke a day after former White House Russia expert Fiona Hill reportedly told Congressional

investigators in closed-door testimony that several high-level aides reported the Trump-Zelensky phone call to a White House lawyer as possible wrongdoing by the president.

Hill said her own boss, then-national security advisor John Bolton, characterized Trump's pressure on Zelensky together with Giuliani and White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney as akin to a narcotics transaction.

"I am not part of whatever drug deal Rudy and Mulvaney are cooking up," Bolton said, according to Hill's testimony as reported by the New York Times. Hill said Bolton also warned that Giuliani, who is reportedly under federal investigation over his Ukraine dealings, is "a hand grenade who's going to blow everyone up."

The White House meanwhile Tuesday questioned the investigation's legitimacy by refusing to turn over budget office, Pentagon and vice presidential documents related to the Ukraine dealings.

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE 2020

Warren retains lead

AFP, Westerville

Surging White House hopeful Elizabeth Warren defended a barrage of attacks from fellow Democrats at the party's fourth 2020 debate Tuesday, cementing her status as a frontrunner in the race to challenge Donald Trump.

The president himself loomed large as the dozen Democratic contenders trained their fire on him, calling for his impeachment and assailing a Syria troop pullout that Joe Biden slammed as "shameful."

"The impeachment must go forward," thundered Warren, the progressive senator who is neck and neck with former vice president Biden at the head of the 2020 nomination race -- a stance loudly echoed by her fellow Democrats on stage.

Dragged into the scandal, Biden made clear he believes Trump should be impeached -- and pushed back hard on the president's charge he himself intervened in Ukraine to protect his son Hunter.

The other heavyweight in the race -- 78-year-old liberal Senator Bernie Sanders -- suffered a mild heart attack recently.

But it was Warren who weathered the sharpest attacks from her fellow Democrats -- on everything from kitchen-sink issues such as healthcare and taxation, to foreign policy and even business automation.

On health -- a flashpoint issue for American voters -- Warren faced stiff blowback from moderates who challenged her to come clean on how much her "Medicare for All" plan would cost.

Ex-congressman Beto O'Rourke accused Warren -- who advocates a wealth tax on the biggest fortunes -- of "punitive" policies, and "pitting some part of the country against the other."



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: Dwp 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, Bangladesh  
Shilpakala Academy  
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



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Fakir Lalon Shah’s 129th death anniversary commemorated with ‘Shadhumela’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Fakir Lalon Shah is the most prominent figure in the country’s Baul tradition. His folk songs are practiced all over the world. The legendary Bard has secured an exceptional position in the history of traditional music for his humanitarian songs, blending philosophies of different devotional and

spiritual traditions. Lalon was born in Kushtia, in 1774.

On the occasion of Fakhir Lalon Shah’s 129th death anniversary, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised the seventh edition of *Shadhumela*, on October 15. The idea was conceptualised by Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA. In association with popular

Baul artistes, distinguished Lalon researchers, practitioners, educators, and cultural personalities, BSA took the initiative, where various activities are being conducted on a national level.

Fakir Lalon Shah composed about two thousand songs, according to experts. However, many rural Bauls claim that the number should be over 10,000.



‘Rohu Chandaler Har’ by Arshinagar and ‘Pa er Awaj Pawa Jaye’ by Theatre, were staged at the Ganga Jamuna Cultural Festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on October 15.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# In search of the purpose of art

Syed Rashed Imam Tanmoy’s talk at 3rd Space

TIASHA IDRAK

On Tuesday, young cartoonists and art enthusiasts sat under the twinkling lights at the premises of 3rd Space, to listen to prominent cartoonist Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy’s talk, *Inevitable art in everyday Bangladesh*, hosted by Arafat Ahmed Ali. Tanmoy is the associate editor of the monthly satire magazine, *Unmad*, and the founder of Cartoon People. For a start, Tanmoy broke the ice with an animated video, showcasing his struggles as an artist and an individual. He dreamt of becoming an artist for as long as he can remember. He travelled to many places on his bike, carrying a sketchbook. Growing up, Tanmoy was unhappy with how the art schools in Bangladesh were overly dependent on techniques and copying the work of others. He tried his hand at painting, but was not satisfied with it. However, when he began concentrating on cartoons, he



PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy and Arafat Ahmed Ali

realised that his work can be meaningful conversation starters.

He commented on how artists are prone to hide behind the curtains, referring to the members of the audience. “Art is a medium of communication. Drawing for me was a way to make friends,” said Tanmoy. He advised the artists to find out the purpose behind their art.

A political cartoonist himself, Tanmoy shared his views, and the hurdles he faced throughout his career. “Nothing about free speech is free. Artists must understand the political climate, and proceed strategically, keeping the boundaries in mind,” said Tanmoy, elaborating on how artists should respond to censorship. “It has always been about pushing the boundaries. We need to look for that window of opportunity, because at the end of the day, all we have is our voice.”

From family oppositions, peer pressure, favourite comic books and movies to story building and art styles, the talk delved into a wide range of topics. Promising cartoonist Morshed Mishu was also present at the event.

# “Acting has always been my primary focus”

- Nikul Kumar Mondol

SHAH ALAM SHAZLI

Nikul Kumar Mondol started his acting career with *Jaatra Pala*. Soon, the actor’s performance was appreciated and he made his way to the theatre stage. With time, he gradually started acting in television dramas. Finally, the actor was seen this year in two promising hits, *Obotaar* and *Shaap Ludo*. Nikul talks to *The Daily Star* regarding his experience and upcoming works.

**When did you journey with acting begin?**

My hometown is Sreepur, Magura. I have been into this profession since my school days. I first started with *Jaatra Pala*, and then moved on to theatre. I am still involved in theatre and is working with Friday Theatre troupe in Dhaka.

**You have acted on various platforms including dramas, theatres, and finally films. Which one did you enjoy the most?**

Honestly, acting is the only thing that interests me. Acting has always been my primary focus.

**Two of your films were released recently. How do you feel about it?**

I played a minor role in *Shaap Ludo*. The film was well received by the audience, and is still running in many cinema halls around the country. My other film, *Obotaar*, is successively running in many cinema halls as well.

**What kinds of characters do you prefer playing on screen?**

I like playing negative and comic roles. Villainous attributes are always challenging, and thus, I enjoy them the most.

**What are you currently busy with?**

I have been featured in films like *Dhaka Attack*, *Debi*, and *Nuru Mia O Tar Beauty Driver*, before *Shaap Ludo* and *Obotaar*. Currently, I am working on *Nandini*. The film will be released soon.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# JAMAL AHMED’S solo exhibition in the USA

ZAHANGIR ALOM

*Renowned artist Jamal Ahmed is recognised for his bold approach to art. He crosses great lengths to depict the subjects he loves to. As a master of drawing, he is acclaimed for his realistic depiction of life, expansive landscapes, gypsy women, nubile women in all their voluptuous beauty, and the mystic troubadours of Bangladesh.*

The artist’s 62nd solo exhibition will open on October 30 in the Eye For Art Gallery, Houston, USA. The week-long show will display 20 large-sized acrylic paintings. “I paint whatever I find interesting. I once went to the USA, and was struggling to figure out what to portray. Suddenly, a lonely and panicked pigeon sat beside my balcony, and I started painting it. After that, pigeons have become one of my favourite subjects,” says Jamal Ahmed.



The artist uses soft pastel, along with thin acrylic dust layers, and charcoal as the background of his paintings. The acrylic and charcoal dust generate amazing textures, along with a mystique aura on the surface of the canvas. The finer aspects of his drawings, their intricacies and how he effortlessly finds simple solutions to complex compositions, is for his students to dissect, understand, learn and make use of. Those who simply love life and

beauty, can find their essence in Jamal Ahmed’s works. He is a keen observer, but we cannot comprehend what goes on in his mind when he paints. His creative mind is as enigmatic as the picturesque setting we see in his art.

The artist received the Ekushey Padak this year, for his outstanding contribution to fine arts. Jamal Ahmed’s artworks have also earned him many other accolades, both home and abroad.



## Singapore jails N Zealander for biting policewoman

AFP, Singapore

A New Zealand woman has been jailed in Singapore for six and half months for biting a policewoman's arm after a drunken night out while visiting her sister.

Katie Christina Rakich arrived in Singapore one evening in June, already slightly drunk, and headed for dinner with her younger sister and her sister's boyfriend, court documents showed.

The 27-year-old drank beer during the meal and the group later headed to another bar where she had more drinks.

They returned to the sister's apartment in the early hours.

But Rakich became rowdy and started yelling and causing a mess, prompting her sister -- who reportedly works in Singapore as a teacher -- to call the police.

Rakich was arrested and driven to a police station. As she was being brought out of the vehicle, she bit the left arm of a female police officer accompanying her.

## Nigeria town celebrates claim as 'twins capital' of world

AFP, Igbo-Ora

The sign greeting visitors at the entrance of Igbo-Ora in southwest Nigeria welcomes people to a place unlike anywhere on the planet: "TWINS CAPITAL OF THE WORLD".

The rather sleepy-looking town boasts of having the highest concentration of multiple births of any place on the globe.

To celebrate its self-proclaimed title the town hosts an annual festival, now in its second year, that draws hundreds of sets of twins from around the country.

Donning different traditional clothes and costumes, the twins -- male and female, old, young and even newborns -- sang and danced at the latest edition this weekend to the appreciation of an admiring audience.

"We feel elated that we are being honoured today," Kehinde Durowoju, a 40-year-old twin, told AFP as he hugged his identical brother Taiwo.

"With this event, the whole world will better appreciate the importance of Ibeji (twins) as special children and gifts from God."

Around them, twins moved in procession to show off their colourful outfits as magic displays and masquerades also entertained the crowds.

## Ex-NSI chief

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in the capital's Gulshan hours after the ICT-1 issued an arrest warrant for him in the case. He is now in jail.

Investigation agency of the tribunal on October 30 last year completed probe in the case and said that it found evidence of his involvement in wartime crimes.

**WAHIDUL'S PROFILE**

Accord to the investigation agency, Wahidul, son of Shamsul Haque in Madaripur, was posted in Rangpur Cantonment when the war broke out in March 1971. He, along with the Pakistan occupation army, fought against the freedom-loving people.

He was the adjutant of the 29th Cavalry Regiment of Pakistan Army at Rangpur Cantonment.

Wahidul was transferred to West Pakistan the following month, where he continued his service and returned to Bangladesh in December 1973. He subsequently joined Bangladesh Army, agency officials said.

He was later sent into "forced retirement" as many were aware of his wartime crimes, they said.

He joined the police force as an assistant superintendent in October 1976, a year after the assassination of Bangabandhu, and became the police commissioner of Chattogram in 1988.

He was a director of NSI from 1991 to 1996 and its acting director general from 1996 to 1997, investigators said.

Wahidul was made the director general of the Department of Immigration and Passports in 1997 and he was reappointed in 2002. He retired as an additional inspector general of police in October 2005, they said.

### THE CHARGE

Around 4:00pm on March 28, 1971, several thousand people assembled near the Rangpur Cantonment area to protest the barbaric mayhem committed on the night of March 25 in 1971 and to demonstrate their stance on independence, according to the charge.

Then a group of Pakistan Army led by Wahidul, equipped with machine guns, opened fire indiscriminately, killing 500 to 600 civilians, reads the charge.

In conjunction with the attack, injured civilians were bayoneted to death following the order of one Lt Col Shageer, it added.



President Abdul Hamid presenting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with a bouquet when the latter entered the Bangabhaban to make a courtesy call yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Turkey rejects

FROM PAGE 16

Battles raged in the key Syrian border town of Ras al-Ain yesterday, with Kurdish fighters burning tyres in a bid to blind Ankara's warplanes and digging in against a ground offensive by Turkish-backed Syrian rebels.

The operation, now in its second week, has triggered a flurry of diplomacy among major powers.

Trump sent Pence along with his top diplomat Mike Pompeo to Turkey amid the greatest crisis in relations for decades between the Nato allies.

Moscow has stepped into the void left by Trump's withdrawal of US troops from northern Syria, deploying patrols to prevent clashes between Syrian and Turkish forces.

Russian TV showed its forces alongside Syrian government troops taking up positions in and around the town of Manbij following the US pull-back.

The Kremlin said it would host Erdogan for a meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in the coming days, to ensure the operation does not turn into all-out war between Turkey and Syria.

Trump -- facing mounting criticism in Washington over his decision to pull 1,000 troops out of the conflict zone, as well as an unrelated impeachment inquiry -- has hit back at Erdogan, slapping sanctions on three cabinet officials and raising tariffs on Turkish steel.

Pence's office released a statement

that he would meet Erdogan today and "voice the United States' commitment to reach an immediate ceasefire and the conditions for a negotiated settlement".

He reiterated that Trump will pursue "punishing economic sanctions" until a resolution is reached.

There was confusion after Erdogan told reporters he would not meet with Pence -- a position that was later reversed by his office.

The operation has widespread support in Turkey, where decades of bloody insurgency by Kurdish militants have killed tens of thousands of people.

But Western powers fear it will endanger the battle against the Islamic State group, which was led on the ground by Kurdish forces. Thousands of IS prisoners are held in Kurdish-run camps in the region.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said yesterday that the camps were not "currently" under threat from the operation, but Europe has taken an increasingly tough line with Turkey.

Britain and Spain became the latest powers to suspend military exports to Turkey on Tuesday. Canada made a similar move.

**BATTLE FOR BORDER TOWN**

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have mounted a desperate defence to the east of Ras al-Ain, using tunnels, berms and

trenches.

A Syrian fighter serving alongside Ankara's forces said his forces were trying to cut Kurdish supply lines from nearby Hassakeh to facilitate their advance on the town.

Since launching their assault on October 9, Turkey and its Syrian rebel proxies have secured more than 100 kilometres (60 miles) of border, but Ras al-Ain -- Siri Kani in Kurdish -- has held out.

Erdogan, who like Trump faces political difficulties at home, wants to create a buffer zone stretching 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the border into Syrian territory.

He wants to destroy Kurdish hopes of an autonomous enclave that could serve as a launching pad for attacks in Turkey, and to resettle some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees Ankara is hosting.

"God willing, we will quickly secure the region stretching from Manbij to our border with Iraq," Erdogan said.

Some 500 Syrian Kurds have entered neighbouring Iraqi Kurdistan over the past four days fleeing the Turkish invasion, officials said yesterday.

The refugees were taken to camps in Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, an official in the border province of Dohuk told AFP.

The offensive has left dozens of civilians dead, mostly on the Kurdish side, and displaced at least 160,000 people.

## Nasa unveils future moon

FROM PAGE 16

size-fits-all, meaning there won't be a repeat of an embarrassing flub in March that caused the first all-female spacewalk to be aborted when a second medium-sized suit wasn't available.

"If we remember the Apollo generation, we remember Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, they bunny hopped on the surface of the moon," Nasa administrator Jim Bridenstine told a hall filled with students and interns at the space agency.

"Now we're going to be able to

walk on the surface of the moon, which is very different from the suits of the past."

Another key innovation is the xEMU's unlimited capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, a by-product of respiration that is also poisonous in high quantities.

It achieves this through a system that both absorbs and then removes the gas into the vacuum of space, unlike current systems that merely absorb it until it reaches a saturation point.

The crew survival suit, meanwhile,

is designed to provide full life support for up to six days -- a scenario that could be required, for example, if a meteorite punches a hole in the spacecraft's hull.

Under the Artemis mission, Nasa plans to land on the moon's South Pole in order to exploit its water ice, discovered in 2009, both for life support purposes and to split into hydrogen and oxygen for use as rocket propellant.

The agency views its return to the moon as a proving ground for an onward mission to Mars in the 2030s.

## Court denies accused bail

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those as the main case document was in the District Judge's Court, Mojibur Haq Kislul, Al Kaiyum's lawyer, said.

He added that the court also asked the prosecution to publish a newspaper advertisement about fugitive accused Nayeem, 17.

Md Easin Arafat, acting senior judicial magistrate, passed the order after hearing from the prosecution and the defence.

Lawyer Mojibur said six bail prayers of juvenile accused were also submitted before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday. The court referred the bail prayers to the Barguna Juvenile Court for hearing.

But the Juvenile Court did not hear those as the main case document was with the district Judge's Court.

Police had shown arrested

Mohaiminul Islam Sifat, an accused in the Rifat murder case, in an attempted murder case that was filed in 2017, the lawyer said.

Twenty accused in the Rifat murder case are in jail. Two accused Musa, 22, Nayeem, 17, are on the run, while Rifat's wife Ayesha Siddika Minni and Arian Shrabon are out on bail.

On June 26, Rifat, 25, an internet service provider, was hacked to death in broad daylight in front of Minni's college in Barguna town.

In the CCTV footage of the incident, Minni was seen screaming and trying to save her husband from the attackers.

Police arrested Minni after a daylong interrogation on July 16. A Barguna court placed her on a five-day remand the following day. Three days later, a Barguna court recorded

her statement under section 164.

On August 29, the High Court granted bail to Minni on condition that she cannot talk to the media and she will remain in her father's custody.

On September 1, police pressed charges against Minni and 23 others for their alleged involvement in the Rifat murder, an incident that triggered a huge public outcry across the country.

On September 18, a Barguna court accepted the charge sheet against Minni and 23 others in the murder case.

The name of key accused -- Sabbir Hossain Nayan alias Nayan Bond -- has been excluded from the charges as he was killed in a "gunfight" with police on July 2, six days after the killing of Rifat.

## Ex-BCL man arrested for murder

FROM PAGE 16

added.

He was first taken to Ishwarganj Upazila Health Complex but was later shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. He was referred to DMCH in the evening when his condition deteriorated. He passed away early in the morning and his body was sent to the hospital's morgue for autopsy.

Quoting the victim's family members and locals, the OC said

there had been a quarrel between Jahidul and one of his classmates over a football match recently.

During the quarrel, Jahidul allegedly slapped his classmate, said the OC.

"We are trying to find the cause of the murder and are pursuing different threads," said the OC.

The victim's mother Noor Jahan lodged a case with the police station accusing 11 people, including the ex-joint secretary of Bangladesh

Chhatra League's Ishwarganj Degree College unit Moshir Rahman Kanchan as the prime accused, the OC said.

Police arrested Kanchan soon after and he was produced before a Mymensingh court this afternoon with a five-day remand prayer, he added.

Police drives are on to arrest the others accused, the OC added. Additional Police Superintendent (Crime) SA Newazi visited the spot.

# Climate activists fined for stealing Macron portraits

AFP, Paris

A French court yesterday fined eight activists 500 euros each for stealing official portraits of President Emmanuel Macron from public buildings as part of a protest over climate change.

The trial is the third in France over the phenomenon of stolen Macron portraits.

Last month, a Lyon court cleared two activists of stealing portraits of Macron, saying that taking down the pictures constituted "legitimate" protest.

But a Paris court yesterday returned a different verdict, ruling that the eight accused, who are aged between 25 and 35, were guilty of "group theft", a charge that carries a maximum five-year jail term.

The eight had all admitted to taking down the pictures of Macron hanging

in three local government offices around Paris in February, as part of the "Take Down Macron" campaign of civil disobedience.

They claimed a "moral duty" to act in the face of what they called the inaction of Macron's government on climate change.

The first trial over the portrait thefts took place at the end of May in the eastern town of Bourgen-Bresse, where an environmental campaigner was fined 250 euros (\$225) and five others received suspended fines.

All public schools and government offices in France display the president's portrait, with Macron's showing him perched on the edge of his desk with two mobile phones and the memoirs of French resistance hero and post-war president Charles de Gaulle behind him.

## Foreign trips

FROM PAGE 16

Contacted, Md Nazrul Islam, a personal officer to an additional secretary of CHT affairs ministry, who visited Vietnam and Cambodia this year, said, "Khagrachari Hill District Council gave me 1,000 US dollars as pocket money to go abroad for study tour."

However, Nazrul was not asked to submit any payment voucher to the council.

Asked what he had learnt from the tour, he said he visited some cultural and historical places of the two countries. He, however, could not say how the visits were relevant to his job.

The Daily Star also contacted Mohammad Abdul Mazed, accounts and audit officer of Bandarban Hill District Council, who went to China and Malaysia this year. Refusing to say anything, the officer suggested that this correspondent talk to his senior officials about the matter.

Contacted, Executive Engineer of Bandarban Hill District Council Md Mahbubur Rahman said, "We need to learn something from a foreign country, but it is true we can't use our experience properly in our country." He declined to talk further and asked this correspondent to talk to other senior officials in the council.

Chairman of Khagrachari Hill District Council Kongjari Chowdhury on September 30 told this correspondent over phone that these foreign trips bring benefits.

Asked about the benefits, he said he was busy and disconnected the line.

Terming these tours pleasure trips, former member of National Human Rights Commission Banchita Chakma said, "These are nothing but total misuse of government funds."

Bodhisatta Dewan, former principal of Khagrachari Government College and president of Sacheton Nagorik Committee (SANAC) Khagrachari unit, also raised question about these study tours.

He said, "Nobody knows what type of knowledge they acquire from these foreign trips and how they apply it in Bangladesh. These tours

are nothing but misuse of fund only for their pleasure."

Asma Taskin, deputy secretary of CHT affairs ministry, said "The purpose of such tours is to gather knowledge and experience. If anyone going on these tours considers these as pleasure trips, it is his or her personal failure."

Asked whether evaluation of the tour participants is done on their return, the deputy secretary said they do not have any such mechanism.

After returning, the staff members share power point presentation on their trips and learnings before senior officials, she said, without elaborating on the matter.

## Scientists shed light on how brains turn pain up or down

AFP, Washington

Pain perception is essential for survival, but how much something hurts can sometimes be amplified or suppressed: for example, soldiers who sustain an injury in battle often recall not feeling anything at the time.

A new study published in Cell Reports on Tuesday honed in on the brain circuitry responsible for upgrading or downgrading these pain signals, likening the mechanism to how a home thermostat controls room temperature.

Yarimar Carrasquillo, the paper's senior author and a scientist for the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), told AFP the region responsible was the central amygdala, which according to her work appeared to play a dual role.

Studying mice, Carrasquillo and her colleagues found that the activity in neurons that express protein kinase C-delta amplified pain, while neurons that express somatostatin inhibited the chain of activity in the nerves required to communicate pain.

## 400 vehicles

FROM PAGE 16

Abdul Alam, manager at Shimulia Ghat unit of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), said, "At least seven-feet deep water is needed for operating ferries. But there are only five to six-feet deep water in the river channel. Navigability is continuously reducing here."

"We are continuously dredging but sufficient depth for ferry operations is not available yet."

Normally 17 ferries ply in this route, which is considered as the gateway of 21 southern districts. But ferry operations have remained suspended since Sunday afternoon.

But operations of 87 passenger-carrying launches and over 300 speedboats were normal.

Meanwhile, Patuaria-Dauladia

ferry route was facing excessive rush of vehicles as ferry operations at Shimulia-Kathalbari route remained suspended.

Paturia is located in Manikganj district and Dauladia is in Rajbari district.

The Daily Star found around two-kilometre long tailback of trucks at Paturia Ghat yesterday.

"I reached Patuaria ghat on Tuesday evening. But I could not board on ferry till Wednesday afternoon," said truck driver Kamal Hossain.

According to the authorities, the trucks remained stranded as passenger-carrying buses and private cars were boarding ferries on priority basis.

Our Munshiganj and Manikganj correspondents contributed to this report

## Ex-MD, two more officials

FROM PAGE 16

Operations of the coal-fired power plant remained suspended for more than 50 days as the supply of coal had fallen short.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) began investigation that very month with Md Shamsul Alam, deputy director of the ACC, as the investigation officer of the case.

Abu Hena Ashiqur Rahman, assistant director of the Commission in the district, submitted the charge sheet to the same court on July 24 this year.

Earlier on Tuesday, the court

accepted the charge sheet of the case and issued an arrest warrant for the 23 charge sheeted accused.

Omar Faruk, a lawyer for the ACC in Dinajpur, said that all 23 accused worked for BCMCL and have appeared before the senior special judge court of Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan with bail prayers.

The other 20 accused in the case, including six former managing directors, were granted bail.

Speaking to The Daily Star earlier, Habib Uddin Ahmed said that it was a system loss, which was never taken into consideration since the coal production began in 2005.





# A roadmap for sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis



The Daily Star in association with North South University (NSU) organised a roundtable titled “A roadmap for sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis” on September 24, 2019. Here we publish a summary of the discussion.

**Dr Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman**, Professor and Adviser, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), NSU



North South University recently held an international conference on the Rohingya crisis and some very good quality papers were presented in the conference. We prepared some policy briefs based on the outcome of the conference. We are very proud that we could present the policy briefs to our honourable foreign minister and secretary of foreign affairs before they left for the UN General Assembly. The purpose of this roundtable is to discuss and share the broad observations of these policy briefs based on the proceedings of the conference.

**Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan** *ndc, psc (Retd)*, Associate Editor, The Daily Star



Peacebuilding and conflict resolution depend primarily on unanimity among all the parties involved in the resolution of a crisis. Do we have unanimity in the resolution of the Rohingya crisis? What

does resolution mean for Myanmar? For Myanmar, resolution of the Rohingya issue is the “final solution.” That is to denude the entire western Rakhine and northern Rakhine of Rohingyas. For Bangladesh, the solution is that the Rohingyas must go back and be given all their rights that citizens of a country are entitled to. And for the Rohingyas, they want to live in a peaceful atmosphere where they will not be subjected to the type of violence they were subjected to.

Then, there should be a facilitator and an honest broker. The one name that came up repeatedly in the presentation is China. We asked China to mediate or at least put maximum pressure on Myanmar. Can China be an honest broker? Does it not have its strategic interests that will stand in the way of its putting pressure? Then again, the three big powers, with some degree of leverage on Myanmar, have allowed their strategic interests to predominate over any other issues: humanitarian or otherwise. And they are really not much concerned about the many ways this will affect Bangladesh. Bangladesh has given shelter to 1.2 million Rohingyas. Is there any other country in the world which has absorbed so much demographic pressure? So, when other countries tell us that Bangladesh is doing a good job and they are supporting us, I would like to say that patting the back doesn't help.

**Prof Dr Atiqul Islam**, Vice Chancellor, NSU



North South University wants to distinguish itself as the most effectively engaged university in the country. So, we thought it would be appropriate to bring together the best minds in the world at North

South University and explore a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis. So, we thought it would be appropriate to organise an international conference on Rohingyas to project, discuss and debate about the issue and come up with some sustainable and peaceful resolutions of the crisis. We are indeed grateful that no less than Dr. Syed Hamid Albar, a renowned scholar and the former foreign minister of Malaysia, graced the occasion as the keynote speaker. From the conference papers, we have prepared the policy briefs that will be presented here for discussion and debate. We sincerely hope that the policy briefs could add some value in exploring options for a sustainable solution to the crisis. We want to hear more and learn more about the practical things that can be done to resolve the crisis.

**Dr Katherine Li**, Director, Office of External Affairs and Assistant Professor, NSU



North South University and UNHCR organised an international conference on Rohingya crisis in July 2019. We received a total of 230 abstracts under 11 themes among which 175 were accepted. Experts from

16 countries participated as paper presenters during the two-day event. The objective of the conference was to explore and critically assess the Rohingya crisis from multiple perspectives and also to develop concrete policy recommendations with participation from national and international experts. This brings us to our roundtable today.

**Dr M Jashim Uddin**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU and Keynote Presenter



Apart from socio-economic concerns, the Rohingya crisis poses security threats for Bangladesh. It could also affect regional peace and stability in the long run. The demographic imbalance that has

been created in Ukhiya and Teknaf region is another great concern for us. It is creating tension between the host community and the Rohingyas. In addition, drugs and arms trafficking pose a serious security threat for us.

The repeated failures of the repatriation process have actually increased our anxiety. From a realistic perspective, for meaningful repatriation, we also need to focus on whether legitimate concerns of Rohingyas are actually reflected in different negotiations, policies and agreements.

The role of the UN, in particular, is vital for the dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas. Without the UN's guarantee, repatriation will not see the light of day. On the other hand, we realise that the role of China as a mediator is very important as it has the “carrot and stick” influence over Myanmar. So, the regional and global powers also need to pursue China to convince it to influence Myanmar to resolve the crisis.

The five-point solution presented by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the 72nd UN General Assembly seems to be pretty relevant to resolve the Rohingya crisis. Bangladesh, the UN and western democracies can and should create a global consensus to pursue the Security Council to put appropriate sanctions on Myanmar – either economic or military – if it constantly disregards the international human rights declaration and conventions.

**Dr Taufique Joarder**, Research Director, FHI 360



History shows that almost all the refugee crises turn into protracted emergencies. And that's what we need to really decide: should we give them short-term care, or a simple six-month regimen of tuberculosis treatment, or a nine-month or long-term treatment? Should we give them short-term or long-term family planning services? These are the policy decisions that we need to be mindful of. Whenever there is a refugee influx, we are always concerned about communicable diseases: measles, sexually transmitted infections, etc. We often forget that these people also have non-communicable diseases. I didn't see non-communicable diseases addressed in these policy briefs.

**Maheen Sultan**, Member, Naripokkho



The Bangladesh government always says that they haven't ratified the refugee convention but even within Bangladesh's laws, there are certain regulations such as birth and marriage registration that can be applied to the refugees. This will ensure prevention of child marriage or following up on divorces. Clarifying the legal framework on the issue of protection against trafficking and forced marriage is also necessary.

Many of the Rohingya children have completed up to grade 3 or 4 and they want to go forward. But under the present system the camp authorities cannot allow that. Why can't Bangladesh manage freedom of movement and right to work when other countries can?

**Humayun Kabir**, Acting President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)



First, we need to see the issue through a new prism because in terms of solution there are a couple of things that could be worked on: 1) repatriate all of them, 2) many of them will return while some remain as in 1992, and 3) none of them will go back. So, with these three sets in mind, we need to develop our policy. Second, China is helping us, we are hopeful. But we have to understand what kind of values we are talking about over here with respect to Chinese involvement in this problem. Yes, they want to help us repatriate Rohingyas but under what condition? As mentioned, China might say “forced migration” but under the agreement we signed on November 23, 2017 it is difficult to go beyond a voluntary resolution of this problem.

**Dr Abdur Rob Khan**, Professor & Dean, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, NSU



It is seen that poverty increased by three percent in the local neighbourhood of the refugee camps. One of the reasons may be that the Rohingya community takes a share of the local employment.

Another issue is banning of fishing in the Naf River leading to unemployment of 35,000 fishermen. Third, NGOs take more interest in working with the Rohingya labour force rather than the local labour force. One point to be highlighted is the missing of macro-micro linkage. The problem is localised between Cox's Bazar and Bandarban, but we are uncertain about the impact on the national economy. Even if repatriation starts it will take a long time to complete. So, huge costs will pile up. What we need is continuous monitoring of these costs which will pile up to a macro level eventually.

**Dr Biswas Karabi Farhana**, Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management, NSU



The waste problem is a big issue. It is contaminating groundwater and surface water which are already scarce in Cox's Bazar. So far, we have one waste treatment plant which is one of the biggest waste treatment plants in the world. But we need more of these which will stop the infiltration of faecal waste into the water. We need to have a more comprehensive waste management plan, like composting, bio-bins, barrel composting and vermicomposting. Rainwater harvesting is required to lessen pressure on groundwater. A sustainable solution would be plantation of indigenous grass, shrubs, herbs, which have deeper roots.

**Shamsher M Chowdhury BB**, Former Foreign Secretary



In an article in the Bangkok Post a journalist mentioned the debacle that took place on August 22. The caption was “China's fast-track policies and Myanmar falls flat.” The two things to see are “China” and “fast-track”. Why does China need a fast-track approach? Is it a recognition of the fact that low-track hasn't worked and is likely to not work anymore? Is China feeling embarrassed that it has not been able to take the issue forward?

Today's report in *The Daily Star* says Bangladesh is importing onions from Myanmar. We are saying something and doing something else. We are breaking the sanctions.

**Brig. Gen. M. Sakhawat Hussain**, PhD, *ndc, psc (Retd)*, Honorary Fellow, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), NSU



Myanmar army is in a difficult position because of their internal problem. Just a month back, an offshoot of the northern alliance, of which Arakan army is a part, attacked and killed 37 people at a military academy of science and technology near Mandalay and that has created an uproar within the army and within the command. The second problem with the Myanmar army is regarding the uncertainty following the current military chief's retirement next year. The army is trying to push him as a presidential candidate which may not be acceptable internationally. We need to carefully observe the situation and shouldn't make any hasty move that will throw away what we have achieved. We also shouldn't be disgusted with the Rohingyas. They are helpless people. We must ensure meaningful repatriation.

**Dr Gias U Ahsan**, Professor and Dean, School of Health and Life Sciences, NSU



It is apparent that the level of awareness among the Rohingya refugees regarding prevention of diseases is very poor. There is a huge risk of transmission of disease including sexually transmitted diseases from

the camp to outside areas that may affect the whole country.

Due to their traumatic experience, Rohingyas suffer from serious psychosomatic disorder. Many of them become dependent

on drugs which leads to drug smuggling and other types of problems. To address the abovementioned mental and physical health issues, we should adopt a long-term plan.

**Dr Kamaluddin Ahmed**, Member, National Human Rights Commission



I want to focus on the citizenship issue of Rohingyas. Myanmar government is trying to portray these people as Bangladeshi citizens. Globally, Suu Kyi has her own audience who believes her propaganda against Rohingyas. We must make the world community understand that Rohingyas are not from Bangladesh. They are indigenous to that particular area of Arakan.

**Prof Dr S K Tawfique M Haque**, Chair, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU



When we were developing these policy briefs, it was shocking to realise how little we know about our neighbour Myanmar. Before the Rohingya crisis, there was a small-scale study where general people were asked about whether they knew that Myanmar is Bangladesh's neighbour. 80-85 percent of the Bangladeshis said they didn't know that we have a border with Myanmar. Unfortunately, we also didn't find any specialists on Myanmar in our universities and research institutions. The reality is that we don't know Myanmar and we don't understand their reality. Therefore, we need more and more research on Myanmar at both the government and private level.

**Dr Mahbubur Rahman**, Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU



A five-member oversight committee can be formed which will observe and assist the recently-formed working committee, comprising of foreign ministers from Bangladesh, China and Myanmar. The oversight committee should include representatives from Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Rohingya community, and the UN.

**Haruno Nakashiba**, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR



We congratulate North South University for developing the policy briefs, and we commend the efforts that have been put into developing the policy briefs. In fact, some of the recommendations made in the policy briefs have already been implemented in Cox's Bazar.

Some of the recommendations made in the policy briefs have already been implemented in Cox's Bazar. Since 2018, we have been distributing LPG cylinders and cooking stoves to both the refugees and host community. We have already completed a project of planning trees in 500 acres of land, and this project will continue in the future.

Speaking of the refugee voice, what Rohingyas refugees tell us is, first, they have a very strong sense of belonging to Myanmar. They say, “My grandfather was born in Myanmar. My father was born in Myanmar. I was born in Myanmar. I consider myself as Rohingya belonging to Myanmar.”

**Romena Parvin**, PDL Reporting Officer, IOM



Confidence-building between the host community and Rohingyas is a burning issue. The service delivery efficiency has improved a lot but issues like communal harmony and social cohesion

are very important as well. Everyone should understand that the solution is not here, it is in Myanmar. So, the international community needs to put more pressure on Myanmar diplomatically.

**Sigma Ainul**, Programme Manager, Population Council



We have found that there is a lot of stigma and a religious belief that contraceptives are a sin, but they accept it when it's for birth spacing. So, we have to do the right kind of messaging to effectively reach them

with the interventions.

**Dr A S M Ali Ashraf**, Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka



Regarding refugee protection, I find there is a kind of disconnect between what the foreign ministry wants and how the disaster ministry has been working on it. We need to have a solid understanding of how

to deal with these twin demands, managing refugee protection and starting the repatriation process.

**Dr Md Mahmudur Rahman Bhuiyan**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU



When the conference took place, many of the presenters said that the only solution is repatriation but now we've seen that we have to think about alternatives. Also, the projection is important.

If repatriation is the solution, we have to think about how long it may take. If repatriation is not the immediate solution, then we have to project what the next plan we have to make.

**Dr Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU



We need to have a long-term approach even though hypothetically we've been expecting the Rohingya crisis to be resolved soon. We also need to take some interim measures to mitigate problems

surrounding the Rohingya living in various camps. Finally, the role of international communities is very vital in this context, we need to work together with the international communities to have an effective and sustainable solution.

**Dr Ishrat Zakia Sultana**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU



Mental health of Rohingya victims is a big challenge and it is clearly identified in our policy briefs and recommendations. We can have day-long debates on Bhashan Char and other initiatives but the main thing is whether we are considering the opinions of Rohingyas. Otherwise, it will turn into another forceful relocation.

**Md Saidur Rahman**, Lecturer, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU



We need to demystify the idea of “international community” that is not a homogeneous entity. Countries that are supporting Myanmar need to be separated from those that are working for the

Rohingya cause. We need to identify those in the international community who are going to support us to resolve the problems. Resolving the Rohingya crisis should be the responsibility of the global community.

**Dr Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman**

Few ideas and options emerged from the discussion: the participants noted that we need to understand the Rohingya issues more creatively and strategically, and have to manage our diplomacy very smartly to look for a sustainable solution. Almost all participants emphasised that we need to understand this refugee issue from a historical, geo-political and humanitarian perspective.

We also have to recognise that China matters and therefore it needs to initiate the diplomatic processes of developing a strategic approach. Concerns have been raised about what Bangladesh has learnt from the previous Rohingya refugee crises to be able to develop a coping and addressing strategy. There is no easy solution. We need to explore alternative windows and make a contingency plan. The Rohingya crisis is just not a refugee issue, but also a political concern with the potential to make the region politically unstable leading to more human catastrophes. The international community should therefore develop a comprehensive approach towards addressing the Rohingya issue.

A sustainable solution can only be achieved when regional and global powers and the UN agree on a comprehensive package.



# Technology eases cow management

The device called Bolus, implanted inside the cow, sends all the information

SHYKH SERAJ

Dear readers, last month I went to visit Century Dairy Farm, in Narayanganj's Ichhapur. It is a cattle farm (crossbreed) and definitely quite different than any others that I have seen so far. The farm is unique because it is technology-driven where the most modern application Internet of Things (IoT) is used. The farm coped with the global trends of using modern technology. And, that is what really attracted my attention. Gradually, use of technology is increasing. It is getting really handy to manage dairy farms. 'Internet of Things' is changing so many 'things', I suppose. 'Artificial Intelligence (AI)' is simply deciding the course of what a farmer should or shouldn't do. In a nutshell, a smartphone with internet facility is empowering the farmers with a speed that we can barely imagine. The farming sector, farms and the farmers are changing very fast. This is one of those farms which has shifted its gear to take a drive on a new highway.

Surjomukhi Prani Sheba has supported Century Dairy Farm with livestock technologies, insurance and other services.

Inside the farm, all the facilities are the same. All types of physical information of the cows appear on the computer. I know this information won't surprise you now. Because you already know we can get information about a cow by attaching a device in the ear or neck of a cow. However, through this new technology, which I am talking about today, we can't see the device. This is because the device is now implanted inside the cow, which is sending all the information. The device is called 'Bolus'.

Cow management is made very simple using bolus. It is possible to keep track of cow fertility, health and welfare. Bolus allows dairy farmers to monitor cow health, fertility and



Fida Haque, right, shows how the mobile application works while Shykh Seraj and entrepreneur Asaduzzaman Afsar watch it.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATTO MANUSH

lameness with ease. By measuring cow temperature and activity levels, it can flag up numerous issues that might otherwise go unnoticed under visual supervision, says the entrepreneur of the Century Dairy Farm, Asaduzzaman Afsar.

Bolus is proven to reliably alert farmers to fertility losses and disease, heat stress, calving, heat detection, even drinking and lameness issues, as I was saying. The benefit of such early alerts can be invaluable to farmers, enabling rapid treatment or action where required, as well as cutting costs and improving efficiencies.

From its position within the cow, the bolus will send updates on cow temperature and movement to a base station, which then uploads the data to a cloud system via internet. The information from each cow is interpreted by the software and the farmer will then receive alerts flagging up any unusual behaviour immediately on their smartphone or computer.

Asaduzzaman was saying it's the most accurate calving alert he has come across. In fact, bolus removes the need for collars, heat strips and other monitoring devices, and from its internal position, it cannot be damaged by the cow.

The entrepreneur of Century Dairy Farm was saying the device works through cloud technology and it's implanted inside the stomach that

looks like a capsule which will work for six years, depending on the battery life. The process of sending the bolus into the stomach of the cow takes around 10 seconds, says the CEO of Shurjomukhi Prani Sheba, Fida Haque. Bolus is a widely discussed device in the information technology sector, he adds. The mobile app they provided works perfectly for farmers like Asaduzzaman. Those who don't have a smartphone can get text messages on their feature phones about their cows. I heard from Asaduzzaman that one of his cows not drinking much water. How did he get to know this? The tag number of the cow is 203 and her name is Champa. Bolus has informed through the app, its owner and also the technology provider that Champa hasn't taken much water. It's not only about drinking issues. I have already mentioned how magically bolus can work to give you loads of information that you could hardly get through visual supervision.

Back in 2015, I saw a milking technology at the Wageningen University & Research in The Netherlands, where cows know when the right time to milk is. It was remarkable to witness that. More interesting was when the machine also refused some of those cows that they were not ready to give milk and they went back like they knew the technology better than humans.

In 2018, I went to a smart cattle farm in South Korea. The farmers there can receive all the information through a panel connected with a computer. In this era of technology mobile and computer are almost same. Whatever we input in the computer, we can do the same in the mobile. Shurjomukhi Prani Sheba is delivering all the information in Bengali so that it's easier for our farmers to understand.

Asaduzzaman says, the technology is more helpful for people like them who can't stay at the farm all the time. I'm using one smartphone and my farm coordinator has the other. So, if anything goes right or wrong, we get updated and we communicate with each other. It gets easier for them to call the doctor on time and life becomes much comfortable for the entrepreneur. There is a lot more benefits of this technology that Asaduzzaman was almost lauding. Asaduzzaman has many other businesses and he has been using bolus for the past three months at the farm, which he started four years back. The use of technology for the past three months has stirred him a lot and made him a gadget-lover.

The goal of Shurjomukhi project is to create a digital platform using IoT and RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tracking technology in rural areas of the country to determine and record cow species,

genetic development, information conservation, reproduction, dairy management and provision of primary treatment. A cattle insurance policy to safeguard cattle farmers is part and parcel of the platform. Above all, the platform aims to implement the government's mission and vision for rural socio-economic development through use of ICT in livestock extension activities. It predominantly provides five key services—digital record keeping, heat detection, pregnancy detection, calving detection and movements and temperature tracking.

The registration fee for using the app is Tk 1,000 (USD 11.80) only and the monthly cost is Tk 500 (USD 5.90), says Fida.

If we can spread the market we can penetrate at a higher rate, definitely, the cost will come down, adds Fida.

'If it's valid for only six years, then what will the farmers do later on as the cows are going to live longer, right?', I asked Fida.

'Let's face it, farmers don't keep their cows for six years. Either they sell it off or slaughter it. If they want to do either of this, we buy the bolus from them paying Tk 2,000 (USD 23.60)', says Fida.

'Tell me about the insurance?', I asked Fida. 'If a cow has an accident we cover the whole cost', replied Fida.

'Who's going to take care of the insurance, your company or any

others?', I asked.

'It's Phoenix Insurance's responsibility, one of our key partners in the project', says Fida.

'Can you explain a little bit more on the insurance policy?', I asked the CEO of Shurjomukhi Prani Sheba.

'Farmers need to pay 2.75 percent of the market price of the cow, at a yearly rate', replied Fida.

It also helps with cow fattening. They used it on a single buffalo. They received a positive outcome. They can control the pH values.

Shurjomukhi Prani Sheba has collaborated with Phoenix Insurance and is supported by UKaid. The implantation of Bolus technology is certified by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States of America and the German Agriculture Society DLG.

There are two insurance facilities available for livestock. One of them is the collaboration between BRAC and Green Delta Insurance Company Limited which was the first in the business. Their project is known as 'Cattle Shield'. Another one is the collaboration between Shurjomukhi Prani Sheba and Phoenix Insurance Company Limited and their project is known as Shurjomukhi Prani Sheba.

There are 14 cows in the Century Dairy Farm. I have seen another four cows there Mukta, Mala, Mou and Poppy. Fida explained the details of these four cows and what advantages and disadvantages these cows have at the moment. I also talked with some local farmers at Ichhapur and they have heard of the bolus and are also feeling the interest to use this seeing Asaduzzaman's success.

'Though bolus is predominantly utilised by dairy herds, they are of equal benefit to beef farmers looking to increase efficiencies and reduce costs,' says Asaduzzaman. 'With the greater need for farmers to improve efficiencies, it is important to optimise animal health, fertility and feed management', Asaduzzaman added.

Dear readers, in every sector I can see the changes. Technology is also changing our thought process. These are giving us hope in the farming sector. New technology is a blessing for any country. In the livestock sector, farmers will dream of a new era through use of IoT. If we can deliver all these technology at a low cost, only then, there will be hope for our farmers. For this, the government needs to be more aware to help these private organizations and most importantly the farmers. Also, people involved in this sector need to educate themselves more on using technology. So it is most urgent to familiarise farmers with new technologies that are changing the farming sector and government must initiative at their earliest convenience.

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



Exposed iron rods in a ceiling of a room inside the shabby building that houses Boromchal post office, inset, in Kulaura upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## Serving dangerously

Without temporarily relocating to a safer location, the authorities continue operations of Boromchal post office in a ramshackle building

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The unnervingly uninviting building appears to be abandoned. But this is a fully functional facility of Boromchal post office in Kulaura upazila.

Not too many service seekers now feel safe to go to the post office that offers them the sight of fallen plasters from walls and ceilings with exposed iron rods.

Cracks visible on beams in the ceilings as well as on columns in the walls and rust on metal windows and grilles in every room of the structure are a sad testimony of neglect and disregard for safety of citizens. For a visitor, it becomes very disconcerting when water

starts seeping through its ceilings during rain.

Many such dilapidated buildings of the post office had never been repaired since those were constructed before the country's independence, said sources at the post office.

Monir Mia, a Boromchal resident, said rural people from the area could benefit greatly from services provided at the "E-Centre" of the post office.

The services include internet browsing, foreign remittance transfer services, mobile financial services, agent banking services, video conferencing, online submission of admission applications at colleges and

universities, computer compose, scanning, copying and printing services, payments of government social security allowances, and information on various government services including agriculture, education and health.

But the rundown building is keeping them from making the best use of the post office, he said.

College student Tanjim Akhtar, from Madhabpur area in Boromchal union, said the E-Centre offers many useful services for people living in localities that do not have access to banking services, high-speed internet or affordable office equipment.

Considering its remote location, the authorities need to

urgently replace the building of the Boromchal post office with a new one.

Amin Ali, sub-postmaster of Boromchal post office, said the old building is beyond repair and the higher authorities were informed of it on various occasions.

Now the locals are afraid to come inside the dilapidated structure, he said, adding that a new building needs to be constructed in its place urgently.

Contacted, Mohammad Mozammel Haque, deputy post master general in Sylhet division, said the process of constructing a new building for Boromchal post office was underway.

## Important road faces erosion threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A portion of the 25-km-long road connecting Sadar upazila headquarters to Khatashia Bazar under Borobighai union is now under threat of erosion, much to the worry of locals.

Around one lakh people of Kalikapur, Motherbunia, Chotobighai and Borobighai unions have to use the road to go to the upazila headquarters as there is no alternative way for them to go to the headquarters.

Four hundred and fifty metres of the upazila connecting road got badly damaged after the severe cyclonic storm "Fani" hit the area on May 3 this year, said locals.

If the damaged portion of the road goes into the Gulishakhali river in Borobighai area, the unions will be disconnected from the upazila headquarters, they said.

Of the damaged portion, 300 metres are at Bashtola while the rest in Kazirhat area of Borobighai union.

In 1990, Water Development Board (WDB) built a dyke along the river bank to protect area from floodwater.

In 2005, Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the 25-km-long carpeted road on the dyke at a cost of Tk 4.50 crore to

ease local people's communication.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found light vehicles like battery-run auto-rickshaw and motorbike plying the damaged road amid risk of accident as it may collapse anytime due to erosion by the river.

Aslam Sheikh, 60, a resident of Hartokibaria village in Borobighai union, said the road became unfit for use due to lack of renovation work.

When the cyclone hit the area, about 500 metre-long-road at Borobighai went into the river, he said.

If the damaged road collapses, croplands of nearby villages will be flooded, said Aslam.

Siddik Mollah of Kewabunia village said the authorities concerned should take immediate steps to renovate the road.

Md Wahiduzzaman Mojinu Mollah, chairman of Borobighai Union Parishad, said the road lies in awful state since the cyclone hit the area in May this year.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to repair the road, said the chairman.

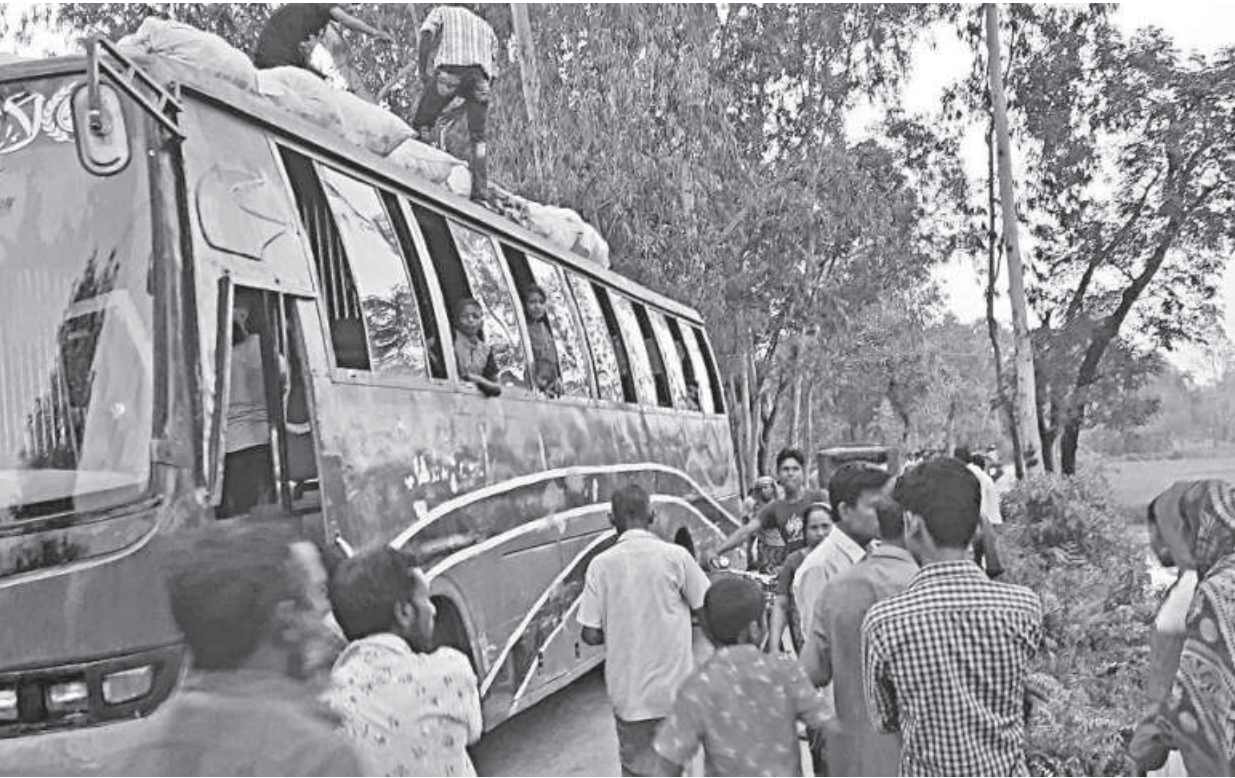
Contacted, Patuakhali LGED Executive Engineer Thirthojit Roy said they will start the renovation work of the road after the rains end.



A portion of the road connecting Sadar upazila headquarters to Khatashia Bazar in Borobighai union faces erosion threat, much to the worry of locals.

PHOTO: STAR





Labourers with their children at Barakhata village of Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat board a bus on Monday to join work at a brick field in another district.

PHOTO: SDILIP ROY

# Thousands leave home for seasonal work

Study of their school-going children suffer as the kids accompany them to workplace

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Thousands of people from the district leave home to work as brick kiln labourers in different areas of the country during the dry season from mid-October to April every year.

As school going children of the poor people often accompany them to the workplace, their study is badly affected.

“Around 30 thousand people from Hatibandha and Patgram upazilas in Lalmonirhat go to other places for selling their labour at brick fields for around six months as jobs are not that available in this region and wages are low,” said Atiar Rahman, a contractor of labourers at Barakhata village of Hatibandha.

All members of many poor families, except aged ones, go to the workplace, said Nayeab Ali of the same village, engaged in sending labourers from the area to work in brick fields at different places for the last eight years.

Nasrin Akhter, a Class IX student, and his brother Omar Farooque, a Class IV student, said they are going with their parents to the workplace and will return home before the annual examinations.

“After attending the annual examinations, our two children will again join us at our workplace. Only my elderly mother will stay at home during the six months,” said Zamir Ali, 46, father of Nasrin and Omar. “Sometimes our children help

us in brick making but they are not contracted for doing this job in the brick field. Meantime, they continue learning their lessons in our rented room beside the workplace,” said Zamir’s wife Fatema Begum, 40.

“A labourer earns Tk 500 to 600 daily for making bricks. After meeting our expenses, each of us can save around Tk one lakh in six months, which comes as a great help for our poor families,” said Saidur Rahman, 42, a brick kiln labourer.

Delowar Hossain, teacher of a government primary school at Barakhata village, said many school children remain absent for six months as they accompany their poor parents to the workplace.

# Nabin League leader killed

BNP man among three held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Nabin League leader was hacked to death in Durgapur municipality area of Netrakona early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Kawser Talukder, 19, son of late Alal Uddin Talukder of the area, and president of Durgapur upazila unit of Nabin League.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge of Durgapur Police Station Md Mizanur Rahman said Kawser went to a garage to repair his motorbike in the locality around 11:30pm on Monday.

At the time, Mehedi Hasan alias Sahosh, 22, joint secretary of Chhatra Dal Susong Degree College unit, along with his accomplices went to the spot and locked in an altercation with Kawser over precious enmity, said the OC. Sahosh, son of local BNP leader Monju Mia, hails from the same locality.

At one stage, the miscreants hacked Kawser indiscriminately, leaving him seriously injured, said the police official.

Kawser was taken to Durgapur Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where doctors declared him dead around 1:00am.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to MMCH for autopsy.

Police detained three people including Sahosh’s grandfather Md Imam Hasan alias Abu Chand, Netrakona district unit BNP’s vice president and former chairman of Chandigarh union parishad, for their alleged involvement in the killing.

Police drives are on to arrest the other accused, the OC added.

Protesting the killing, local Awami League and its front organisations yesterday brought out a procession in the town and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers.

## Bangladeshi Idol singer Pangkaj found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bangladeshi Idol singer Pangkaj Kanti Devnath, aged 29, was found dead at his house in Bandarban town early yesterday.

Pangkaj was in the final top eight list of the Bangladeshi Idol, aired in 2013 on a television channel.

His family members and friends said the singer might have taken his own life after sending a 17-second video clip to several of his closest friends on Facebook Messenger, saying ‘goodbye’ to someone.

Soon after receiving the video clip, his friends hurriedly went to his house around 1:00am and found his hanging body after breaking open the door of his room.

Ashish Barua, one of his friends, said, “We rushed him to Bandarban Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor pronounced him dead.”

Bandarban Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge Shahidul Islam said, “As directed by the deputy commissioner, we handed over Pangkaj’s body without [conducting] autopsy.”

# Villagers suffer for want of a bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Local people have been suffering for long for want of a concrete bridge over Krishnapur canal in Rongchhati union of Netrakona’s Kalmakanda upazila.

Especially schoolchildren and patients are the worst sufferers due to the communication problem.

In 2004, World Vision Bangladesh constructed a concrete bridge on the canal at Krishnapur-Rongchhati road in the union but the bridge broke down during flood in 2010.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to build a bridge to ease

people’s sufferings, said villagers.

Finding no other alternative, locals build makeshift bamboo bridge beside the broken bridge during every rainy season and cross it amid risk of accident.

There are two high schools, two primary schools and a madrasa on both sides of the bridge, said Md Akkas Ali Mia, a member of Rongchhati union parishad (UP).

Hundreds of people from adjacent Krishnapur, Raypur, Bishauti, Banaikona, Burimari and Rongchhati villages also use the road to reach Kalmakanda and Netakona for their daily purposes, said the UP member.



Schoolchildren cross the risky makeshift bamboo bridge on Krishnapur canal in Netrakona’s Kalmakanda upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



**কুমিল্লা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
কোটবাড়ী, কুমিল্লা-৩৫০৬  
ফোন নং ০৮১-৭০০২২-২৫, এক্স: ১২২

Memo No-Co/UP&D/65/FDCU(Cons.of Boundary)/2019-20/1229

Date: 16-10-2019

**দরপত্র বাতিলকরণ**

“কুমিল্লা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিকতর উন্নয়ন” শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় ই-জিপি পোর্টালে গত ০৩-১০-২০১৯ তারিখে প্রকাশিত **“Construction of Boundary Wall for New Campus under FDCoU Project of Comilla University (টেন্ডার আইডি: 365904)”** শীর্ষক দরপত্রটি অনিবার্য কারণবশত: বাতিল করা হলো।



**Md. Sanwar Ali**  
Project Director  
Further Development of Comilla University Project  
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GD-1696


## Stalker jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A mobile court yesterday sentenced a college student to one month imprisonment on charge of stalking a college girl in Habiganj’s Bahubal upazila for long.

The convict, Russell Ahmed Shaon, 20, an intermediate student, is son of Abdul Hai of Nandanpur village in the upazila.

Following a complaint by the victim’s family, police arrested Russell and produced him before a court that handed down the verdict.



**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড**  
রাজস্ব ভবন  
সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

গত ১১.১০.২০১৯খ্রি. তারিখ ও ১২.১০.২০১৯খ্রি. তারিখে দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক ও The Daily Star পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের অধীন ASYCUDA WORLD এর নিম্নোক্ত টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তিসমূহ এবং টেন্ডার সংক্রান্ত সকল কার্যক্রম পরবর্তী নির্দেশনা না দেওয়া পর্যন্ত স্থগিত করা হল:

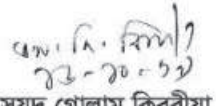
**Package-01:** Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Migration of LAN/WAN Equipment, Transmission Network Equipment, Information Security Solution and necessary software with 3 years IT Support Service.

**Package-02:** Supply, Installation, Commissioning of the Data Center at Dhaka Custom House with 3 years IT Support Service.

**Package-03:** Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Migration of Database, Service, Storage and Related Software Development with 3 years IT Support Service.

**Package-05:** 1) VPN data link between NBR and Customs House & LC Stations and  
2) Broad Band Internet Connection at NBR & NDC

উক্ত টেন্ডার সংক্রান্ত সকল কার্যক্রম পরবর্তীতে পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।



**সৈয়দ গোলাম কিবরিয়া**  
সদস্য (শুক্র: নীতি ও আইসিটি)  
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড  
সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

জিডি-১৬৯৫

**Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Cox’s Bazar  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. 46.02.0022.000.07.004.19-980

Dated: 13/10/2019

**e-Tender Notice-08/2019-20**

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks’ branches up to date and time given below.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tendering method	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	IPCP/COXS/SAD AR/P/19-20/1.01	a. Excavation of Mokbuler Ghona Jame Masjid Pond under Barua Khali union upazila Sadar District Cox’s Bazar. b. Construction of 01 No. Ghatla 12.80x5.00m for Mokbuler Ghona Jame Masjid Pond Under Barua Khali Union Upazila Sadar District Cox’s Bazar. c. Excavation of Ghonapara Jame Masjid Pond Under Ghonapara Union Upazila Sadar District Cox’s Bazar. d. Excavation of Boro Chowdhury Para Jame Masjid Pond under Boro Chowdhury Para Union Upazila Sadar District Cox’s Bazar. e. Excavation of Asraon Prokalpo Jame Masjid Pond under Baruakhali Union Upazila Sadar District Cox’s Bazar. f. Construction of 01 No. Ghatla 12.80x5.00m for Asraon Prokalpo Jame Masjid Pond Under Baruakhali Union Upazila Sadar District Cox’s Bazar.	LTM	367680	29-10-2019 17:00	30-10-2019 15:00
2.	GCHDP-WD-UNR-COX-SADA-NEW-19/02	Development of Khrushkul UP office to Khrushkul GC Road (Khrushkul DC Road) by BC at Ch. 00-1000m under Sadar Upazila, District Cox’s Bazar. Road ID: 422243014.	OSTETM	368762	13-11-2019 17:00	14-11-2019 15:00
3	GCP-3/cox/WD-36	Improvement of Khrushkul UP office to Khrushkul GC Road (Khrushkul DC Road) by BC at Ch. 1000m-2515m under Sadar upazila, District Cox’s Bazar, [Salvage: 5662916]. Road ID: 422243014	OSTETM	368652	13-11-2019 17:00	14-11-2019 15:00

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

**Md. Anisur Rahman**  
Executive Engineer  
Local Government Engineering Department  
District: Cox’s Bazar  
Phone: 0341-62163

GD-1694



## SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh, who came agonisingly close to a victory, had to remain satisfied with just a solitary point after an 88th-minute header from Indian defender Adil Khan found its way into the back of the net, crushing the hopes of the players and the fans nationwide.

Bangladesh coach Jamie Day felt that his



**JAMIE DAY**  
BANGLADESH COACH



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

"We had a couple of chances, the second one was on the line, that would have been game over but they defended well. They had good chances as well. We defended well. We conceded from a set piece. Just unlucky we could not hold on for the final four or five minutes," the English coach told reporters following the team's arrival at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

"The boys showed different types of level

Although the coach was satisfied with the performance, skipper Jamal Bhuyan said that he had a sleepless night after the match.

Meanwhile, Jibon could not believe how India defender Adil managed to make the goalline clearance which could well have sealed victory for Bangladesh.

"I can't still believe how Adil stopped the ball. If there was VAR, I'm sure it was a goal. I don't have regrets about missing the first chance but I can't forget the second one. I could not sleep last night. My luck is not good with the national team," lamented the Abahani forward.

## SABBIR HOSSAIN



This gloomy backdrop may finally see some illumination following the recent performances of the national team under the guidance of Jamie Day, particularly the last battle against India that came hot on the heels of an impressive show at home against the formidable Qatar. Bangladesh played a superb game against India and were distinctly unlucky not to take yesterday's flight back home with three points.



**MARUFUL HAQUE**



**SAIFUL BARI TITU**



**ZULFIKER MAHMUD MINTU**

"The return of the glory days will depend not just on the national team's performance," they echoed this common sentiment.

"I found two areas where Bangladesh made significant progress. One is fitness

"But we should understand that our technique is very poor. If the technique was good, then [Nabib Newaj] Jibon would not have missed two goals and it was not just Jibon. This team will fight, play well but don't get any results and they will suffer outside the SAFF region, so I cannot be too optimistic. We have to work on technique at the age level, otherwise we will not be able to make any sustainable progress," he opined.

Titu however gave credit to national

"I think whether the glory days will return depends not just on the national team, but also the role of the clubs. No doubt the national team's results are important to generate interest among the supporters but we have to strengthen the club structure if we want to make a difference," Titu suggested.

## SPORTS REPORTER



The 22-year-old, who has been carrying the injury for quite some time now, had taken part in the T20I tri-series at home last month but is not able to endure the rigours of four-day cricket.

Saifuddin went to the BCB yesterday to consult with doctors, and the cricketer said that being off the field felt like being locked in jail.

"But it is also a part of life as you will get injured while playing. I have had to stay off the field for a long time and I am getting used to it. I will try to make a comeback soon after recovering properly, which is my main goal," Saifuddin told reporters yesterday.



**MOHAMMAD SAIFUDDIN**

## SPORTS REPORTER



There was more hype surrounding this edition than usual with national players participating and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) emphasising on fitness by raising the

Bangladesh left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman, who sat out the opening round of the NCL due to a slight problem in his ankle, is expected to feature for Khulna. However, as Minhajul mentioned on Tuesday, the 24-year-old cannot bowl more than 15 overs in the second round.

who was seen toiling hard during practice in Mirpur yesterday, will look to rediscover his form and head to India in confident mood when he turns out for Chattogram in the second round.

Meanwhile, this round will see the return of the likes of Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Sunzamul Islam, Saif Hassan, Anamul Haque and Ariful Haque, all of whom have come back from Bangladesh A's tour of Sri Lanka. Opener Liton Das, who also missed the first round due to his Caribbean Premier League commitments, is available and expected to play for Rangpur in this round.

Barishal's Shohagh Gazi and Chattogram's Yasir Ali, who failed the beep test, were however allowed by BCB to play after being warned by the board that it would be the last time that they would be shown leniency.



DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League

Four-Day Match, Day One

Time: 9:30am

Barishal v Chattogram

Venue: KSOAS

Rajshahi v Khulna

Venue: SANS

Rangpur v Dhaka

Venue: ZACS

Dhaka Metro v Sylhet

Venue: SCS

STOICHKOV BREAKS DOWN IN TEARS ON TELEVISION

Bulgaria legend Hristo Stoichkov broke down in tears while speaking about the racial abuse England players suffered during a match against his country on Monday night. The Euro 2020 qualifier in Sofia was halted twice as England's players were subjected to racist chants and monkey noises. Stoichkov, a Ballon d'Or winner and Bulgaria's greatest ever player, was asked how to tackle racism during a television appearance on TUDN and got emotional. "[The solution is] That fans are not allowed in the stadium or even heavier punishments. Like in England. Five years without going to stadiums. People don't deserve to suffer." The 53-year-old then leaned forward and appeared to start to cry as the conversation moved on to the other guests. It appeared Stoichkov was talking about a similar punishment to that imposed by UEFA in the aftermath of Heysel when English clubs were banned from European competitions for five years.

-- AGENCIES





Spain forward Rodrigo Moreno celebrates after his equaliser late into the Euro 2020 qualifier ensured Spain's advancement to the tournamnet proper. (Inset) Meanwhile, Teemu Pukki scored a brace against Armenia to take Finland closer to a historic berth in European football's showpiece tournament.

PHOTO: AFP



## Shaila to lead emerging team in SL

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 15-member Bangladesh squad for the upcoming ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup yesterday. Shaila Sharmin will lead the team in the four-nation tournament which will take place in Sri Lanka from October 22. Bangladesh will take on India in the opening game of the tournament at Thurstan grounds in Colombo. The teams -- Sri Lanka and Pakistan being the other two -- will face each other once and the top two teams will play the final on October 27 at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The Bangladesh women's A team recently lost both the one-day and T20 series against India A at home recently while the national team are still awaiting a security approval for the tour of Pakistan later this month. Squad: Shaila Sharmin (captain), Nuzhat Tasnia, Murshida Khatun, Sobhana Mostary, Fahima Khatun, Ritu Moni, Ishma Tanjim, Rubya Haider, Nahida Akter, Suraya Azmim, Puja Chakraborty, Rabeya, Mumta Hena, Fariha Islam, Sumaiya Akter.

## 6 Bulgarians held by police

AFP, Sofia

Six Bulgarians have been detained over racist abuse at a Euro 2020 qualifier against England that sparked a storm of protest and led to the resignation of the country's football chief, police said Wednesday. Monkey chants and Nazi salutes overshadowed England's 6-0 win in Sofia on Monday, with the match halted twice during the first half due to the abuse. "Six people have been detained and another three are being actively sought," Sofia police chief commissioner Georgy Hadzhiev told journalists. Hadzhiev added that so far 15 people had been singled out via CCTV at the Vasil Levski National Stadium as being suspected of directing abuse against England's black players. Penalties for the offences carry brief detentions, fines and bans from sports events.

## UEFA ASSIST U-16 DEVELOPMENT FOOTBALL

# Winning start for hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

Midfielder Moinul Islam bagged a brace as Bangladesh made a winning start to the four-team UEFA Assist Under-16 Development Tournament with a 2-0 victory over Cambodia at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. After a barren first-half, Moin broke the deadlock in the 49th minute with a placing shot past the advancing Cambodia goalkeeper on an excellent long ball from defender Apurbo Mali.

Bangladesh looked set for a single-goal victory when Moin scored again, three minutes into stoppage time with a shot from a goalmouth melee after being set up with a cross by captain Jony Sikder. In the opening match of the tournament, Faroe Islands thrashed Maldives 10-3 despite being 2-0 within the opening 20 minutes. Maldives stunned the European representatives with two quick goals, Mohamed Adam Khanaan scoring the goals in the seventh and 19th minutes. However, Toky Logv got Faroe Islands on level terms with strikes in the 26th and 29th minutes. And there was no stopping the

Faroes since then as the slotted seven more goals, with Heini Sorensen bagging a second-half hattrick. Mohamed Sanin Salim, however, pulled one goal back seven for the island nation minutes into the second half. Bangladesh will face favourites Faroe Islands tomorrow while Maldives will square off against Cambodia on the same day. Bangladesh will play their last match against Maldives on October 20 while Faroe Islands will meet Cambodia on the same day. The champion team will be decided on the basis of final points table.

Bangladesh forward Moinul Islam, who scored both goals in a 2-0 win over Cambodia in the UEFA Assist Under-16 Development Tournament, takes the ball past opposing players at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

# I wish the best for Inter: Icardi

AFP, Paris

Argentina striker Mauro Icardi said Wednesday he was enjoying the focus being back on football and away from his private life at French club Paris Saint-Germain. The former Inter Milan captain arrived in the French capital on loan this season and after recovering from injury has scored two goals in the Champions League and Ligue 1. "In Italy a vicious circle had been created in certain journalistic circles where we always ended up talking a little too much about anything concerning me," Icardi said in an interview with Italian sports daily Gazzetta Dello Sport. "Here in Paris it's not like this." Icardi was the joint top-scorer in Serie A in 2017-18 with 29 goals. But last season, he was stripped of the

club captaincy amid a long contract dispute and later barred from training. The 26-year-old's life with his television host wife Wanda Nara, who is also his agent, had also become the focus of many reports. Despite parting on bad terms the forward said he had no hard feelings towards the Italian club he joined in 2013 and scored 120 goals in just over 220 matches. "I can only wish the best for Inter in every competition," said Icardi. "I'm good now, I'm up and running again even if I have to keep working because I had a complicated summer and I wasn't one hundred percent when I arrived in Paris." PSG are unbeaten on top of Ligue 1, and are also leading their Champions League group which includes Real Madrid. "I've always been used to pressure but I think it helps that we've almost

always won so far," said the former Sampdoria player. "It's a little different than Inter even though I don't have a real yardstick to compare because I haven't played in other great teams in the past. "PSG has the right players to do well but the Champions is a trophy coveted by all the great teams." Icardi said he had settled in to life in France even if he still considered Milan his home. "I didn't expect so much support from the fans. [PSG coach Thomas] Tuchel is very friendly with the players. He talks a lot, jokes, tried to put me at ease from day one. I think I made a good impression on him. "Neymar, [Kyllian] Mbappé, [Edinson] Cavani, are all strong players. It is nice to play with star players who change matches even at the last minute, like Neymar does."

# Spain leave it late

AFP, Paris

Rodrigo Moreno fired Spain into Euro 2020 with a last-gasp equaliser in Sweden while the Republic of Ireland's chances of reaching the finals are still in the balance after they fell 2-0 in Switzerland. Spain became the sixth team to qualify for next summer's tournament thanks to Rodrigo, who came off the bench to score a dramatic injury-time leveller in a 1-1 draw in Stockholm, sparking wild celebrations on the touchline. "Qualification is a must for a team like Spain but achieving it still has value," said Moreno. "It releases the pressure and gives us time to work." Robert Moreno's side are top of Group F on 20 points after drawing their last two matches. They are five ahead of Sweden and six above Romania. However it was a far from vintage display from Spain, who started brightly but faded as the match wore on against the lively hosts, who were distraught after missing out on a famous victory right at the death. A celebratory night was tempered slightly by the loss of goalkeeper David de Gea to a thigh injury in the second half, although that will worry his club Manchester United more ahead their meeting with Premier League leaders Liverpool this weekend. In Group D, Haris Seferovic's early strike and Shane Duffy's late own goal kept Switzerland's hopes of automatic qualification alive with a 2-0 victory over the Republic of Ireland. The win in Geneva means the Swiss are

just a point behind group leaders Ireland and Denmark with two matches remaining in their campaign, compared to just the one for the Irish, who host the Danes needing a win to guarantee qualification. "It's a cup final. Beat Denmark to reach Euro 2020. I would have taken that at the start and I'll take it now," said coach Mick McCarthy. The Swiss take on Georgia and Gibraltar in their final two games. "The result doesn't mean a lot in the group, we still need to get results in our next two games. If we get the points we need against Georgia and Gibraltar we can turn our attentions to Euro 2020," said Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic. PUKKI EDGES FINLAND TOWARDS HISTORY Finland inched closer to qualifying for their first ever European Championships after Teemu Pukki took his qualifying tally to seven in eight matches with a double to sweep aside Armenia 3-0 in Turku. Fredrik Jensen gave the Finns a 31th minute lead. Norwich City striker Pukki then scored just after the hour and got his second two minutes from the end with a neat dinked finish. Markku Kanerva's side stay nine points behind Group J winners Italy, who maintained their 100 per cent record with an eighth straight win, 5-0 against Liechtenstein. Finland need a win over rock-bottom Liechtenstein to qualify for their first major tournament after fourth-placed Bosnia & Herzegovina lost 2-1 in Greece with an 88th-minute own goal from Adnan Kovacevic.

Even Lionel Messi must have been left pondering just how he had accomplished such a feat as he looked mesmerised by his sixth Golden Shoe -- the award for finishing as the top-scorer in European Leagues -- yesterday. Messi said: "Without my team, I could not even have won the award once."

PHOTO: AFP

## SHORT CORNER

### 3 UAE cricketers charged with corruption

Captain Mohammed Naveed is one of three UAE cricketers who have been charged with corruption, the ICC announced on Wednesday. Batsman Shaiman Anwar and right-arm pace bowler Qadeer Ahmed have also been charged, the three facing a total of 12 counts of breaching the governing body's anti-corruption rules. All three have been provisionally suspended with immediate effect. A fourth individual was also charged for refusing to cooperate with the ICC. -- AFP

### Pollard to lead Windies in ODI and T20I series

Kieron Pollard was named the captain of both ODIs and T20Is as West Indies announced their squads for the upcoming tour against Afghanistan to be played in Dehradun, India. Jason Holder, who found a place in all three squads, will continue to lead the Test side. The new-look West Indies T20I team includes several players who performed exceedingly well in the recently concluded Caribbean Premier League (CPL). -- AGENCIES

### La Liga asks for Nou Camp Clasico to be moved to Madrid

The Spanish football league, La Liga, said Wednesday it had asked the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) to move the next 'El Clasico' between Real Madrid and Barcelona to Madrid following violent protests by separatists in Catalonia. According to Spanish media reports, Catalan grassroots separatist groups and political parties are preparing a demonstration in Barcelona, the Catalan capital, at 1:00pm on October 26, the day the La Liga clash is scheduled to take place at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium. The football federation (RFEF) confirmed it had received the request and said the two clubs had until Monday to submit their opinions before it makes its decision. Protests have erupted across Catalonia after Spain's Supreme Court on Monday issued heavy prison sentences of between nine and 13 years to Catalan separatist leaders convicted of sedition over the 2017 referendum and short-lived declaration of independence. -- AFP

## Basketball team fly to Singapore tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

A 19-member Bangladesh national basketball team will leave for Singapore tomorrow for a six-day training camp as well as at least three practice matches against their Sri Lankan counterparts as part of their preparation for December's South Asian Games. Bangladesh's only medal in basketball discipline of the SA Games was a bronze which they won in Dhaka in 2010. The discipline was excluded from the 2016 SA Games roster in Guwahati but reinstated this time. Bangladesh Basketball Federation (BBF) is targeting at least one silver medal from this year's edition. "There are less opportunities to play practice matches because we don't have enough players. We arranged this tour so that they can play against better teams," BBF general secretary AK Sarkar informed at a press conference at the Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday. Bangladesh team will be accompanied by coaches Wasif Ali and Mizanur Rahman while a FIBA coach will train the team in Singapore. Bangladesh will take part in three events of basketball in the SA Games -- men's 5-on-5, men's 3-on-3 and women's 5-on-5. The preparation camp began on July 15. The team is scheduled to return on October 24.





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# Foreign trips for knowledge? Doesn't seem so

SANJOY KUMAR BARIUA, Bandarban

Although the three hill district councils spend over Tk 1.5 crore each year for sending their and Chattogram hill tracts affairs ministry's staff members abroad for study tours, the application of knowledge from such trips remains vague.

According to Chief Executive Officer of Khagrachari Hill District Council Md Nuruzzaman, each council receives Tk 50-60 lakh per year from the ministry to send the members to different countries.

The funds are allocated under a project called "Strengthening Hill District Councils and Developing Skills of Their Officials".

However, when The Daily Star approached at least 10 persons who went on these tours at different times this year, none of them could say what exactly they learnt from the trips.

Between January and September, a total of 83 officials and other members of the three hill district councils and the ministry visited Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, and Japan in seven phases.

The Daily Star obtained copies of official letters of the ministry approving the tours.

Those who went on the tours include councillors, chairmen, accounts officers, audit officers and other staff members of the councils and the ministry. Some of them were accompanied by their family members, according to the letters.

The letters also stated that expenditure for the officials and the other employees would be made from government funds, but their family members would have to bear their own expenses.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Hundreds of trucks laden with goods in a queue stretching several kilometres on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Shiboloy, Manikganj, yesterday as ferries on Shimulia-Doulatdia route have been prioritising buses and smaller vehicles.

PHOTO: STAR

## FERRY DISRUPTION 400 vehicles stranded and counting

STAR REPORT

Ferry operations at Shimulia-Kathalbari route have remained suspended for the fourth consecutive day because of navigability crisis.

Over 400 vehicles, mostly trucks laden with goods, were stranded at both sides of the Padma as the authorities halted all ferry operations.

But authorities have kept three small ferries standby at the terminal for carrying emergency vehicles like ambulance.

Shimulia point is located in Munshiganj district and Kathalbari is in Madaripur district.

Contacted, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Secretary Kazi Wakil Nawaz said, "We have been compelled to stop ferry operation due to strong current and siltation. We hope to resume the operation tomorrow [today] through alternative channel."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## Ex-BCL man arrested for murder of SSC examinee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A former Chattra League man was arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee in Ishwarganj upazila.

The victim Md Jahidul Islam, 15, of the upazila's Dauttapara area succumbed to his stab wounds at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early yesterday. He was a student of Protisruti Model High School.

A group of masked miscreants waylaid the rickshaw he was on near the Ideal College area around 9:45am on Tuesday, said Ahmed Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ishwarganj police station, quoting locals.

When Jahidul sensed he was in trouble, he got off the rickshaw and began to run, but the attackers caught up with him and one of them stabbed him in the throat, leaving him critically injured, said the OC.

The miscreants also beat up Jahidul with sticks after stabbing him, the OC

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Jahidul Islam

## Deadly day in J&K Three militants killed in gun battle with Indian troops; migrant worker shot dead

REUTERS, Srinagar

Indian security forces yesterday killed three separatist fighters, while suspected militants shot dead a migrant worker on one of the bloodiest days in Kashmir since New Delhi revoked the disputed region's autonomy and special status more than two months ago.

The killings were the first since mobile telephone services were restored as part of gradual relaxation of security measures taken to curb violent unrest in Jammu and Kashmir state.

The government had cut off telephone and internet lines before it revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special rights on August 5, striking down long-standing constitutional provisions for the Muslim-majority region that is also claimed by neighbouring Pakistan.

A security lockdown is still largely in place, and broadband and mobile internet connections remain unavailable to most Kashmiris.

The militants were killed during a gun battle after soldiers, acting on a tip-off, raided a village in south Kashmir yesterday, two police sources told Reuters.

"Three terrorists were killed and the bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter," Kashmir police said in a statement. "Incriminating material, including arms and ammunition, was recovered."

Neither the soldiers or police, who were also present, suffered casualties, according to the police sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to talk to the media.

Security forces imposed travel restrictions near the site of the gun battle to prevent unrest, the sources said. Many Kashmiris hostile to India's rule often gather to throw stones at security forces after militants are killed.

In a separate incident in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, suspected militants shot dead a migrant worker from Chhattisgarh state, in central India, in an execution-style killing, police said.

"Area has been cordoned and searches are going on," Kashmir police said in a tweet.

## WAR CRIMES IN 1971 Ex-NSI chief indicted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed a charge against Wahidul Haque, former acting director general of National Security Intelligence (NSI), for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam also set November 24 for starting his trial with the recording of testimony of prosecution witnesses.

Wahidul, who allegedly worked for Pakistan Army as its captain during the Liberation War and was involved in the killing of 500 to 600 people near Rangpur Cantonment on March 28, 1971, however, pleaded not guilty before the tribunal and sought justice.

On April 24 last year, police arrested Wahidul, also a former additional inspector general of police,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Nasa unveils future moon spacesuits



AFP, Washington

Bye bye to bunny hops: when US astronauts next touch down on the moon, expect them to walk almost as they do on Earth, thanks to a new generation of spacesuits offering key advantages over those of the Apollo-era.

Prototypes of the Orion Crew Survival Suit that will be worn on the journey and the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU) for the lunar surface were unveiled at Nasa's Washington headquarters Tuesday ahead of the agency's planned return to the moon by 2024.

Standing in front of a giant US flag, spacesuit engineer Kristine Davis wore a pressurised red, blue and white xEMU suit, showing off a vastly improved range of motion thanks to bearings systems on the waist, arms, and legs.

They are also extendable and therefore one-

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## RIFAT MURDER Court denies accused bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Barguna court yesterday rejected bail prayer of an accused in the Rifat Sharif murder case.

Al Kaiyum submitted the bail prayer with the District and Sessions Judge's Court. Judge Md Asaduzzaman denied his bail after hearing from the prosecution and defence.

Besides, two more accused -- Rakibul Hasan Rifat Farajee and Tiktok Redoy -- filed their bail prayers with the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court, but the court did not hear

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 17					
Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4:50	12:45	4:00	5:38	7:15
JAMAAT	5:25	1:15	4:15	5:41	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## BCMCL COAL SCAM Ex-MD, two more officials land in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Three officials of Barapukuria coal Mining Company Limited (BCMCL), including a former managing director, were sent to jail after a Dinajpur court rejected their bail prayers in a Tk 244 crore coal scam case yesterday.

They are former MD Habib Uddin Ahmed, General Manager (mine operations) Abu Taher Mohammad Nuruzzaman Chowdhury, and Deputy General Manager (store) AKM Khaledul Islam.

Md Anisur Rahman, a manager (admin) of BCMCL, filed a case in July 2018 with Parbatipur police station accusing 19 people, including Habib who was the then MD. Habib was later suspended by Petrobangla.

In the case, it was mentioned that around 1.45 lakh metric tonnes of coal were found to be missing from the coal yard in early July last year.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Smoke rising from the Syrian town of Ras al-Ain on the eighth day of Turkey's military operation against Kurdish forces yesterday. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would not meet US Vice President Mike Pence during his visit to Ankara to discuss the military operation.

PHOTO: AFP

## Turkey rejects US push for Syria ceasefire

Kurds defend key border town; hundreds seek refuge in Iraq

AFP, Ceylanpinar

Turkey rebuffed international pressure to curb its military offensive against Kurdish militants in Syria yesterday as US President Donald Trump dispatched his deputy Mike Pence to Ankara to demand a ceasefire.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rejected any negotiations, telling reporters the only way to solve Syria's problems was for the Kurdish forces to "lay down their arms... destroy all their traps and get out of the safe zone that we have designated."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

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