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Your Right to Know

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"It is a must to ensure that the voices of the marginalised people of hard-to-reach areas in the country are heard and reflected in national development policies."
DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA, A DISTINGUISHED FELLOW OF THE CENTRE FOR POLICY DIALOGUE AND THE CONVENER OF THE CITIZEN'S PLATFORM FOR SDGS (PAGE B4)



"After Delhi, Dhaka will be addressed as a 'gas chamber' soon if pollution keeps rising..."
POBA CHAIRMAN ABU NASER KHAN ABOUT AIR POLLUTION LEVELS IN THE CAPITAL (PAGE 3)



"I urge Amit Shah to ensure that the country does not burn. Your job is to douse the fire."
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE ON CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT LAW (PAGE 8)

Is this man top terror Joy?

A joint investigation by The Daily Star and Canada's Global News finds striking similarities between Ontario-based Indian businessman Tarekh Rana and Tanvir Islam Joy, a leader of Bangladesh's infamous crime syndicate Seven-Star Group in the '90s who vanished into thin air following police crackdown

STAR REPORT

One phone call from him would send shivers down the spine of businessmen in Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi and Hazaribagh areas.

He was Khandakar Tanvir Islam Joy, a leader of the Seven-Star Group that boasts of crime lords like Subhrata Bain, Mollah Masud and Murgi Milon.

The Seven-Star group along with the Five-Star Group -- which included notorious names like Pichchi Hannan, Kala Jahangir and Dakat Shahid and whose leader Zeesan Ahmed was nabbed in Dubai earlier this year -- terrorised businesses in the capital and its surrounding areas in the nineties and the last decade.

Joy's first reported arrest was in 1999. Posing as the son of the prime minister, he demanded tolls from industrial units at the Savar Export Processing Zone and the nearby Parijatan property, as reported in The Daily Star on January 4, 1999.

His modus operandi was he would ring businesses -- mainly cable TV service

providers, realtors and shopping complexes -- for tolls, ranging from few lakhs to crores, and then get his men to trail the targets to heighten the intimidation. If the targets refused to pay they would be murdered in cold blood.

So menacing did the two crime gangs become that the home ministry on December 27, 2001 put up a list of 23 most wanted criminals, drawing on leaders of the two gangs, and put up a bounty of Tk 50,000 and Tk 1 lakh for information that would lead to their capture.

Soon after the list was out the crime lords fled Bangladesh, as per various media reports at that time.

But their threats did not stop; they only intensified. For instance, Joy was involved in at least three high-profile murders, multiple bouts of extortions and tender manipulations since then.

This prompted the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) later to put up the names of the criminals in Interpol's Red Notice. To date, 13 of the 23, including Joy, are at large,

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KHANDAKAR TANVIR ISLAM JOY



MD TAREKH RANA

Born:
MARCH 3, 1967

Place of birth:
MIRZAPUR, TANGAIL

One of the leaders of Seven-Star criminal ring. Wanted for murder, extortion

Underwent surgery on both legs for arthritis in Kolkata in January 2007

Walks with a limp

Arrested in Kolkata in 2007 on allegations he was living in India under alias Md. Tarek Rana

Reported to be in Canada in 2012; wanted by Interpol, whereabouts unknown

Born:
MARCH 3, 1967

Place of birth:
NARAYANPUR, WEST BENGAL

Owner of SJ71, real estate company in Canada

Underwent surgery on both legs for arthritis in Kolkata in January 2007

Walks with a limp

Claims to be from Kolkata but denies being arrested

First visited Canada on Xmas eve 2011; came back again a year later

"I'm not this guy... It's a very similar face. But I really struggled for two and a half years because my face looks similar to this guy."

TAREKH RANA TOLD GLOBAL NEWS



Joy after arrest in India

Until 2007, Joy targeted many overseas manpower recruitment agencies and demanded Tk 5 crore by calling from India, Malaysia and Singapore, according to DMP.

5 killed as two buses collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least five people were killed and 29 injured as two buses collided head-on in Rajbari's Kalukhali upazila yesterday.

The accident took place on Rajbari-Kushtia highway in Durgapur area around 4:00pm, said Showkot Ali Joaddar, deputy director of fire service in Rajbari Sadar.

Quoting locals and passengers, Showkot said the incident happened as a Kushtia-bound bus of Lalon Paribahan crashed into a local bus at speed.

Two people were killed on the spot and 32 others were injured. On information, three fire service units rushed to the spot and sent the injured to hospitals, he said.

Of the injured, two died while being treated at Rajbari General Hospital while another on way to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Alom Mandal, a passenger of the Lalon Paribahan bus, said the driver of the vehicle was driving recklessly. Several

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It can't be a Razakars' list

Says PM, urges aggrieved FF families to view it with a spirit of forgiveness

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no freedom fighter would ever be labelled as a Razakar during her tenure.

"I want to say unequivocally that no freedom fighter will be labelled as Razakar. It won't happen...it's impossible...it won't occur at least during my tenure," she said adding that the list of Razakars will be scrutinised further.

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Govt suspends list in face of protests

A fresh one to be published March 26 after scrutiny and correction; rallies held to protest the flawed list

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and RASHIDUL HASAN

Amid nationwide outrage and angry protests, the Liberation War affairs ministry yesterday suspended the controversial and flawed Razakars' list three days after its publication.

The decision came hours after Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina instructed the ministries concerned to "correct the list" by dropping the names of freedom fighters from it.

Many freedom fighters were utterly shocked to see their names on the list of Razakars who collaborated with the Pakistan occupation army in carrying out mass killings and atrocities against the Bangladeshis during the 1971 Liberation War.

The Daily Star found at least 25 freedom fighters or organisers of the war on the list published a day before Victory Day.

Following this, freedom fighters and pro-liberation people have been staging demonstrations across the country, demanding cancellation of the list.

Yesterday, they held protest rallies and formed human chains in Sirajganj town, Barisal city and several other parts of the country.

"We have suspended the Razakars' list as there are allegations that it contains names of freedom fighters," Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque told The Daily Star over the phone last night.

"We will publish a fresh list on March 26 after scrutinising this one properly," he said without elaborating.

In a statement around 7:30pm, the ministry said they received felicitations for the list from various quarters and also drew huge criticism for mistakes in it.

The list was suspended so that there

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Guards killed Chinese man to loot money

Say police; 2 placed on four-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two security guards strangled Chinese national Jianhui Gao to death in his Banani flat and looted Tk 3.49 lakh. To cover up the murder, the two buried the body behind the building, police said at a press conference in the DMP media centre yesterday.

The two -- Abdur Rauf, 22, of Jhenidah and Enamul Haque, 25, of Narail -- were arrested from Banani on Tuesday night.

"They killed the Chinese national...thinking they would get a huge amount of money from the flat,"

Abdul Baten, additional commissioner of Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

Metropolitan Police (DMP)

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Musical chair at BTCL

The state-owned telco sees 19 MDs in 11yrs

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Nineteen managing directors have adorned the top position at the state-owned Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Ltd in its life of 11 years.

Of the 19, seven ran the company as the MD more than once. Mahfuz Uddin Ahmed was the MD three times.

At the BTCL Eskaton Garden office, a plaque names 25 MDs, including the ones who had been the MD multiple times.

Industry insiders said frequent change in top management was not desired and that MDs of BTCL had mostly been busy following government orders and unable to get the time to take care of the company's development and plan its future.

Due to this leadership crises, the BTCL became a loss-incurring company from a profitable venture, they said.

In 2008-09, BTCL's revenue was Tk 1,689.36 crore and net profit was Tk 106.15 crore. It incurred a loss of Tk 389.39 crore in 2017-18 fiscal.

The BTCL emerged as a company from state organisation Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) in July 2008.

Md Nur-Ur-Rahman recently became the secretary of the Posts and Telecommunications Division and also the chairman of the BTRC Board of Directors.

"Definitely it will be a challenge for anyone to run a company only for a few months and we will try to look into the matter in the coming days," he said.

The Daily Star found that in 2018 the MD changed four times, just like

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Run-fest in Chattogram

SPORTS REPORTER

The Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram lived up to its billing as the most batting-friendly venue in the country as Chattogram Challengers racked up the highest total of this season's Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League during a 16-run win over Dhaka Platoons yesterday.

Chattogram skipper Mahmudullah Riyad provided the firepower with 59 off just 28 balls, hitting four sixes and five fours as the hosts scored 221 for four. Dhaka gave spirited chase, with Mominul Haque scoring 52 off 35 balls and skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza providing late hope with a six-ball 23, but they eventually fell short as Thisara Perera was the last wicket to fall off the last ball with the score on 205.

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The arm of an excavator tearing an illegal billboard on the bank of the Turag at Dhaur in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital yesterday. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority removed illegal structures from the river banks throughout the day.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT

House begins historic debate

President accuses Pelosi, Democrats of pursuing an 'illegal coup'

REUTERS, Washington

The House of Representatives yesterday began debate ahead of a historic vote on two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump charging him with abusing his office and obstructing Congress that would make him the third US president to be impeached.

The vote in the Democratic-controlled House is expected to fall almost entirely along party lines, underscoring the deep divide in Congress over Trump's conduct - and the larger political schism within the nation itself.

Trump would become only the third American president to be impeached, an extraordinary check on presidential power spelled out in the US Constitution for executives who commit "high crimes and misdemeanors." No president has ever been removed from office under its terms.

The vote, expected in the afternoon or early evening (local time), would result in a trial next month in the US Senate in which House members would act as prosecutors. That chamber is controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans, who have shown little interest in removing him from office.

House Democrats accuse Trump of abusing his power by asking Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, a former US

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It can't be a Razakars' list

FROM PAGE 1

The prime minister said this while delivering her opening speech at the meeting of Bangladesh Awami League Central Working Committee at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

Sheikh Hasina urged the aggrieved families of freedom fighters to see the matter with compassion and forgiveness.

"I would like to tell those who got hurt to be calm and see the matter with forgiveness...they [freedom fighters] can never be in the list of Razakars...they can rest assured," she said.

The prime minister said confusion was created as the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs published the list on the website without scrutinising it.

Hasina said she earlier directed the Liberation War Ministry to publish

the list following proper scrutiny, but the ministry did it in hurriedly ahead of the Victory Day.

"It [the list] is no way the list of Razakars," she said, adding that there were separate lists of Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams that had been published in the gazettes.

She said a list of terrorists had been prepared during the Pakistan period where the names of freedom fighters were incorporated.

Following the August 15 massacre, military dictators Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad, and even Khaleda Zia used the list.

"There has been confusion between the list of terrorists and the list of Razakars. Hadn't Ziaur Rahman, Ershad or Khaleda Zia used the list, the problem would not have appeared," said the prime minister.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attending a parade of the Border Guard Bangladesh at its headquarters in the capital's Pilkhana yesterday morning, marking the BGD Day 2019.

PHOTO: PTD

Cop held for giving info to Indian police

UNB, Dhaka

A suspended constable of Benapole Port Police Station was arrested in the capital's Mirpur area on Tuesday for reportedly giving confidential information.

Prasad Saha, who hails from Terokhada upazila in Khulna, previously worked at Benapole Immigration Check Post and was transferred to the police station last month, police said.

Officer-in-charge of Benapole Police Station Mamun Khan said a sedition case had been filed against Prasad.

The detainee was produced before a court yesterday by police who were

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Is this man top terror Joy?

FROM PAGE 1

with their whereabouts unknown.

The National Central Bureau (NCB) Dhaka presumed Joy was in Australia and on November 8 last year had requested its counterpart in Canberra to trace and locate him.

NCB-Canberra replied the following day that there was no trace of entry by Joy to Australia, according to Mohiul Islam, assistant inspector general at Police Headquarters and Bangladesh's contact person for Interpol.

"The subject decidedly tops the list of most-wanted fugitives," he said.

In a six-month-long investigation that started in June and traversed three countries, The Daily Star and Canada's Global News traced down a man who bears a striking resemblance to Joy.

DOPPLEGANGER IN CANADA

Md. Tarekh Rana, an Indian national hailing from Kolkata, wasted no time in making a name for himself since moving to Canada five years ago.

He set up a real estate company in Ajax, a town east of Toronto, and homed in towards an image of a politically-connected global entrepreneur and philanthropist.

His designs brought him civic awards, including Ajax's 2018 Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year.

He has photographed alongside a gallery of Canadian politicians, including Ahmed Hussen, when he was the immigration minister. He looked a lot like Joy in all of them.

Curiously, Rana and Joy have the same date of birth, the same height, the same health problems and most likely attended the same high school.

"I'm not this guy," he told Global News when shown the Interpol photo of Joy, who is also 52, at his office in Ajax in July.

But he acknowledged he looked like the fugitive wanted man and said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) had raised the same concern.

"It's a very similar face. But I really struggle for 2-1/2 years because my face looks similar to this guy."

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS IN KOLKATA

Joy reportedly fled to Malaysia soon after his name cropped up in the most wanted list in Bangladesh. But sometime in 2003 he landed in Kolkata, as reported in The Daily Star on June 10, 2003.

He hoped to settle down there, and went on to buy three flats and set up a clothing business, as per a file obtained from the Calcutta High Court pertaining to the arrest of a man named Md. Tarekh Rana.

And his criminal activities in Dhaka, it just became more brazen and dramatic.

For instance, on April 18, 2006 Mohammad Shahabuddin, managing director of Turki Associate, a manpower recruitment agency, received a phone call from Singapore from a man claiming to be Joy.

Coincidentally, Rana's passport entries, which the joint investigation got hold of, show he arrived at Singapore on April 18, 2006.

The caller sought Tk 50 lakh within a week -- a demand Shahabuddin refused to entertain, as per the general diary (GD) filed by Turki Associate with the Ramna Police Station on May 15, 2006. The joint investigation obtained a copy of the file.

A few days later, the man called again from the same number and raised the toll amount to Tk 5 crore. Shahabuddin remained defiant.

Then on May 14, 2006, goons claiming to be Joy's men stormed into the office of Turki Associate in capital's Hatirpool and fired indiscriminately, killing two and gravely wounding four more.

Within five minutes of the attack Shahabuddin received another call. Terming the bullet shower as a mere rehearsal, Joy threatened to kill Shahabuddin's family and employees if he did not pay Tk 5 crore at the earliest, as per the case file.

Shahabuddin also said Joy told him that his men made a similar attack on Orbit International in Gulshan 10 days earlier, as reported in The Daily Star on May 16, 2006.

The case against Joy is still pending. Then on April 28, 2007, two of Joy's men were arrested as they were fleeing following another round of shooting at God Gift International Recruiting Agency's office in Gulshan 2, as reported in The Daily Star on April 29, 2007.

Joy was allegedly calling the agency's owner from Kolkata in the past couple of months demanding Tk 5 crore.

Like Shahabuddin before him, he refused to pay up, and on March 18, 2007 the company had filed a GD with Gulshan Police Station regarding the demand for toll.

To intimidate him, Joy sent four of his goons to God Gift's office. His men fired twice at the security guard.

Hearing the gunshots locals screamed out for help and a nearby police patrol chased the criminals. The police caught up with the assailants near Road 43 and nabbed two of them loaded with firearms.

Their two other cohorts however managed to dodge arrest.

Both the arrestees confessed that they had carried out the attack under instructions of one Sabir, who ran criminal activities in Dhaka for Joy, then based in Kolkata, according to the report in The Daily Star.

Until 2007, Joy targeted many such overseas manpower recruitment agencies and demanded Tk 5 crore by calling from Kolkata, Malaysia and Singapore, according to DMP. Not all his victims filed GDs for fear of further threats and attacks.

Joy was also allegedly involved in the 2006 murder of Aftab Ahmed, a Dhaka University teacher and a former vice-chancellor of National University.

On September 23, 2006, three unidentified youths broke into his Fuller Road residence and shot at him, as per the attempt to murder case filed by Ahmed's wife Noorjahan Akhter the following day with Shahbagh Police Station.

He succumbed to his injuries four days later.

Akhter did not name any suspects involved in the murder.

Then in March 2008 police put in remand notorious criminal Sanjiddul Hassan Emon -- who had gone into hiding in India in 2001, was nabbed by the neighbouring country's police and handed over to Bangladesh on March 7, 2008 -- in connection with the murder.

On April 10, 2008 Emon made a confessional statement before a magistrate in Dhaka stating that the three youths conducted the hit job upon Joy's order.

Subsequently, Joy became wanted by the DMP, as per the case files obtained by the joint investigation. The case is still pending.

ARREST IN KOLKATA

On March 17, 2007, West Bengal Police arrested six Bangladeshi men at the Kasba Petrol Pump in Kolkata.

The officers seized three dubious Indian passports from the men, who admitted they had entered India through a clandestine route and without any valid documents.

But that wasn't all they told police. They also disclosed that a Seven-Star leader was in the city and had taken "shelter with the support of forged documents", according to court records.

Indian police made their move on May 5, 2007, according to court and police records.

"We requested the West Bengal Police to do it," Abdullah Aref, then additional superintendent of Criminal Investigation Department and in-charge of the team tasked with bringing back criminals from India, told The Daily Star.

He also said Joy walked with a noticeable limp, which was his identifying feature.

When the police arrived at his residence in Kolkata's Rajarhat, they found a man recovering from leg surgery and unable to walk.

Suffering from acute arthritis, doctors had inserted pins in his legs, the court records said. Police arrested him but took him to MR Bangur Hospital, and a judge ordered him to be brought before the court once doctors pronounced him well enough.

A report by West Bengal Police said "serious incriminating materials" supported the allegations against him.

The arrest was widely reported in the Indian and Bangladeshi press. The Daily Star reported on May 8, 2007 that Bangladesh had sent a letter to India's foreign ministry requesting Joy's handover. But, it was in vain.

He was still in hospital three months later, when his lawyers filed a petition in the Calcutta High Court claiming he was "absolutely innocent" and had been falsely implicated "due to some grudge".

The joint investigation acquired a copy of the court case.

A photo allegedly taken following the 2007 arrest of the suspect alleged to be Joy shows a man strongly resembling Rana.

Insisting he was a taxpaying Indian garment dealer, he gave the court his IDs and business documents naming him as Md. Tarekh Rana, the proprietor of Gaus Fashion and Zee Fashion. The files did not cover the period prior to 2004.

He also filed an Indian driver's licence issued in 2004 in the name Tarekh Rana and an Indian passport issued in 2005 that showed visits to Singapore and exchanges of US dollars to Thai baht, Malaysian ringgit and Singaporean dollar.

Curiously, the arrested man's date of birth is March 3, 1967 -- which is the same as Joy's. Ontario property records show the man whom Global News approached in his Ajax office was also born on that day.

His place of birth listed on the Indian passport is Narayanpur in West Bengal.

Indian media reporting at the time of the arrest indicated the man who was apprehended was using the alias Rana and operated a clothing store in the Rajarhat district.

Rana mentioned Gaus Fashion as the name of his business in Kolkata that he sold off to move to Canada. Gaus Fashion was located in Chinar Park, Rajarhat.

The press accounts also said the arrested man was in his 40s, owned "flats" in Malaysia and had undergone surgery on both legs that January.

Rana would have been 40 at the time, owns "13" condos in Malaysia and underwent surgery on both legs that January. He is still suffering from a severe case of arthritis and walks with a limp.

The arrested man's father was named as Sohel Rana. Rana, who vehemently maintains that he has never been arrested in Kolkata or anywhere else, said that was his father's name.

At the Calcutta High Court, his lawyers claimed he was wrongfully



detained because he had never been brought before a judge. The court dismissed the argument, ruling he couldn't be arraigned because he was hospitalised.

The joint investigation was unable to find any record of what happened to the case. There is no indication he was ever convicted. An Indian lawyer said he had represented Rana over a "human rights violation" and the arrest was overturned.

An Indian police officer who worked on the case told the joint investigation Rana had confessed he was Joy, was freed and allowed to leave the country. The Times of India reported he was released in June 2008 and went missing that December, prompting his family to blame police.

Over in Dhaka, reports of Joy's reign of terror dried up, too.

CAMPING IN CANADA

Rana's passport entries indicate he left Kolkata for Malaysia, where he has residency status since 2006 under the country's 'My Second Home' programme.

The joint investigation got hold of documents detailing Rana's Canadian immigration history from a confidential source. The documents contain copies of every stamped page of Rana's passport, which he furnished as part of his visa applications.

On November 4, 2008 he applied for an entrepreneur visa at the Canadian High Commission in Delhi but his application was unsuccessful.

But he did succeed in getting a single entry tourist visa three years later from the Canadian High Commission in Malaysia after mentioning he was visiting a "family friend". The name of the friend was Shohana Ajmee Ahsan.

Rana told Global News he first came to Canada on Christmas eve in 2011 on a one-year tourist visa, after recovering from his leg-shortening surgeries in Kolkata and working on "projects" in Thailand, Malaysia and Australia.

He stayed for six months, returned

to India and applied to come back to Canada on an investor visa. His application was turned down due to his lack of formal education, he said.

Coincidentally, Joy had studied up to class-10 and did not have any high school certificate, as per Bangladesh's CID.

Rana's immigration records suggest otherwise: he did not apply for investor visa again in 2012 but a ten-year visitor visa at the Canadian High Commission in Singapore.

Curiously, on November 28, 2012 Times of India reported that Joy was in Canada.

Rana's visa was issued on December 13, 2012.

He flew into Toronto 15 days later and straightaway set about putting down his roots in Durham Region, located east of Toronto. He bought a house in Pickering and founded a company whose corporate slogan brimmed with optimism: "You dream it, we build it!"

A glowing profile in Millionaire Mindset, a local magazine, quoted Rana as attributing his arrival in Canada to love: a Bangladeshi woman he met in Kolkata immigrated to Canada and he followed her.

"So mesmerised and in love was Rana that he named his Canadian company after her initials, and her year of birth," it said. (Rana denied giving an on-the-record interview to the magazine, but the author, Shaun Michael Samaroo, said otherwise.)

Ontario corporate records show that SJ71 Ltd. was registered with the provincial government on Feb. 21, 2013 by two directors, Rana and -- Shohana Ajmee. The address for the two was the same Pickering one.

Ajmeed told Global News she never agreed to be on the SJ71 board of directors. When she found out, she said

she confronted Rana about it and he agreed to replace her.

The directorship at least served a practical purpose: Ontario companies must have at least one director who is a resident of Canada. As a visitor, Rana would not have qualified, but Ajmeed did.

Records show that Ajmeed was replaced in 2014 by an entrepreneur who had once sought a federal Liberal nomination. Rana did not respond to questions about Ajmeed.

His criminal past seemed to have caught up with him in 2015: when returning from a destination wedding in Mexico he was pulled aside at Toronto's Pearson International Airport and questioned by immigration authorities over his similarities to Joy, Rana told Global News.

His immigration records indicate that incident did happen.

"Tarekh Rana has been confirmed, through facial recognition, as being one and same as Tanveer Islam Khandakar," read the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) notes.

The photo they cross-checked was the one on the Bangladesh Police website.

It appears the immigration officer wanted to proceed with a case against him. "He acquired his visa without disclosing his true identity of Tanveer Islam Khandakar, who is one of the Bangladesh Police's most wanted criminals," the notes read.

Rana though was able to convince the immigration official that he was not Joy and allowed to enter Canada.

This incident became an issue the following year when Rana applied for work permit.

But Rana and his lawyers were able to sidestep this by presenting fingerprints that RCMP failed to associate with any criminal record anywhere.

Bangladesh introduced biometric registration in 2009, eight years after Joy had fled Bangladesh, and DMP do not have any biometric of the fugitive in its

database.

"I know that he has escaped from Bangladesh," he said of the fugitive Joy. "That's what I know. That's why I've been facing this problem."

HANGING OUT IN CANADA'S POLITICAL CIRCLE

In 2016, Rana turned to the constituency office of the Liberal MP for Ajax, Mark Holland, for help with his work permit application, said Holland's spokesperson Michael Radoslav.

As per his immigration records, Rana has applied for work permit multiple times between 2012 and 2017 but was rejected each time on various grounds -- including criminality.

Holland's office "conducted standard inquiries" about Rana's work permit file with Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada, but had no knowledge of his past, Radoslav said.

Rana's immigration records suggest Holland did write a letter on October 17, 2016 in support of his work permit application, and his office appear to have followed up on the status of the application.

A couple of other politicians also wrote letters supporting Rana's work permit application, his immigration file shows.

In Canada, he hovered around politicians and made donations to candidates of both Liberal and National Democratic Party and also to local causes.

Rana told Global News if he really had a criminal background, he could have made a refugee claim in Canada "which would be so easy", but he had not done so. Instead, he said he had invested a "handsome amount of money" in Canada, created jobs and paid taxes.

Rana's tenacity did pay off as in December last year his work permit did come through.

"They took my facial recognition, they took my fingerprint, everything RCMP and all those thing, and then they cleared and finally after 2-1/2 years I got it. This work permit took 2-1/2 years."

He said he had received a clean criminal record check from police in Kolkata as part of his pending application to become a permanent resident of Canada. "If I would be arrested how would I get it?"

When prodded why the signature in the Kolkata court file of the arrested Rana was identical to his, he said he has been a victim of identity theft.

"I am now really shocked because for some reason someone is using my passport and picture," he said in an email last month from Malaysia, where he said he was trying to secure funds for his struggling Ajax business.

At the time of writing the report, his company, which repurposes already existing buildings, has been evicted from his headquarters in a two-storied office complex over unpaid rent amounting to \$21,470.

SJ71's crown jewel, G Centre, a state-of-the-art co-working space, is now being operated by a property management firm appointed by the building's owner over claims of unpaid bills.

Rana acknowledged in his last email he owes about \$7-million, but claimed he has "close to \$26-million" in assets.

"Businesses go trough [sic] stages. Within next two weeks two million dollar will be paid to my trades, Contractors & creditors with late fees, penalties & compensation, Inshallah," he wrote.

IRREFUTABLE LINKS WITH BANGLADESH

On his Facebook page Rana often posted photos with a young woman and a child, whom he referred to as his daughter and grandson respectively. He mentioned she had been widowed in March this year.

The joint investigation tracked down the young woman. She resides in Dhaka and is a lecturer at a private university. Her husband, indeed, was killed in a road accident earlier this year. And in his application for work permit Rana proposed setting up a new venture whose name is the same as the young woman's.

The young woman's mother, who also resides in Dhaka, is a director of a jute mill and has a son who resides in Australia.

And in the bank documents produced before the Calcutta High Court, a woman is listed as a co-signee -- whose name is phonetically like her.

The joint investigation is withholding the names for the sake of privacy of the individuals, who are private citizens and have not been implicated in any criminal wrongdoing.

Both the mother and daughter's Facebook pages suggest they made multiple trips to Malaysia in the recent past.

Last year, Rana posted a photo with the young woman with the Kuala Lumpur skyline in the backdrop. Around the same time photos can be found on both the mother and daughter's Facebook of their trip to the Malaysian capital.

Rana removed all photos with the young woman after the joint investigation contacted him; both the mother and daughter also tightened the security of their Facebook after that episode.

When Global News probed Rana about this link with Bangladesh, he just said his family is from East Pakistan. Strangely, when Joy was born in 1967 in Mirzapur, Tangail it was East Pakistan then.

The joint investigation also involved calling in on the Indira Road address mentioned in Joy's Bangladesh police files as well as his ancestral home in Tangail and his uncle's residences in capital's Mohammadpur.

Neighbours of his old house, which the family sold off, said the police pay visit to the property from time to time. The same was said by the neighbours and the variety shop owners of his uncles' neighbourhoods.

The joint investigation contacted one of his uncles, who acknowledged that the crime lord Joy was his nephew and that he was residing in Canada.

Joy's father Khandakar Nazrul Islam Khokon passed away when Joy was in his teens. He was a high-ranking official of Biman, said the caretaker of his ancestral home.

During Khokon's time in Biman he was posted in Kolkata, so Joy did part of his schooling there, said CID's Aref.

Coincidentally, Rana mentions on his LinkedIn page that he went to Airport High School in Kolkata. The joint investigation contacted the school, which was unable to provide attendance records dating as far back as the early 80s.

THE BALL IS IN CANADA'S COURT Islam of NCB Dhaka said they contacted their counterpart in Ottawa.

"At first NCB Ottawa seemed enthusiastic -- we were so hopeful. So when we wanted to initiate the formal process their interest cooled off. They then told us we have to go through so many hoops that go outside the jurisdiction of the police. We've to go through the judicial process there."

For cases like Joy's, if the countries communicate through the diplomatic channel and the embassies cooperate, it becomes easier to catch the criminal.

But if they do not want to cooperate the only window left is the Interpol, which is not a legally binding obligation between the 194 countries, he said.

"If the country does not want to give us any information, if they do not want to cooperate, we cannot do anything about it."

So before the Bangladesh authorities set the ball rolling through the diplomatic channel, it wants to hear what the NCB Ottawa has to say.

"They have not replied to us yet," he added.

The joint investigation contacted CBSA, RCMP, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and Durham Police, all of whom declined citing privacy restrictions.

At the time of filing, 'Malaysia My Second Home' authorities did not respond to an email requesting comment on the matter.

5 killed

FROM PAGE 1

passengers had asked him to slow down, but he did not pay heed to them, he said.

Rajbari civil surgeon Mahfujur Rahman said 10 of the injured were shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital from Rajbari General Hospital.

Saidur Rahaman, officer-in-charge of Mandimara Highway Police Station, said they seized both the vehicles, but did not find any of the drivers.

Identity of only one of the dead was confirmed immediately. He was Farman Ali Mandal, 70, of Majgram village in Kushtia's Kumarkhali upazila.

Face-off at Dhaka University campus

Muktijuddho Moncho, Chhatra Adhikar Parishad call coinciding programmes

DU CORRESPONDENT

Activists of Muktijuddho Moncho and Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad faced off on Dhaka University campus yesterday, as the two organisations called separate programmes at the same venue at the same time.

Muktijuddho Moncho called a protest rally demanding Ducus Vice-president Nurul Haque Nur's removal from his post over graft allegations, while the other organisation, which led the quota reform protests, announced a demonstration protesting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of India at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture at 12pm.

Witnesses said, around 60 activists of the Moncho led by its President Aminul Islam Bulbul and General Secretary Al Mamun took position in advance around the venue.

As soon as a procession led by Nur reached the area, the Moncho activists started shouting slogans and moved to Raju Memorial Sculpture.

Parishad activists also took position at the base and shouted counter slogans, and a heated exchange between the groups ensued.

Some members of proctorial team asked both groups to leave the spot but none paid heed.

Later, Muktijuddho Moncho activists left the spot complying with the request -- from two assistant proctors -- of not holding any protest at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture.

After staying there for nearly half an hour, Nur and his associates brought out a procession from the spot which went through DU campus, Press Club and Shabbagh areas.

Over 100 Moncho activists, this time equipped with iron rods and sticks, followed the procession to Shaheed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Activists of Muktijuddho Moncho and Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad face off in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture at Dhaka University. Inset, Moncho activists walking with sticks in their hands. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BGB's role key in protecting sovereignty: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to put a stop to trespassing, drugs and goods smuggling, and human trafficking by performing their duties properly.

Addressing the parade of BGB Day 2019 at its headquarters in the city, Sheikh Hasina appreciated BGB, saying the force stands by people during any crisis like natural disasters and even the recent Rohingya crisis, alongside protecting the Bangladesh border.

On modernising BGB, the PM said, "We've adopted Border Guard Bangladesh Vision 2041."

She said the government started the construction of 317-kilometre borderline ring road in three hilly districts -- Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, for intensifying security on the border and improving the socioeconomic condition of people in remote areas.

Sheikh Hasina said some

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Maj Gen Zainul Abedin's janaza today

UNB, Dhaka

The body of Prime Minister's Military Secretary Major General Mia Mohammad Zainul Abedin Bir Bikram was brought to Dhaka last evening.

"His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Dhaka Cantonment's central mosque at 10am on Thursday (today)," said Rashedul Alam Khan, assistant director of Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR).

Zainul Abedin breathed his last on Tuesday at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore at the age of 59. His body arrived yesterday evening, and was kept at Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

After the namaz-e-janaza, his mortal remains will be taken to his village home in Chunoti of Satkania upazila by helicopter for burial around noon.

Born on January 1, 1960 in Satkania of Chattogram, Maj Gen Zainul Abedin

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Govt bodies contributing to air pollution

Environmentalists allege, seek specific action plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rather than reducing air pollution, government institutions actually contribute to it, environmental activists alleged at a press conference in the capital's Kalabagan yesterday.

At the programme, activists from Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) observed that institutions such as the city corporations, Rajuk, and some relevant ministries worsen the quality of air through unplanned development activities, including random road and sewer line repairs and metro rail construction.

These sources are among the greatest pollutants of Dhaka, along with brick kilns, unfit vehicles and heavy industry, the speakers said citing research.

They urged the government to immediately come up with a specific action plan to check air pollution, which has recently become a major health concern for the city's inhabitants.

"After Delhi, Dhaka will be addressed as a 'gas chamber' soon if pollution keeps rising..." said Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan.

Presenting a keynote paper on the current situation of air pollution, Poba Secretary Fardous Ahmed Uzzal said Bangladesh is one of the countries with high number of air pollution-related deaths of children.

About 1.4 lakh people die from various diseases caused by air pollution every year, he said citing a study.

The government is supposed to work on reducing air pollution, but it does the opposite, he alleged.

"Pollution could be reduced significantly if the government's development activities were undertaken with caution," said Fardous.

Among others, Poba General Secretary Abdus Sobhan, BARCIK Director Syed Ali Biswas and Coordinator Jahangir Alam also spoke at the press conference.

Why import cattle meat?

HC show-causes govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the government's decision to import cattle meat, in spite of surplus production in the country.

The court issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why the decision should not be declared illegal.

In the same rule, it asked the respondents to show cause why they should not be directed to ensure the standard and quality of the production of cattle meat and food in the country.

Secretaries to the ministries of commerce, fisheries and livestock, and religious affairs; and director generals of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) and department of livestock have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader came up with the rule, following a writ petition filed by one Mosabbir Hossain, a Brahmanbaria resident, seeking necessary order on respondents not to open import of cattle meat.

In the petition, Mosabbir prayed to the High Court to direct respondents to take initiatives to make the cattle farms capable of exporting meat from all districts of the country.

Mosabbir submitted the petition to the HC recently, saying the decision of importing cattle meat without having any proper testing system in place is unreasonable, and highly alarming for public health.

In the petition, he included an opinion of Bangladesh Dairy Farmers' Association (BDFFA) General Secretary Shah Emran who reportedly said in September, "Import of beef will be discouraging for farming of dairy and beef, and affect the aspiration to be self-sufficient in milk and meat".

Another worker dies of burns

Death toll in Keraniganj factory fire now 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another worker injured in the December 11 fire at a Keraniganj plastic factory died yesterday, raising the death toll to 20.

Sohan Rana (19), who sustained 50 percent burns, died at Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute in the city around 11:45am, said Coordinator Dr Samanta Lal Sen.

Four more injured are on life support at the institute while eight are in critical condition at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, doctors said.

Hailing from Jamalpur district, Sohan was the youngest among three siblings. "My brother died due to the factory owner's negligence. We demand just punishment," said his elder brother Sazu Mia.

Sazu said Sohan began working at the factory just a week before the fire incident. "He was a student at a local college in Jamalpur. He came to Dhaka on December 3 and joined the factory to work alongside studying," he said.

Meanwhile, leaders of different worker and labour rights organisations yesterday visited the ravaged factory and exchanged views with its workers and locals.

During the visit, they demanded exemplary punishment for those responsible for fire incidents, including the ones in Keraniganj and Gazipur, and proper compensation for the victims' families. They also demanded that the authorities concerned identify such risky factories.

The plastic factory at Chunkutia had been operating without permission for years. It had a single gate for entry and exit and no emergency exits whatsoever, said survivors and fire officials.

Locals alleged that the authorities concerned turned a blind eye to the lack of safety measures at the factory even though it had been producing disposable plastic cups and plates for around 10 years.

Keraniganj upazila administration sealed it off on Friday.

Relatives of the victims demanded stern action against the factory owner, Nazrul Islam, who is on the run, for failing to ensure safety and better work environment.



Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury along with other officials inspects a warship at Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai. China officially handed over two frigates to Bangladesh Navy at an event yesterday. Among others, Deputy Commandant of Eastern Fleet of Chinese Navy Rear Admiral Bai Yaoping was present at the ceremony.

PHOTO: ISPR

Hold brokers accountable

Speakers tell seminar on safe migration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities have to hold brokers accountable after bringing them under the purview of law, to ensure safe and orderly migration of women workers, said activists yesterday.

Errant recruiting agencies should also be punished for bringing misery to the lives of female migrant workers, they said at a seminar marking International Migrants Day.

Karmojibi Nari organised the seminar in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and UKaid, at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

In most cases, female migrant workers seek overseas employment through brokers and remain unaware of recruiting agencies, said WARBE Development Foundation Chairman Syed Saiful Haque. However, the country's law does not recognise brokers, he said.

Due to the dependency on brokers, female migrant workers find it hard to get legal assistance after facing abuse, said Hassan Imam, managing director of Center for Development Communications (DEVCOM) Ltd.

Abused migrant workers often do not have required documents with them because of lack of awareness. This makes it hard for them to get

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Sangram editor sent to jail after remand

JNU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Abul Asad, editor of Bangla daily Sangram, to jail in a case filed over circulating provocative report and sedition.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Baki Billah gave the order, rejecting a bail petition. Yesterday, police produced Asad before the court on completion of a three-day remand.

On December 14, a Dhaka court placed Asad on remand in the case. Afzal Hossain, a freedom fighter, filed the case with Hatirjheel Police Station under Digital Security Act.

Police took Asad into custody on December 13 after a mob vandalised the office of the daily, over publishing a report

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

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IUB holds int'l English debate tournament



CITY DESK

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised its largest debate tournament titled "IUB Ascension 2019" on December 12-15 at the university's campus in the capital's Bashundhara, said a press release.

The grand finale and award giving ceremony took place on December 15. A total of 120 teams -- including 12 from abroad -- under different schools, colleges and universities participated in the international tournament.

Foreign participants came from the UK, Australia, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, India and Nepal.

In open and novice categories, IBA-DU clinched the championship trophies. In the high school category, Academia became the champion.

Rohit Midha from Igniting Mind India, Sajid Khandakar from IBA-DU and Inqiyad Patway from Mastermind won the Best Individual Speaker's award for novice, open and high school categories respectively.

Rashed Chowdhury, former chair of IUB board of trustees and Prof Milan Pagon, vice chancellor (acting), spoke on the occasion and distributed prizes among winners.

Democracy in his heart

FROM PAGE 5

Prof Gazi Mahub Murshid discussed Abul Mansur Ahmad's works in comparison with other contemporary writers. "Abdul Mansur is more important than many other writers of his time, and he will remain essential for a long time," Prof Murshid said.

Later, Mahfuz Anam visited "Press Corner", the association of working journalists of the university. He shared views on various issues with them, and urged journalists to write about research work taking place at the university.

Born on September 3, 1898 in Mymensingh, Abul Mansur Ahmad was a trailblazing litterateur, journalist, politician and social reformer. He was the minister for education in the United Front government of East Pakistan in 1956 and the minister for commerce and trade in 1956-1957. After the promulgation of martial law by

Ayub Khan in 1958, he was imprisoned and subsequently released in 1962, before retiring from politics.

Ahmad was known for his strong stand in favour of regional autonomy of East Pakistan. He also made remarkable contributions to industrialisation of the long neglected East Pakistan. He propagated secularism in a manner unparalleled in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

His literary works include "Aina", "Asmani Purdah", "Gulliverer Safar Nama" and "Food Conference". He also penned insightful works on social and political history of Bengal. He penned two autobiographical writings -- "Atma Katha" and "Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachar".

He received the Bangla Academy Literary Award in 1960, and the Swadhinata Padak in 1979.

Road accidents

FROM PAGE 5

she was crossing a road. She later died at Goalanda Upazila Health Complex, Abdul Al Tayabir, OC of Goalanda Police Station, told our Faridpur correspondent.

Police are on the hunt for the driver, said the OC.

In Dinajpur, two separate accidents killed two people yesterday morning, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

In Khansama, garment worker Runa Aktar (18) died in an accident at Chowrangi Bazar around 6am. On her way to Uttara EPZ in

Syedpur of Nilphamari, Runa was critically injured after her three-wheeler collided head-on with another three-wheeler. She was taken to Nilphamari Sadar Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

In Nawabganj, Nur Nabi (25) died after falling from a running tractor at Domile.

In Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat, Abu Taher (44) lost his right leg after a truck hit him from behind. He is undergoing treatment at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogura, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

FR TOWER CASE

Former Rajuk chief engineer granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to former chief engineer of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) Saidur Rahman in a case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission over forgery in the design of Bani's FR Tower, which caught fire in March, leaving 25 people dead and 73 injured.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam granted the bail following a petition filed by Saidur seeking bail in the case.

The HC granted the bail as Saidur's lawyer Advocate Qamrul Islam informed the court that his client is sick, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

He said the government will move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, seeking stay on the HC verdict.

Maj Gen Zainul Abedin's

FROM PAGE 3

was commissioned in the Bangladesh Army in 1980. He had been serving as the prime minister's military secretary since November 28, 2011.

OIC PAYS CONDOLENCES

Envoys of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) paid deep condolences, saying Zainul was a great human being and played a significant role to bridge the gap between Bangladesh and envoys of Muslim countries based in Dhaka.

He will be profoundly remembered for his honesty, sincerity and patriotism. It will be very difficult to fill the void that has been created after his sad demise, said an OIC statement.

Hold brokers accountable

FROM PAGE 3

justice, said MJF Programme Manager Sarawat Binte Islam.

Lawyer Uttam Kumar Das said "lack of coherence" between the law for migrant workers and the one to combat human trafficking is apparent at present. This should be fixed, he said.

Mili Akter, a Saudi Arabia-returnee worker, said she went to the Gulf country as domestic worker through a broker in 2016 to change her fortune. She alleged her employers tortured her for trivial matters, and she fled the employer's house to save her life.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation Chairman Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad said authorities must ensure safe and dignified migration of female workers. Workers have to be skilled enough as well.

Lawmaker and Karmojibi Nari Founder President Shirin Akhter said, "While recruiting foreign workers, the receiving state, its government and employer must do it in line with international labour laws."

Karmojibi Nari Executive Director Rokeya Rafique also spoke at the event.

Sangram editor

FROM PAGE 3

that termed executed war criminal Abdul Quader Molla a "martyr".

Quader Molla, former assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami and known infamously as "The butcher of Mirpur" during the Liberation War, was hanged in 2013 after being convicted in a case for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War by the Supreme Court on September 17 that year.

Molla led at least two mass killings in Keraniganj near Dhaka and Mirpur, taking the lives of around 400 unarmed Bangladeshis.

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BGB's role

FROM PAGE 3

442km out of the country's 539km unprotected border with India and Myanmar have already been brought under surveillance through the creation of new battalions.

She said the government has taken plan to install smart digital surveillance and tactical response system in 328km border on priority basis.

The premier recalled with respect the BGB members who lost their lives in the 2009 mutiny.

"Though it was renamed, the role of BGB is immense in protecting the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, particularly our borders," she said.

On her arrival at BGB headquarters, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and BGB Director General Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam welcomed her.

The PM also handed the BGB Medal, President Border Guard Medal and BGB Medal-Service to a number of officers.

International seminar on cultural heritage held at NSU



CITY DESK

The inaugural session of a seminar on "Protection and inheritance of intangible cultural heritage in China and Bangladesh" was held on the capital's North South University (NSU) campus on Tuesday.

The two-day international seminar was jointly organised by NSU and Yunnan University, China, said a press release.

Among the attendees were Prof He Ming, director, Yunnan University, China; Prof Abdur Rob Khan, dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NSU; Prof Sk Tawfique M Haque, chair, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU; and Dr Mahmudur Rahman Bhuiyan, director, Confucius Institute, NSU. Professor Atiqul Islam, vice-chancellor, NSU, chaired the session.

In his speech, Prof Ming said Bangladesh and China have a long history. People of the two countries have created a bridge in intangible cultural heritage and made outstanding contributions to the construction of the human spiritual world, he added.

Face-off at Dhaka

FROM PAGE 3

Minar area and went back to Madhur Canteen area afterwards.

In another development, Nur filed a complaint with Shahbagh Police Station against 30-35 activists of the Muktijuddho Moncho while Al Mamun, general secretary of the Moncho, filed another with the same police station against Nur.

Talking to The Daily Star, Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said, "Both groups filed complaints. As it is a university related matter, we will take further steps after talking to the proctor."

On Tuesday, at least 15 people, including Nur, were injured in a clash between the two organisations after some Moncho members swooped on Parishad activists when the latter gathered at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture for a rally protesting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of India.

সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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Better China-Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 5

Development Research Centre (YDRC) and BIPSS, alternately in Kunming and Dhaka.

The forum consisted of an eleven-member Chinese delegation led by Bian Mingshe, deputy director-general of YDRC. The Bangladeshi delegation included academics and businesspersons.

The annual trade volume between the countries is around US \$15 billion, with Bangladesh having heavy trade deficit. Bangladesh government officials say China may invest around \$50 billion in the next 15 years here.

Muniruzzaman said due to the China-US trade war and loss of competitiveness for rising labour cost in China, the country is relocating many businesses. However,

lack of road and rail connectivity is a major hurdle for relocation to Bangladesh.

It is, therefore, important that the Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor that connects Kunming, Yunnan of China; northeast India and Bangladesh is implemented on a fast-track basis, Muniruzzaman said.

If India is not willing to join BCIM, the corridor can start from Kunming and then enter Bangladesh through Myanmar, he added.

"This corridor is a great gateway for Bangladesh to China and southeast Asia," Muniruzzaman said.

The forum also discussed various ways of improving China-Bangladesh relations through tourism, education, and youth exchange programmes, he said.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT **giz**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a public-benefit federal enterprise with worldwide operations in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. It supports the German Government as well as other public and private sector clients in the areas of economic development and employment, energy and the environment, and peace and security. The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme (REEEP II) is supported by the Bangladesh Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is implemented by GIZ.

GIZ invites candidates for the below position:
Position Required: Junior Advisor- Sustainable Energy for REEEP II
Contract Duration: Up to 31 October 2021

Interested candidates are requested to find the details of the advertisement and apply through the link:
<https://jobs.gizbd.org>

Last Date of Application: 04 January 2020

We accept electronic applications only. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. All applications will be treated according to the merit and with strict confidentiality.

ER **ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড**
Eastern Refinery Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
North Patenga, Chattogram-4000, Bangladesh
www.erl.com.bd Date: 17-12-2019

International Tender for Engineering Inspection of LPG Spheres, PTM and Reforming Unit of Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).

Amendment Notice

1	Tender package name	Engineering Inspection of LPG Spheres, PTM and Reforming Unit of ERL.
2	Invitation Ref. No.	28.25.0000.019.20.052.19.1.
3	Tender package No.	ER/I&PC/T-01/2019-20.
4	Tender last selling date (Amended)	23/01/2020.
5	Tender closing date and time (Amended)	26/01/2020 BST 15:00 hrs.
6	Tender opening date and time (Amended)	26/01/2020 BST 15:15 hrs.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

A.K.M. Naim Ullah
Deputy General Manager (I&S)

GD-2077

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forest Division, Rajshahi.

Memo No: 22.01.0000.245.02.01.19.3838 Date:15/12/2019

e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works given below:-

Sl. No	Tender ID	Description Works	Online Tender Last Selling date	On Line Tender closing date & Time
01	395124	Construction of Paikbandha beat Office Building under Social Forest Division, Rajshahi.	Date: 05 Jan-2020 Time: 11:00	Date: 05 Jan-2020 Time: 12:00
02	395249	Construction of Boundary wall of Shapahar range Office, Shapahar Upazila in Social Forest Division, Rajshahi.	Date: 05 Jan-2020 Time: 12:00	Date: 05 Jan-2020 Time: 13:00

- This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
- To submit tender, registration in the National e-GP system (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-Gp system portal to be deposited through any branch of the registered Bank.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP Help Desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Ahmad Niamur Rahman)
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forest Division, Rajshahi
phone:0721-761677

GD-2075

Duping job seekers with believable documents

PBI arrests three who offered govt jobs

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Cg

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) arrested three persons of a gang that cheated at least 55 youths with fake appointment letters of National Board of Revenue (NBR), Chattogram Custom House, Bangladesh Army and Chattogram Port. Members of the gang took bribes of Tk 8-26 lakh from each person for these jobs.

Md Moyeen Uddin, additional police superintendent of PBI in Chattogram, made the disclosure yesterday.

The arrestees are: Atiqur Rahman Chowdhury (38), Tofazzal Hossain (54) and Ripon Shikdar (30).

Moyeen said Atiqur scouted and lured job seekers, introducing himself as "customs officer Anwar". Ripon and Tofazzal prepared question papers, admit cards, recruitment notices, police verification and health documents for candidates.

"During primary investigation, we found some customs and NBR officials are involved with the gang," he added.

He said Ripon was arrested from Dhaka's Sabujbagh on December 12 and the others from Chattogram's Pathantuli on Tuesday.

Santosh Kumar Chakma, an inspector of PBI, said, "We seized two mobile phones and a pen drive from Ripon and in that

pen drive, we found police verification and health certificates, recruitment notices, admit cards and appointment letters for 27 posts at NBR, 23 posts at Chattogram Custom House, four of Bangladesh Army and one at Chattogram port."

He said the police verification reports and health certificates are real, and for rest of the documents, special paper was used. It would not have been possible for the job seekers to doubt anything, he added.

A victim named Ajoy Bhattacharjee filed a case -- with Nilphamari Police Station -- against Atiqur Rahman Chowdhury for cheating him and his brother-in-law Milon Chakrabarti. He claimed that he deposited Tk 26,30,000 in seven instalments in a bank account as per Atiqur's instructions -- for two computer operator posts at Chattogram Custom House.

According to custom house sources, Ajoy Bhattacharjee, Milon Chakrabarti, Saiful Islam and Abdul Gafur come to the custom house with appointment letters on September 9 but Commissioner of Customs Md Fakhru Alam told them the documents they had were all fake.

On September 11, the customs commissioner wrote a letter to NBR chairman to take action against the forgers.

'Democracy in his heart'

Speakers say about Abul Mansur Ahmad at seminar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Abul Mansur Ahmad tried to uphold the Muslim identity in undivided Bengal through strong criticism of religious and social bigotry -- issues still relevant today, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They were speaking in a seminar titled "Fanaticism and Class Character of Society in the Literature of Abul Mansur Ahmad" held at an auditorium of Islamic University (IU), Kushtia yesterday.

The university's Bangla department organised the event at the Rabindra-Nazrul Arts Faculty.

With chairman of the department Prof Dr Saidur Rahman in the chair, the seminar was addressed by Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam -- son of Abul Mansur Ahmad -- as chief guest.

Noted writer and columnist Syed Abul Maksud was the chief discussant. Prof Gazi Mahbub Murshid, and convener of Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad Emran Mahfuz also addressed the event as special discussants.

Syed Abul Maksud termed Ahmad's "Aina" an extraordinary work on societal dynamics and norms.

Citing excerpts from the book, he said Ahmad's writing showed how religious leaders try to exploit people and society. "He included all these in his writings from his experiences and observations throughout his multi-faceted career," Maksud said.



Syed Abul Maksud speaks at the seminar held at Islamic University in Kushtia.

PHOTO: STAR

Ahmad's works were highly relevant then, and they remain relevant to the current society. It will surely reflect society of the future too, he observed.

"We are discussing him and his writings after more than a hundred years of his birth. I am sure the next generations will do the same after another hundred years," the renowned writer said.

In his speech, Mahfuz Anam said Abul Mansur Ahmad strongly believed in democracy. He carried democracy in his heart, and all his

attempts were towards establishing a democratic society.

Mahfuz Anam urged students to read and grasp what thinkers of the past and present convey about society.

He said Abul Mansur Ahmad took a critical look on various issues -- social, political and religious -- of both Muslims and Hindus. "He did it so Bengali Muslims could fully understand their identity in the context of undivided Bengal."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

3 brick kilns demolished in Savar

4 companies fined Tk 33 lakh; owner, manager jailed



An illegal brick kiln being dismantled by the Department of Environment in Savar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The Department of Environment (DoE) in a drive yesterday fined four brick kilns Tk 33 lakh, demolished three of those and sent owner and manager of two to jail for damaging the environment and operating business without any clearance.

The arrestees are Foyzal Ahmed, owner of Mitali Bricks, and Kamrul Islam, manager of Nurmin Bricks, of West Kaundia area. The other two brick kilns are Titas and Nirumin.

Foyzal was sentenced to jail for two months as he did not pay Tk 5 lakh as fine while Kamrul for three

months for not paying a fine of Tk 20 lakh, said Executive Magistrate Maksudul Islam, who led the mobile court drive.

He said Nurmin Bricks was fined as it did not have proper documents and it was situated beside the Turag river. Titas and Mitali were fined Tk 5 lakh each while MSM Tk 3 lakh for not having DoE clearance.

Owners of Titas and MSM have paid the fine, he said.

As per law, there should be no brick kiln within 1.5km of residential areas, educational institutions and hospitals. These establishments had

been operating illegally. To make matters worse, the brick kilns were using topsoil from arable lands and polluting the environment, he added.

There are over 200 illegal brick kilns operating in Dhamrai and Savar -- contributing to the deteriorating air quality in the country, experts say.

According to DoE, brick kilns are the top air polluters, particularly during dry season when most bricks are made, turning the air quality "severely unhealthy". Air quality plummets between November and April when brick kilns operate and there are a lot of particles in the air.

Better China-Bangladesh connectivity a must

Speakers tell joint forum

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As China wants to make major investments in Bangladesh, legal harmonisation and multimodal connectivity between the two friendly nations are imperative, said officials and researchers from China and Bangladesh yesterday.

"China wants legal harmonisation to smoothen the path of investments in Bangladesh. Apart from that, building roads and railway connectivity at the soonest possible time is a need of the day," said Maj Gen ANM Muniruzzaman (ret), president of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS).

He said this while summing up the discussion on the first day of the two-day long 6th Joint Forum for China-Bangladesh Cooperation, organised by BIPSS at Hotel Lake Castle in the capital.

This forum is held annually between China's Yunnan

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

REHABILITATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN

HC seeks govt report on steps taken

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to submit a report on steps taken by the government for rehabilitation of homeless children across the country, within 40 days.

An HC bench gave the order while hearing a petition filed by SC lawyer Md Moniruzzaman, seeking orders for legal action against a perpetrator who set a homeless child on fire in Fakiripool area on Monday. The court also ordered Motijheel police to file a case in this connection.



WANTED

University of Dhaka: Applications in prescribed form obtainable from the office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladesh nationals for filling up 01 (one) permanent post of Professor in the Department of Women & Gender Studies, University of Dhaka in the Pay Scale of Tk. 56,500-74,400/-.

Qualifications: Candidates must be distinguished scholars preferably with a Ph. D or an equivalent degree. They should have at least 12 (twelve) years' teaching and research experience in a Women and Gender Studies in a University or an Institute of Advanced Research. They should have original research works published in recognised research journals. Experience and performance as a teacher as well as significant contribution to different areas of University activities especially in guiding the overall educational and co-curricular activities of the students will also be treated as qualification. In special cases the condition of period of experience may be relaxed. Other qualifications being equal, preference will be given to internal candidates.

Eleven copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, mark-sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 1000/= (one thousand) only, payable to the Registrar, should reach him on or before 16.02.2020. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

GD-2072

WANTED

University of Dhaka: Applications in prescribed form obtainable from the office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up 1 (one) permanent post of Associate Professor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka in the Pay Scale of Tk. 50,000-52,000-54080-56250-58500-60840-63280-65820-68460-71200/- (Pay scale 2015)

Qualifications: Candidates must have high academic qualifications in Women and Gender Studies preferably an M.Phil or a Ph.D. or equivalent degrees. They should have at least 7 (seven) years' teaching and research experience in a University or an Institute of Advanced Research. They should have original research works published in recognized research journals. Experience and performance as a teacher as well as significant contribution to different areas of University activities especially in guiding the overall educational and co-curricular activities of the students will also be treated as qualification.

Eleven copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, mark-sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 1000/- (one thousand) only, payable to the Registrar, should reach him on or before 17-01-2020. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

GD-2071

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়
কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম

নথি নং: এন-৪৪/পরিবহন/২০১৯-২০২০/ তারিখ: ১৮-১২-২০১৯খ্রিঃ

গাড়ি নিলাম বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নোক্ত শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী মোতাবেক "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" সে অবস্থায় ভিত্তিতে কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম-এর নিম্নবর্ণিত ১ (এক)টি স্টাফ বাস বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত আগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

দরপত্রের শর্তসমূহঃ

(ক) আগামী ১২-০১-২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দস্তর হতে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে।

(খ) আগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আগামী ১২-০১-২০২০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অত্রাফিসে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাজে জমা দিতে হবে এবং ঐ দিন বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্রাদাণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

(গ) দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা) (অক্ষরতযোগ্য)।

(ঘ) দরপত্রের সাথে উক্ত মূল্যের ১০% হারে আনুমানিক জামানত হিসাবে (ফেরতযোগ্য) পে-অর্ডার অথবা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট মারফত "উপ কর কমিশনার, সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন), কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম" এর বরাবরে জমা দিতে হবে।

(ঙ) আগ্রহী ক্রেতাগণ সরকারি কর্মদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগ করে নিম্নলিখিত ঠিকানায়ে গাড়িটি পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন।

(চ) যার দরপত্র গৃহীত হবে তাকে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করার ১০ (দশ) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে দরপত্রে উক্ত সম্পূর্ণ মূল্য যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংকের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান করে গাড়িটি গ্রহণ করতে হবে।

(ছ) সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতাকে সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক অগ্রিম আয়কর ও মূল্য সংযোজন কর প্রদান করতে হবে।

(জ) কৃতকার্য দরদাতা গাড়ি নিলামে ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত প্রযোজ্য সকল বিধি বিধান মেনে নিতে বাধ্য থাকবেন।

(ঝ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

গাড়িটির বিবরণঃ

প্রভুত্বকারকের নাম	রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং	তৈরীর সন	ইঞ্জিন নং	সিলিন্ডার সংখ্যা	আসন সংখ্যা	পরিদর্শনের স্থান
অশোক লিলাভ মিনি বাস	চট্টমেট্রো-৯-১১-০০২৫	২০০৩	কেবিএইচ ২২১৩৯৬	০৪ (চার)	৩১ (একত্রিশ)	সরকারি কার্যভবন-১, আত্মাবাদ সংলগ্ন সরকারি গ্যারেজ।

মোঃ ওমর ফারুক
উপ কর কমিশনার, সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন)
কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম
ফোনঃ (০৩১) ৭২৩১১৬

জিডি-২০৭৮

Road accidents in 4 districts take 5 lives

STAR REPORT

In another regrettable day on the roads, five people were killed in separate accidents across four districts in the last two days, report our correspondents. In addition, a man lost his right leg after being a hit by a truck at Joypurhat.

In Netrokona, two people were killed and two others were injured in a road accident at Aamtoli area in Kalmakanda upazila yesterday morning. The deceased were identified as Kaium Bhuiyan (53) and Jalal Munshi (63).

The accident occurred when a Kalmakanda-bound truck collided head-on with a battery-run auto-rickshaw. The collision killed auto-rickshaw driver Kaium and Jalal on the spot. Kalmakanda police told our Mymensingh correspondent, quoting locals.

The injured, both passengers on the auto-rickshaw, were taken to Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex.

Police seized both vehicles but the truck driver managed to flee the scene. A case was lodged with Kalmakanda Police Station in this regard.

Meanwhile in Rajbari, five-year-old Lamya Akter was killed in an accident at Canal Ghat area under Goalanda upazila on Tuesday afternoon.

The accident occurred when a battery-run three-wheeler ran her over while

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

www.jnu.ac.bd

জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ১ম সমাবর্তন-২০২০ এ অংশগ্রহণকারী গ্র্যাজুয়েটদের করণীয়

সর্বপ্রথম সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানাচ্ছি যে, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের মহামান্য রাষ্ট্রপতি ও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের চ্যান্সেলর এর সম্মতিক্রমে আগামী ১১ জানুয়ারি-২০২০ জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ১ম সমাবর্তন-২০২০ অনুষ্ঠিত হতে যাচ্ছে। ১ম সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণকারী গ্র্যাজুয়েটদের নিম্নবর্ণিত তারিখ ও স্থান থেকে ১ম সমাবর্তনের জন্য কসিউম, ব্যাগ, পিফট এবং মূল সনদ সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করছি।

বিষয়	তারিখ	সময়	স্থান
কসিউম, ব্যাগ ও পিফট সংগ্রহ	৭, ৮ ও ৯ জানুয়ারি-২০২০	অফিস চলাকালীন (সকাল ৮:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০টা)	স্ব-স্ব বিভাগ
	১১ জানুয়ারি-২০২০	বিকাল ৩:০০টা থেকে রাত ৮:০০টা	স্ব-স্ব বিভাগ
গ্র্যাজুয়েটদের মূল সনদ প্রদান	১২ জানুয়ারি-২০২০	সকাল ৯:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০টা	(উল্লেখিত তারিখের পরে পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক দপ্তর থেকে মূল সনদ গ্রহণ করা যাবে)
	১৩ জানুয়ারি-২০২০	সকাল ৯:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০টা	

গ্র্যাজুয়েটদের করণীয়ঃ

- ১। সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণকারী গ্র্যাজুয়েটদের জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.jnu.ac.bd/convocation) থেকে ২০/১২/২০১৯ হতে ৩০/১২/২০১৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত 'এন্ট্রিপাস' সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। এন্ট্রিপাসের রঙিন প্রিন্ট নিতে হবে। এন্ট্রিপাসের তিনটি অংশ থাকবে, যা দিয়ে যথাক্রমে কসিউম সংগ্রহ, কনভোকেশন ডেনুতে প্রবেশ এবং মূল সনদ সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। এন্ট্রিপাসটি কেবল একবারই প্রিন্ট করা যাবে। কোন কারণে প্রিন্ট করতে ব্যর্থ হলে বা প্রিন্টকৃত রঙিন এন্ট্রিপাস হারিয়ে গেলে ০২/০১/২০২০ তারিখের মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তরে যোগাযোগ করতে হবে।
- ২। এন্ট্রিপাস প্রিন্ট করার জন্য www.jnu.ac.bd/convocation সাইটে প্রবেশ করে মেসেজের মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্ত টোকেন নম্বর এন্ট্রি করে Search বাটনে ক্লিক করলে এন্ট্রিপাস 'ডাউনলোড/প্রিন্ট' অপশন পাওয়া যাবে। এন্ট্রিপাস প্রিন্ট (রঙিন) করে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।
- ৩। জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ১ম সমাবর্তন-২০২০ এ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশনকৃতদের মধ্যে যারা ইতোমধ্যে মূল সনদ উত্তোলন করেছেন তারা দ্বিতীয়বার মূল সনদ পাবেন না। তাদের ডালিকা পরবর্তীতে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশ করা হবে।
- ৪। ১ম সমাবর্তন-২০২০ এ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশনকৃত গ্র্যাজুয়েটগণ উপরে উল্লেখিত তারিখ এবং সময়ের মধ্যে স্ব-স্ব বিভাগ হতে মূল সনদ গ্রহণ করবেন। নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পরে গ্র্যাজুয়েটগণ পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক দপ্তর হতে সনদপত্র গ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।

উপাচার্য মহোদয়ের অনুমোদনক্রমে,
(স্বাক্ষর)
প্রকৌশলী মোঃ ওহিদুজ্জামান
রেজিস্ট্রার

জিডি-২০৮১

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 19, 2019, POUH 4, 1426 BS

Ethical recruitment of migrant workers is the answer

Migrant workers continue to be exploited and victimised

THE commemoration of International Migration Day yesterday, December 18, has brought to the fore many pressing issues related to migration which has become more and more widespread than ever before. Migration is a product of globalisation and is a manifestation of the interconnectedness of the countries of the world in general. Thus problems related to migration are multifaceted and complex requiring sincere cooperation and partnerships. For Bangladesh particularly, the problems faced by migrant workers have become acute and require immediate attention.

According to reports, Bangladesh has not been able to practice ethical recruitment and has rather failed to stop the exploitation of workers seeking overseas employment by recruitment agencies. Where there should be a zero migration cost policy, in reality we have a situation where Bangladeshis pay exorbitant amounts of money just to secure a working visa to a foreign country. Bangladeshis pay many times the amount for an overseas employment compared to their counterparts from the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. This is because of the presence of illegal brokers dominating the sector with impunity. The consequence of uncontrolled activities of the manpower syndicates is already having a detrimental effect with countries reducing or even refusing altogether, Bangladeshi migrant workers. This is an ominous sign for Bangladesh which is heavily dependent on foreign remittance.

Apart from the high cost of recruitment, migrant workers become victims of fraud, bonded labour, sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation. The high number of cases of abuse of Bangladeshi women migrant workers in Saudi Arabia indicates the helplessness of these workers when they go abroad.

Obviously things cannot go on this way. The government must take stringent measures to stop illegal manpower brokers from operating, make sure that all migrant workers go abroad through legal channels, reduce the cost of recruitment (with a goal to eliminate the cost altogether in the future), facilitate training of migrant workers so they have better skills hence better jobs, and also negotiate with the recruiting countries so that the rights of the migrant workers are protected. In this regard our foreign missions must be more proactive and better equipped to help migrant workers when they are in distress. Ethical recruitment is the only way to ensure that our workers can reap the benefits of their hard earned labour which ultimately benefits the country.

Expedite the process of Aman procurement

Pay farmers the due price

THE slow pace of Aman procurement by the government this year is worrisome. Reportedly, although the government had promised to procure Aman directly from the marginal farmers, the state-sponsored procurement programme could not start on time because of the Department of Agriculture Extension's (DAE) delay in preparing the list. As a result, the Regional Food Controller's Office in Rangpur could procure only 3,865 tonnes of paddy until December 9 against the government set target of 126,883 tonnes in this harvesting season. If the government fails to expedite the pace of procurement it will be really difficult to achieve the target.

Moreover, the slow pace of procurement will have a disastrous impact on the price of paddy. Already paddy price in the local market is very low—Tk 16 per kilogramme. This is very unfortunate because the Ministry of Food announced to procure paddy at a price of Tk 26 per kilogramme this season. Needless to say, the farmers could have gotten better price if the government started procuring paddy earlier. Also, the lottery system through which the government selects the farmers to buy paddy from does not seem like a well-thought-out decision.

What is more, the government's failure to procure paddy timely will make it easy for the middlemen to come in and buy from farmers at a much lower price. This is what happens every year: even after getting a good yield, and despite the demand, the farmers are deprived of the fair price of their produce.

Under the circumstances, the government should expedite paddy procurement process. Since the list of the farmers has already been made, it should not take much time to buy from them now. At the same time, the government must also ensure that the farmers get the government-fixed price for their produce.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Polythene use still rampant

Although the government has banned the production, distribution and sale of polythene many years ago, unfortunately the market for it is still widespread. As polythene is a non-biodegradable substance, it poses a great threat when it comes to the disposal of plastic waste. Apart from clogging canals and drainage systems, it has many more negative effects.

The concerned authorities should raise more awareness about the dangers of polythene use to our environment and at the same time they must clamp down on the factories producing it. Instead of using this hazardous material, we can opt for jute polymer, which is better than polythene in every possible manner. It is biodegradable, water and air resistant, and more durable. Though the production cost of jute polymer is higher large-scale production will help bring down the cost. In fact, the price that we pay for using polythene is far more threatening.

Jakir Mahmud, Bangladesh Agricultural University

As India teeters on the brink, can it revive its pluralistic tradition?



A CLOSER LOOK

TASNEEM TAYEB

WHILE witnessing chaos unfolding in India over the newly passed Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), I could not help but think about Amartya Sen's bestseller *The Argumentative Indian*, a book that invokes the rich Indian tradition of scepticism and heterodoxy, and discusses how this has facilitated the flourishing of the world's largest democracy.

The contentious new law essentially bars Muslim migrants from gaining Indian citizenship while fast-tracking Indian citizenship for people of other religious groups, and has been rightfully slammed by the United Nations Human Rights Office as "fundamentally discriminatory in nature".

When I first read the book in the last leg of the last decade, I—a younger me, an optimistic me—was captivated by the sanguinity of the writer and believed that the rich argumentative tradition of India could sustain its democracy—that heterodoxy (deviation from orthodox standards) and heteroglossia (presence of multiple viewpoints in texts or artistic creations) would always be the safeguards of the invincible Indian democracy.

But today I wonder if, in my youthful optimism and rose-tinted glasses, I was blind to the other India, heading down an altogether different path—a divisive path that essentially marginalises religious minorities and dents a blow to the secular spirit of its constitution.

Amartya Sen in his book had been full of hope, citing how the tradition of scepticism and argument is inherent in the very way India has evolved as a democracy: deliberations and conversations have been an essential part of the oldest texts in Sanskrit—the *Vedas* and the two great Indian epics: *The Ramayana* and *The Mahabharata*. And these discussions have dealt with ideas ranging from philosophy

to theology to politics.

The Indian tendency to promote heterodoxy and dialogue has also been greatly facilitated by Buddhist and Muslim rulers, especially Ashoka and Akbar, with their secular views about religion and pluralistic practices, including debates on religion itself. Akbar went one step ahead, and at a time when the west was embroiled in the Inquisition turmoil, he preached the *Din-i Ilahi* or Divine Faith—a syncretic religious approach that embraced people of all religious beliefs and allowed them to co-exist and prosper together.

But the India today looks very different from the India of Ashoka or Akbar. The India today is being ruled by Hindu nationalist forces, who the people have mandated to power fully aware

In the rest of the country, people are protesting the undemocratic nature of the act. Seen in the context of the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir—the country's only state with a Muslim-majority population—earlier this year, and the NRC that was exercised in Assam, and then the Ayodhya verdict, the CAA falls into a pattern set in motion by the BJP after their recent election victory—a pattern that is prejudiced in nature and that goes against the secularism enshrined in the Indian constitution.

Watching reports of protests and violence in Guwahati and New Delhi on *Al Jazeera*, one cannot help but wonder what has happened to Sen's Argumentative Indians—did they also give in to the Modi government's agenda of establishing

justifiable, one must ask: was the reason behind these protests just? Perhaps.

Amartya Sen suggested in *The Argumentative Indian* that civic discourse and public debates are as essential for a democracy as balloting. This is what India now needs. And the act is being contested in the court. But with sporadic protests erupting across the country, the situation in India is still somewhat fluid.

Ideally the focus now should be on constructive civil dialogue. And the Indians must make sure that no disruptive elements can create chaos in the name of civilian protests. The people must maintain the peaceful means of protests, in line with the tradition of the Mahatma's *Satyagraha* and nonviolence resistance, because it is only through peaceful



Supporters and activists of Trinamool Congress participate in a mass rally to protest against the Indian government's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), in Kolkata on December 16, 2019.

PHOTO: DIBYANGSHU SARKAR/ AFP/ GETTY IMAGES

The India today is on the brink of losing its secular character, its pluralistic practices. The CAA is just another sad artefact of the erosion. The divisive nature of the act has put the country into a dangerous path towards disenfranchisement of its 200 million Muslim population.

of their agenda. The India today is on the brink of losing its secular character, its pluralistic practices. The CAA is just another sad artefact of the erosion. The divisive nature of the act has put the country into a dangerous path towards disenfranchisement of its 200 million Muslim population, and that too at a time when Islamophobia is on the rise across the world.

And this has led to mass protests—protests that have been triggered by two fears: in Northeast India that has experienced fierce protests leading to the death of six people, the people's concern is the potential massive influx of migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh that might dilute the ethnic character of the region, especially in the face of the possibility of the absorption of the Hindu population left out in the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Hindu nationalism in the country? Are the fundamental ideologies that the Indian democracy was based upon changing shape?

Or is there a flicker of light at the end of the apparently dark tunnel? The local governments of five Indian states, including West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala have publicly said that they will not implement the CAA. The chief minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, has herself joined the demonstrations against the new law.

The protests that have erupted in India are unlike the popular protests in Hong Kong, Lebanon or Iraq, because these protests are not against the malpractices of undemocratic or failed governments. These are essentially against a flawed action of a democratically elected government. And while the violence unleashed by these protests are in no way condonable or

demonstrations and civic dialogues that the Indian democracy might survive this onslaught.

The Indian democracy in the past had seen intermittent episodes that threatened to undermine its pluralistic and secular nature. But the question remains, in the face of the current challenges, can the Argumentative Indian demonstrate the maturity that is needed to engage in public discourse? Can the Argumentative Indian resolve this chaos though heterodoxy? Or is the fundamental nature of the Indian democracy changing, and if so, how is it going to take shape in the days and months and years to come? Can the Indian tradition of secularism and plurality survive this new wave of right-wing nationalism?

Tasneem Tayeb works for *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is: @TayebTasneem

Disability-inclusive development: Our path to prosperity



SUDARSHAN NEUPANE

THE World Bank has recently launched the Bangladesh Poverty Assessment 2019 report that highlights remarkable progress the country has made in terms of reducing poverty and combating extreme poverty. One of the stirring statistical transformations is on the graduation of nearly 25 million poor people out of poverty in the last 20 years and Bangladesh is being considered as the new "Asian Tiger" with its sophisticated economy. It is uncontested that Bangladesh is signifying a "role model" to developing countries that it is possible to reduce rampant poverty by developing policies and strategies catering to the needs of the population.

However, another striking reality is that about 40 million people are still living in poverty, half of them in extreme poverty. The recent trend shows slowing pace of poverty reduction in the hard-to-reach areas, particularly the extreme poor residing in Rangpur and Dhaka divisions. This is a stark reminder that the poverty fight still remains while Bangladesh embarks on a high-spirited development trajectory. This presents us with the pressing development challenge—"unequal development". Starting from intensifying inequality to sluggish economic growth, from unemployment to disaster vulnerability, these challenges not only make it difficult to reduce extreme poverty but threaten to reverse the gains. Now is the right time for Bangladesh to intensify analysis who are the "hardest to reach groups" living in extreme poverty.

Poverty and disability
According to the World Bank, 20 percent

of the world's poorest people have disability. Past studies have shown a strong link between poverty and disability. Several years after ratification of the United Nations Conventions on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), people with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty. This compelling fact masks other important differences in the poverty rate among women, people living in extreme poverty, people with lower education and those affected by complex disasters—who face additional economic challenges. People with disabilities have less access to education, skill development and are more often prevented from participating in economic life. They face discrimination while seeking employment and are engaged in the most hazardous jobs, i.e. mining, construction and manufacturing that might trigger disabling consequences.

In Bangladesh statistics vary, but 2010 data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (HIES survey) gives a 9.07 percent prevalence rate. Social exclusion is widening here due to negative attitudes, prejudices and discrimination against disability. People with disabilities have remained passive recipients and scarcely benefit from health, educational and employment schemes of government. Another 2011 World Bank study conducted in 15 developing countries including Bangladesh showed disability prevalence at 23 percent among women, compared to 10 percent among men, which gives a gender gap of 13 percent points. Looking at all the dimensions of economic wellbeing: education, employment, assets/living conditions, household expenditures, one can see that the same research shows that disabled persons are significantly worse off in two or more dimensions due to additional expenses. The poverty rate is highly correlated with lower educational attainment and lower employment rates among people with

and without disabilities.

Bangladesh's context

After ratification of the UNCRPD in May 2007, Bangladesh has made notable progress in the disability sector. The Disability Rights and Protection Act and Neurodevelopmental Disability Protection Trust Act -2013 fully recognise the principles of the convention, and widened the definition of persons with disabilities, recognising the intersectionality within disability, eliminating derogatory practices and attitudes. Consequently, the 7th Five Year National Plan and other sectorial policies for Education, Skill Development have some provision on disability. Besides, Bangladesh is highly committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, thus reduction of poverty, acceleration of socio-economic development and building of accessible infrastructure have been the government's priority.

Despite these positive commitments, rampant poverty exists among people with disabilities in both rural and urban areas of Bangladesh. The most economically backward population such as disabled people living in marginalised areas, disabled women and people with profound disabilities lack proper education, employment and other essential services. There is strong mayhem in the implementation of disability policies and countless people with disabilities and their families are caught in endless poverty cycle.

Possible step forward

As poverty and disability contribute to limiting the capabilities of the poor people, there is a need for targeted and mainstream social development policies/programmes to dismantle this nexus and break the vicious cycle of poverty. Bangladesh government and its development partners need to play a vital role in undertaking advance studies

for creating economic opportunities, providing financial and business literacy and specific support for economic empowerment, improving skills and vocational training and guaranteed employment in private and public jobs for persons with disabilities. The emphasis should also be laid on quality inclusive education, development of professional skills that enable both women and men with disabilities to pursue career, ensure loss of economic burden for the country and create a roadmap to economic freedom.

Ministry of Social Welfare is working tirelessly to build better future for people with disabilities in Bangladesh, but nothing great can be achieved in silos. The disability allowances and social protection packages need revision for allowing disabled persons to pursue economic opportunities.

Local administrations are central for improving the situation of people with disabilities. Thus, we need to build capacities of Wards, Union Parishads and Upzilas to promote disability-inclusive development. For that, effective collaboration with local disability groups and disabled people's organisations (DPOs) is the necessary first step.

The government and relevant stakeholders therefore, must work together for ensuring disability inclusive development through active participation of people with disabilities/DPOs in all relevant discussions and planning processes. As Professor Stephen Hawking rightly said, "disability need not be an obstacle to success." If the government and its development partners are dedicated to removing barriers that people with disabilities face, it will be a turning point for inclusive and economically prosperous Bangladesh.

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Should we be wary of Ethiopia?



RMG NOTES
THERE is much talk of Ethiopia as the next "go to" apparel sourcing location right now, but how much is hearsay and how much should the Bangladesh Ready-Made Garment (RMG) industry fear this new rival needs scrutiny.

The international apparel community is flooded with talk of the growing prowess of Ethiopia as the "new kid" on the apparel sourcing block. But what is the reality of the situation and what can the Bangladesh RMG industry learn from and, indeed, do about this new challenger to the sector, are questions we must consider.

The efforts of the Ethiopian government to promote the nation's apparel industry cannot be denied. They have invested in a range of economic incentives including the construction of freshly built industrial parks for garment manufacturing, with the explicit goal of positioning Ethiopia as one of the world's top exporters of textile and garments.

These efforts have been rewarded, with the East African country opening its doors over the past years to a range of international apparel brands including H&M, Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger, allowing access to factories for production of low-cost garments in the aforementioned industrial parks.

This enviable uptake from leading brands has led the country's authorities to predict that they can boost their clothing exports to a total of USD 30 billion a year from its current USD 145 million.

However, "all that glistens is not gold" as the old saying goes and, as a recent report from May 2019, "Made in Ethiopia: Challenges in the Garment Industry's New Frontier" by the New York University Stern Centre for Business and Human Rights explains, "For all of its potential, the apparel industry in Ethiopia has already encountered difficulties. The government's eagerness to attract foreign investment led it to promote the lowest base wage in any garment-producing country—now set at the equivalent of USD 26 a month."

Therein, I feel, lies the crux of the matter: has the recent upsurge in interest in Ethiopia as a sourcing hub been driven purely by workers' salaries? If so, surely this flies in

the face of the principles the Bangladesh RMG industry are trying to establish for a sustainable apparel industry and is, surely, not a path that we can dare follow or challenge!

Admittedly, the upturn in Ethiopia's apparel producing fortunes should be applauded as it has offered an abundance of opportunities to the 105 million populace of the land-locked nation that has been wrecked by much publicised civil war, famines and droughts over the last 40 years.

In many respects, the emergence of the Ethiopian apparel industry bears similarities to the nascent Bangladesh RMG industry some 40 years ago and this, I feel, is what we need to bear in mind when considering Ethiopia as so called "competition".

Since its inception in the 1980's, the Bangladesh RMG industry has seen significant growth and is now established as the second largest supplier of apparel globally. We have trodden a long path to attain this status; this is a road that countries like Ethiopia are just starting along and, in that respect, I question whether any parallels should be drawn between the two.

Yes, we are both apparel producing hubs and, yes, we have lower wage strata than other parts of the world but there I feel all similarities end. As should the ongoing rhetoric about the threat that Ethiopia poses to the RMG industry of the nation.

First, and foremost, amongst all of the factors for us to consider are the advances that our country has made in producing ethical, sustainable, environmentally sound apparel products. In reaching this the industry has had to go through a steep learning curve. We must not ignore the investments that have been made in the sector over recent years, the rise in wages and the increase in the cost of raw materials and services (gas and electricity).

We have now reached a stage where we no longer have to chase the "bottom dollar" on product as the viability of that approach is not sustainable in the long term and the industry should be gearing up to produce product with integrity.

Chasing the "race to the bottom" is a race that Bangladesh will lose, so let us in the RMG industry be bold enough to not don our running shoes, and instead choose another discipline to participate.

To my mind, the rising interest in Ethiopia from brands and retailers should summon a



The low labour cost in the Ethiopian apparel sector can lead to disenchanted workers not performing effectively.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TIKSA NEGERTI

sea-change in attitude which the Bangladesh apparel industry should embrace. The western world, which constitutes the biggest apparel export market for Bangladesh is moving away from the "race to the bottom" model which Ethiopia is currently pursuing. Indeed, Bangladesh itself has been trying to move away from such a model, which many believe is losing relevance in a world where sourcing hubs are under such great scrutiny, particularly regarding workers' rights, safety and well-being.

To put it another way, a garment sourcing destination can no longer compete simply by telling brands and retailers that it has extremely cheap labour. There has to be more depth in what is being offered, whether it be product integrity, sustainability, environmental credentials, great logistics or brilliant infrastructure.

It is these factors that we in the Bangladesh RMG industry should be promoting to our customers and we should not be fixating on workers' salaries and, indeed, should be moving away from the mass volume commodity apparel items that we have previously been renowned for producing. There is nothing wrong with walking away from a fight that we cannot win—rather we risk damaging the long-term welfare of the sector if we do try and

compete at the base level.

The next pieces in the jigsaw to consider are the actual level of success achieved by the Ethiopian apparel industry and the actual size of the threat that it poses to the Bangladesh RMG sector.

The New York University's report highlights four important factors that we should consider when regarding Ethiopia as a contender on the apparel manufacturing circuit.

The first are the most recent figures showing that Ethiopia's garment exports are worth around USD 145 million, some considerable way short of the estimated USD 30 billion being touted by government figures. It has taken the country several years of extremely hard promotion of its textile industry to reach such a figure and there have been plenty of ups and downs along the way. Figures for garment exports have consistently fallen way short of government forecasts over the past five years.

The second is, ironically, the low labour cost in the Ethiopian apparel sector. Despite the fact that these may have appealed to certain buyers, the reality is somewhat different, with disenchanted workers not performing effectively and with alarmingly low levels of efficiency. As the report states, "Rather than the compliant, cheap workforce

they may have assumed they would hire in Ethiopia, the foreign-based suppliers have encountered employees who are unhappy with their compensation and living conditions and increasingly willing to protest by stopping work or even quitting."

Let me be clear here: Bangladesh is by no means perfect on these issues and we all know workers in the RMG sector of our country should be paid more. But if, we are making a comparison with Ethiopia, there simply is none. Wages here, and associated job opportunities and career progression, are now that much greater. Bangladesh has progressed, slowly but surely on these issues despite significant teething issues along the way.

The third factor concerns raw materials, almost all of which, at the current time, need to be imported into Ethiopia. The government promoted the availability of more than three million acres for cotton cultivation, whereas only 148,000 acres are being used as local farmers switch to sugar, sesame, and other crops with a higher cash yield. As a consequence, local manufacturers still have to import nearly everything they need to make finished apparel.

The final factor concerns bureaucratic red tape, which was supposed to be untangled at the manufacturing parks in the country but still remains very much in evidence based on the most up-to-date reports, which also suggest exporters aren't allowed to consolidate smaller orders into one shipping container, resulting in the shipment of partially full containers and a rise in transport costs. In short, getting shipments in and out of Ethiopia is not a straightforward task.

Again, while Bangladesh might not have got everything right, its logistics, including ports and associated infrastructure are exemplary, while much has been done to reduce burdensome red tape in recent years. We are all, in Bangladesh, on the same page when it comes to such issues.

With all of this considered I question the threat that the Ethiopian apparel industry poses to the Bangladesh RMG sector. If we ignore the like-for-like wage comparisons and the urge to chase volume of commodity apparel products, we can continue to develop the industry in a sustainable, responsible manner for the years to come.

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

COP25: Another round of active inaction

MIZAN R KHAN

THE UN's longest-ever climate negotiations, continuing non-stop for almost two extra days, drew to a close on December 15 with not much to celebrate. Nations on both sides—developed and developing—held hardline positions resulting in utter disappointment, so expressed grudgingly by the UN Secretary General himself. Countries failed to agree on many of the sought-after outcomes, including rules to set up a global carbon market, steps to mobilise dedicated funding for loss and damage (L&D) and mobilisation of long term finance (LTF) for the most vulnerable.

First, there is the most vital issue of ambition to reduce emissions in order to live in a world well below 20C above the pre-industrial level, which saw no real move ahead. Countries were divided on focusing either on the pre-2020 or a post-2020 ambition. Developed countries stressed on enhanced post-2020 emissions pledges in the new nationally determined contributions of parties. While major developing country emitters like Brazil, China and India opposed any obligation to submit enhanced pledges, arguing that the focus should be on meeting first the pre-2020 pledges made by developed countries earlier. The former also made it clear they would not support strong language on raising ambition without a similar call for rich countries to provide adequate support, long promised to developing countries.

Against this bleak backdrop, about 80 countries have already signaled plans to enhance their climate pledges next year. Even as the talks fell into disarray, the EU agreed to a "climate neutral" target for 2050, joining 73 countries who have signed up to a similar goal. With the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement (PA) still underway and without progressive ambition, as agreed under the PA by all including the major emitters from



Chile's Minister of Environment and COP25 president Carolina Schmidt talks to Brazilian Secretary for National Sovereignty and Citizenship Fabio Mendes Marzano during the closing session of the UN COP25 climate conference in Madrid on December 15.

PHOTO: OSCAR DEL POZO/APP VIA GETTY IMAGES

both sides of the aisle, the world is likely to experience at least an additional 30C of warming in the coming decades.

Second point is about the global carbon market stipulated under the PA. COP24 in Katowice last year could reach agreement on a rulebook for implementation of all issues except on Article 6 of the PA, which provides for creating a carbon market, among others. So, fixing its rules was the main remaining part of the Paris Rulebook, the nitty-gritty details of how such a market will operate. Here again, irreconcilable differences swayed any progress. Countries like Australia, Brazil, China and India insisted for a system allowing the carryover of Kyoto-era carbon credits as contribution to their mitigation pledges post-2020. However, other countries argued this would undermine the entire

market system. As tensions peaked, a group of 31 countries led by Costa Rica signed up to the "San Jose principles", a set of standards for ensuring the integrity of the global carbon market. Another issue of rancor was related to what share of proceeds from emissions trading will be forwarded to the Adaptation Fund. Countries have not settled on how much, with options for two percent of proceeds (generally supported by developed countries), or five percent (supported by developing countries).

The real fight lay in whether a similar "share of proceeds" for adaptation should be set up for bilateral trading under PA Article 6.2. Not applying a similar levy could mean bilateral trading will enjoy preference over the global carbon market under Article 6.4, reducing in turn the

money that will go to Adaptation Fund. Third, the L&D agenda under the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) could not progress much except for the establishment of the Santiago Network. The main agenda on this issue was to review the WIM Terms of Reference, which emphasised the mobilisation of dedicated resources for L&D. Another technical but important argument was whether the WIM should be put under the PA or the general Conference of Parties (COP). The US pushed strongly to keep it under the PA, as it will continue to belong to the COP, although several country groups made it clear that the WIM should be governed jointly by the COP and the PA. In terms of any money for L&D, there has been no progress made. The developed countries led by the US vehemently opposed it.

Fourth, there was no positive outcome on long term finance (LTF), another perennial crunch issue. The promised new climate finance goal to be met by 2025 under the PA has to be higher than the pledged USD 100 billion a year by 2020. Further push back from rich countries on commitments to provide LTF to the most vulnerable symbolised the intractable tension between the needs of developing countries to address climate change and the opposition of a few major economies. Actually, the issue that continues to mar the mutual trust is the persistent opposition for the last two decades by many developed countries that hinders agreement on a definition for climate finance. This could plug the loopholes of double/triple counting of the same money, or the repackaging of development assistance as climate finance. Continued lack of such an agreed understanding results in a Himalayan gulf between the claimed delivery and actual receipts in developing countries.

In the end, there is little gain in few non-political issues such as the approval of a new

Gender Action Plan and a work plan for the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. Indigenous and human rights groups have long sought for new mechanisms to ensure that supported projects do no harm to local communities. There was no strong commitment on this either. Their demand for setting up an independent grievance/redress mechanism fell on empty ears.

The way forward

Months before and throughout the talks, youth activists led by Greta Thunberg highlighted the disconnect between the negotiations and the demands of science, and the affected communities the world over. Unlike Paris, the activism resulted in a lackluster impact. Hope the youth activists will consider the lessons learned this year.

One silver lining is that under the new Green Deal for Europe, the EU Commission plans to enhance the bloc's 2030 target to at least 55 percent reduction. All member states but Poland also committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The UK is one of several European countries which supported the "San Jose principles" and being a member of the high ambition coalition pushed hard for a clear call for enhanced climate plans in 2020. With so little agreed at COP25, the stakes are much higher for the Glasgow talks next year.

Let me end by referring to a recent statement of Dr Saleemul, who has attended all the 25 COPs since 1995—unless Glasgow promises to turn into an "Action COP", he may consider not joining any more. Let us only hope that under leadership of the progressive UK, COP26 goes beyond the process of "active inaction", unlike some of the COPs in the past.

Mizan R Khan is Deputy Director, International Centre for Climate Change & Development (ICCCAD) & Program Director, LDC Universities' Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC).

QUOTABLE Quote

ALBERT CAMUS
(1913-1960)
French novelist, essayist, and playwright.

Fiction is the lie through which we tell the truth.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Aladdin's find
- 5 Singer Mc Lachlan
- 10 Concerning
- 12 Fill with joy
- 13 Old copying aid
- 15 Snaky shape
- 16 Got together
- 17 Woolen cap
- 18 Playground sight
- 20 Finish last
- 21 Bed boards
- 22 God of war
- 23 Heavy drinker
- 25 Paul Bunyan's ox
- 28 Black cattle breed

DOWN

- 1 Oxford features
- 2 Lower
- 3 Tasty bit
- 4 Place for a pint
- 5 Fall mo.
- 6 In the manner of
- 7 "Jurassic Park" creature
- 8 Comfortable
- 9 Messenger god
- 11 Soup choice
- 14 Kiosk buy
- 19 Fills completely
- 20 Slow tempo
- 24 Mesmerized
- 25 Voter's page
- 26 Individually
- 27 Improved
- 29 Perfect place
- 30 Most tender
- 33 Compass point
- 35 Signing needs
- 38 Brown shade
- 39 Piercing tool

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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

P	I	T	H	C	H	A	I	R	
A	C	H	E	L	A	N	D	E	D
L	E	I	A	O	R	N	A	T	E
M	U	N	D	A	N	E	H	I	P
S	P	E	C	I	E	S	O	N	E
S	H	A	L	E	B	O	N	E	D
H	E	L	D	C	E	L	L		
A	L	A	C	H	E	D	D	A	R
V	I	M	A	I	R	F	A	R	E
E	X	O	T	I	C	E	L	I	S
R	E	D	I	N	K	E	A	S	T
S	E	X	E	S	T	I	E	S	

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker

BABY BLUES by Kirkman & Scott

NEWS IN brief

Muslim leaders gather in Malaysia for summit

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Leaders and senior representatives from some 20 Muslim nations flocked to the Malaysian capital yesterday to discuss issues agitating Muslims globally at a summit. Saudi Arabia decided to snub, and Pakistan ducked out of attending. No agenda for the Kuala Lumpur Summit has been released, but it could address age-old disputes in Kashmir and the Middle East, the conflicts in Syria and Yemen, the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority, and mounting outrage over China's camps for Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang.

US Congress okays space force

AFP, Washington

The US Senate approved a massive defense spending bill on Tuesday, sending Donald Trump a \$738 billion package that creates a new space force, fulfilling a presidential priority, and seeks to curb Russia's sprawling energy ambitions. The National Defense Authorization Act, which passed 86 to eight, marks a jump from the \$716 billion in funding authorized last year. It will go to fund a wide range of military activities.

Boko Haram jihadists kill 14 in Chad

AFP, N'djamena

Fourteen people were killed and 13 were missing after Boko Haram jihadists attacked a fishing village in western Chad on Tuesday, government officials said. "There were 14 dead, five wounded and 13 missing in the attack" near the village of Kaiga on the shores of Lake Chad, Imouya Souabebe, the prefect of the region, said. Kaiga lies in marshland in a remote region where the borders of four countries meet.



Demonstrators wave the national flag of India and shout slogans during a protest against a new citizenship law, on the outskirts of Mumbai, India yesterday. Inset, Students and supporters hold placards as they protest outside Jamia Millia Islamia university against the law in New Delhi.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP



UK risks more in post-Brexit talks

Warns EU chief Ursula von der

AFP, Strasbourg

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen yesterday warned that failing to rapidly negotiate a new trade deal after Brexit would hurt Britain more than it would the EU.

"The timetable ahead of us is extremely challenging," she told the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

"In case we cannot conclude an agreement by the end of 2020, we will face again a cliff edge. This would clearly harm our interests but it will impact more the UK than us."

Euro-sceptic British MEPs laughed at the warning, but it reflects a pessimistic mood among Brussels officials.

"Time is limited and it won't be possible to do everything, but we'll do everything we can. We can't do it all but we will give it our all," EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said.

"After the transition period we'll have to continue to work with the British and to negotiate," he said.

Britain is due to leave the European Union on January 31, but will remain in a transitional arrangement until the end of the year while negotiators debate future trade ties.

Under the withdrawal agreement which Prime Minister Boris Johnson has agreed with Europe but not yet pushed through parliament, the UK could ask for a one or two year extension.

But Johnson, who last week won a comfortable majority in the UK general election, insists he will not ask for more time and is preparing legislation to forbid such a move.

In this case, negotiators will only have 11 months to conclude a trade agreement, a task that officials on both sides have warned is extremely ambitious.

'Your job is to douse fire'

Mamata lashes out at Amit Shah during third protest march against amended citizenship law

PTI, Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday lashed out at Union home minister Amit Shah for bringing in the amended citizenship law, which she termed "divisive", and said he must douse the fire caused by the legislation.

The TMC supremo said if Aadhaar is not a proof of citizenship as per the home minister, then why was it linked to welfare schemes and the banking system.

"I urge Amit Shah to ensure that the country does not burn. Your job is to douse the fire," she said after leading the third protest march against the amended citizenship law from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade in Kolkata.

The chief minister also appealed to Shah to take care of the country and "control" BJP cadres.

In a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' slogan, she said the BJP government has brought disaster for everyone in the country.

"They want to turn the entire country into a detention centre. But we will not let that happen," she said, reiterating that she won't allow the implementation of the citizenship

law and the NRC in West Bengal.

The Chief Minister has already stopped work on the National Population Register - considered the first step before rolling out the citizens' list across the country that's meant to weed out illegal migrants. Mamata is one of the three Chief Ministers who have refused to implement the citizenship law - meant to expedite citizenship for non-Muslims from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who moved to India till 2014 after facing religious persecution.

The other two are Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan and Punjab's Amarinder Singh.

Meanwhile, one of India's top Muslim cleric yesterday appealed for restraint while exercising the democratic right to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Syed Ahmed Bukhari, the Shahi Imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid, stressed that the CAA "has nothing to do with Muslims living in India," according to a video posted by Indian news agency ANI.

Imam Ahmed Bukhari's appeal for restraint came after violence at Delhi's Jamia Millia University on Sunday and arson and pitched battles between protesters and Delhi Police at Seelampur in east Delhi.

BJP wants to turn the country into a detention centre: Mamata

Citizenship law won't affect Muslims: Jama Masjid Shahi Imam



Pak govt to save Musharraf in court on appeal: AG

Says ex-president was not given fair trial

DAWN ONLINE

Terming the high treason trial against former military ruler Pervez Musharraf "unfair", the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government on Tuesday decided to defend the self-exiled, ailing ex-president during the hearing of an appeal to be filed on his behalf.

"I will defend the law in the case but not any individual," said Attorney General Anwar Mansoor in the late-night joint press conference that he addressed along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan.

He said former president Musharraf had not been given the right of fair trial during the case tried in a special court and the judgement was announced in absentia without recording statement of the accused.

The attorney general said the verdict raised questions about "urgency in pronouncing the judgement when Musharraf was in critical condition in ICU"

in Dubai.

"Musharraf was not given a chance to record his statement under Article 342 (of the Constitution), to present his testimony and witnesses and his request to record his statement through video link or before a commission was turned down by the judge," he added.

"There is no question that a person who had committed treason must be punished but in this case the right of fair trial guaranteed under the Constitution was not ensured. A trial should not just be fair but also seen to be fair," he insisted.

The attorney general argued before the media that one of the major flaws in the case was that those who might have assisted

Gen Musharraf in enforcing emergency in the country "had not been made party" in the case. He said if Gen Musharraf had been given a chance to record his statement and present his witnesses, he might have come up with "logical" reasons in support of emergency he had proclaimed in 2007.



US IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS WHO'S IN THE CLUB NO ONE WANTS TO JOIN

Before Donald Trump, three other US presidents faced impeachment proceedings. None were ousted by impeachment, although Richard Nixon resigned rather than be impeached.

1868: JOHNSON SURVIVES BY ONE VOTE

Democrat President Andrew Johnson's push for reconstruction after the American Civil War, including by reintegrating the southern States into the Union, put him in conflict with the Congress. Congress vetoed all his legislation including the "Black Codes" - racist laws voted by representatives from the South. In the impasse, Johnson fired his secretary of war, prompting Congress to launch impeachment proceedings - the first in US history. On February 24, 1868, the House of Representatives voted 11 articles of impeachment, notably over his attempt to replace an office holder appointed by the Senate. But after a weeks-long trial, the Senate in May fell one vote short of the two-thirds majority required for a conviction.

1974: NIXON RESIGNS BEFORE IMPEACHMENT

During Republican President Richard Nixon's 1972 campaign for re-election, burglars were sent to bug the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate building in Washington. The operation was bungled and the burglars were caught, the scandal being revealed in investigative reporting by the Washington Post newspaper. Nixon attempted to cover-up his involvement. But on July 24, 1974 the US Supreme Court ordered him to hand over clandestine recordings of his private Oval Office conversations which provided the proof that he and his top advisors had engaged in an elaborate cover-up of the crime. On July 30, the House Judiciary Committee approved three impeachment articles: obstruction of justice, abuse of power and attempt to impede the impeachment process by defying committee subpoenas for evidence. Before the articles could be considered by the House of Representatives, which would have almost certainly voted for his ouster, Nixon quit on August 9.



1999: CLINTON ACQUITTED

In 1998, Democratic President Bill Clinton denied under oath a sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky, a former White House intern nearly half his age. Lewinsky at first also denied any improper relationship but later admitted to an affair, as Clinton eventually did. It led to calls for his impeachment for lying under oath and trying to cover up the affair. On December 12-13, 1998, the House Judiciary Committee - voting almost exclusively along party lines - approved four articles of impeachment. On December 19, the House of Representatives voted for impeachment on just two articles: perjury before a grand jury and obstruction of justice. But at the Senate vote on February 12, 1999, the 45 Democratic senators stayed united against the 55 Republicans to block a two-thirds vote for conviction. Clinton remained in office until the end of his term in 2001.

SOURCE: AFP



China's President Xi Jinping greets children waving the flags of China and Macau upon his arrival at Macau's international airport in Macau yesterday, ahead of celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the handover from Portugal to China. PHOTO: AFP

Australia bakes on hottest day

Continent hit by two separate climate driving events; thick smoke and intense heat trigger health warnings

AFP, Sydney

Australia this week experienced its hottest day on record and the heatwave is expected to worsen, exacerbating an already unprecedented bushfire season, authorities said yesterday.

The average nationwide temperatures of 40.9 degrees Celsius (105.6 degrees Fahrenheit) on Tuesday beat the previous record of 40.3 degrees Celsius in January 2013, the Bureau of Meteorology said.

"This heat will only intensify further today," meteorologist Diana Eadie said.

The heatwave is another alarm bell about global warming in Australia, where this year's early and intense start to regular summer bushfires has heaped pressure on the Australian government to do more to tackle climate change.

Hundreds of bushfires have been raging across Australia for months, including a "mega-blaze" burning north of Sydney, the country's biggest city, reports AFP.

Smoke from the fires has engulfed Sydney, raising air pollution to levels so hazardous that leading doctors have labelled the event a "public health emergency".

At least three million hectares (7.4 million acres) of land has been torched across Australia, with six people killed and



about 700 homes destroyed.

Scientists say the blazes have come earlier and with more intensity than usual due to global warming and a prolonged drought that has left the land tinder dry and many towns running out of water.

Australia is being hit with two separate climate-driving events off its west and southern coasts - a positive Indian Ocean Dipole and negative Southern Annular Mode - that are reducing rainfall and increasing temperatures, reports Reuters.

The fires have sparked climate protests targeting the conservative government, which has resisted pressure to address the root causes of global warming in order to protect the country's lucrative coal export industry.

The combination of thick smoke settling over populated areas and intense heat has triggered numerous health warnings, especially for the young and the old.

"People should take those conditions seriously and do what they can to keep out of the heat as much as possible," said Richard Broome, the director of environmental health in New South Wales state.

Record spot temperatures were recorded this week in Western Australia, where firefighters have also been battling blazes raging across thousands of hectares of land.

China postpones UNSC discussion on Kashmir

China has postponed a discussion by the UN Security Council planned for Tuesday about the situation in the disputed Indian territory of Jammu and Kashmir because the UN peacekeeping mission there was not ready to provide a brief, diplomats said. The Himalayan region has long been a flashpoint in ties between nuclear-armed neighbours India and Pakistan, with both claiming Kashmir in full but ruling it in part. Diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun told the council on Tuesday that he would again request the meeting when the peacekeeping mission was ready to give a detailed briefing.

2012 gang-rape case: India SC rejects death penalty plea

India's top court yesterday dismissed an appeal against the death penalty by one of four men convicted of the gang-rape of a woman on a bus in New Delhi and her murder, saying it found no reason to review the sentence. The four were convicted in 2013 of the rape, torture and murder of the 23-year-old physiotherapy student in New Delhi in 2012, an attack that triggered shockwaves across the world. The woman died of her injuries in hospital in Singapore. The case prompted India to enact tough new laws against sexual violence, including the death penalty for rape in some cases.

Japanese journalist wins high-profile #MeToo case



A Tokyo court yesterday awarded 3.3 million yen (\$30,000) in damages to journalist Shiori Ito, who accused a former TV reporter of rape in one of the most high-profile cases of the #MeToo movement in Japan. The civil case made headlines in Japan and abroad, as it is rare for rape victims to report the crime to the police -- according to a 2017 government survey, only four percent of women come forward. Ito, 30, has become an outspoken symbol for #MeToo in Japan, where the movement against sexual harassment and abuse has struggled to take hold. She had sought 11 million yen (\$100,000) in compensation from Noriyuki Yamaguchi, a former TV reporter with close links to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

WHAT'S ON

Comedy Show
Title: Stand-up Comedy Show, Naveed's Comedy Club
Venue: Wind Blows, Uttara
Date: December 21; Time: 7 pm
Tickets: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScap40nHfgeD0_GNUSUbdM7593rLx_C_45nYfK39nkaA/viewform

Concert
Title: 20 years of Artcellam
Venue: ICCB Expo Zone
Date: December 24
Time: 3 pm onwards

Concert
Title: Big Rock Day V.2
Hosted by: Blues Communications Limited
Venue: ICCB Expo Zone
Date: December 21; Time: 3 pm - 9 pm
For more info: https://www.facebook.com/events/825389451251506/?active_tab=discussion

Concert
Title: Miles 40th Anniversary
Venue: ICCB, Hall - 3
Date: December 24
Time: 6 pm onwards

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition
Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall, Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 17 - Feb 15
Time: 1 pm - 8 pm (Except Sundays)



Asha Bhosle



Rahat Fateh Ali Khan



Adnan Sami



Hariharan

PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

Runa Laila's stellar collaboration project with four living legends

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Runa Laila, the melody queen, has been entertaining audiences with her beautiful voice for decades. The singer also composes music. She received her first National Film Award as a music composer recently for the film, *Ekti Cinemar Golpo*, directed and produced by Alamgir. These days, she is busy working with renowned musical maestros from India for her new album, *Runa Laila featuring Legends Forever*. The album's five new tracks has Asha Bhosle, Adnan Sami, Hariharan, and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, singing Runa Laila's compositions.

The first song of the album, *Chole Jawa Dheu*, by living legend Asha Bhosle, premiered on December 13 on the official Facebook page and YouTube channel of City Bank Limited and *The Daily Prothom Alo*. The song is written by Kabir Bakul and the music video is directed by Shahrear Polock. The director of photography for the track is Nazmul Hasan.

The next installment from the album, *Aj Eto Din Por*, written by Kabir Bakul and sang by Runa Laila herself, was released on December 15. The track, *Ke Bole Nei Bhalobasha* with music maestro Hariharan on vocals and Moniruzzaaman Monir's lyrics, was released on December 17.

The fourth number, *Bhalobasha Por Hoyeche*, featuring Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, was released at 8:00 pm, yesterday. The final installment of the album, *Thako Jokhoni Tumi Chokheri Arale*, featuring renowned singer Adnan Sami in a duet with Runa Laila is set to release soon.

Raja Kaasheff has arranged the music for the album. The songs were recorded in Yash Raj Studios, Mumbai, Ajivasaan Studios, Mumbai, In The Mix Studio, Mumbai and Studio RFAK, Lahore. The songs are being mixed and mastered in Hi-Street Studio, London. The album is sponsored by City Bank Limited.



Runa Laila

Chhayanaut's 'Shuddha Sangeet Utshab' begins today



PHOTO: STAR

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Chhayanaut's annual *Shuddha Sangeet Utshab*, begins today at their main auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The two-day classical music festival, featuring sessions of vocal and instrumental music, will end on December 21.

The festival will be formally inaugurated by eminent tabla exponent Pabitra Mohan Dey from Mymensingh.

Besides group performances by Chhayanaut artistes, Satindranath Halder, Anil Kumar Saha and Swarnamoy Chakraborty will perform. Murtaza Kabir Murad will present a solo flute recital,

and siblings Sabuj Ahmed (tabla), Shanto Ahmed (violin) and Kamrul Ahmed (flute) will perform on the opening day.

The second session will set off on December 20, and will continue till the next morning. Apart from chorus, vocal and group tabla performances by artistes of Chhayanaut, several noted and promising vocalists, like Khairul Anam Shakil, Razwan Ali, Asit Kumar Dey, Shekhar Mondal and Bizon Chandra Mistry will perform, while Ebadul Huq Shaikat (sitar) and Rajrupa Chowdhury (sarod) will present instrumental recitals, among others, at the nightlong session.

TV WATCH



Today's episode of the popular Channel i programme on agriculture, 'Hridoye Mati O Manush' will feature actor Moushumi's rooftop garden. Planned, directed and hosted by Shykh Seraj, the episode goes on-air at 3:05 pm.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Victory Day celebrations in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

Marking the Victory Day, a week-long festival, held in Mymensingh, concluded recently. The event, organised by Mymensingh district administration and Muktiyuddha Sangsad Mymensingh district unit, featured various cultural programmes, where over 50 cultural groups performed.

The celebration began with an inaugural ceremony on December 10, reminiscing the history of Mymensingh's liberation from the Pak Occupation Army forces in 1971. State minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain was the chief guest with Md Mizanur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Mymensingh in the chair. A colourful rally, led by freedom fighter and ex-minister for Religious Affairs Principal Motiur Rahman, was also organised prior to the opening ceremony.

The celebrations included discussion meetings on the Liberation War of Bangladesh, cultural performances, art competitions and photo exhibitions. Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, Mymensingh, Uldichi Shilpi Goshthi, Chhayanaut Sahitya Sangskritik



PHOTO: STAR

Academy, Onsumble Theatre, Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, Nrityadhara, Bidrohi Natya Goshthi, Shilon Abriti Charcha Kendra, Sandipon Sangskritik Sangstha and Mymensingh Nazrul Academy performed at the fests, among others. Marking the occasion, different socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions, including Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU), hosted day-long programmes.

Shilcharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahshala organised an art competition on 'Liberation War' for children at its premises where around 76 children participated.

Alokchitra Shilpi Sangsad organised a day-long photography exhibition at the city's Baishakhi Moncha at Zainul Park. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mayor of Mymensingh City Corporation Ekramul Hoque Titu. Around 220 photographs, mostly on Liberation War, were on display at the exhibition.

Quintessence of stage creativity

ABDUS SELIM

With the slogan, *Aai Notoher Ongone*, seven new plays, written by young playwrights and directed by young directors, were staged throughout Nagorik Natya Sampradaya's Notuner Utshab 2019 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, from November 29 to December 5. We chronically complain about the severe dearth of originals for our stage, and that in turn, makes us sadly reliant on translations. But this festival clearly endorsed that if incentivised properly, our theatre sector can shine. Nagorik Natya Sampradaya not only undertook and sponsored the project, but also meticulously implemented it. Aly Zaker, Sara Zaker and their team deserve praise for accomplishing this cultural mission and being productive mentors of the event, which was a quintessence of stage creativity.

Kalo Joler Kabbo, the opening play of the festival, is a subtitled story, adapted by Pantho Shahriar from Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. He metamorphosed Shylock into a Bangladeshi shipbreaker, Bhangari, and set the story inside a huge broken ship. In spite of the implicit disintegration in the storyline, the set, props, lighting and music, the play had a lasting impact on the audience. The cast was remarkably rich with actors like Asaduzzaman Noor, Aupi Karim, Pantho Shariar, Mahfuz Reezvi and Mostafiz Shaheen.

For the biographic play, *Radharomon*, produced by Shunamganj Proscenium and Bondhon Theatre, the playwright and director Shameem Sagar focused upon the Baul songs composed by Radharomon. With its vast canvas and pervasiveness, the play had a compelling appeal throughout its run. The use of bamboos, local fabrics and a lantern

was aesthetically pleasing. With a mix of traditional and contemporary musical and choreographic notes, the play was one of the highlights of the event.

Aakashe Phuiteche Phul - Leto Kahon, written by Dr Ratan Siddiqui, directed by Hridi Haq and produced by Nagorik Natyangon Bangladesh, is a historical and political collage through *Leto Gaan*, a modification of



Kalo Joler Kabbo

PHOTO: STAR

jata, combining mingling discourses, songs, dance, and music. Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam had his association with this genre for a long time, which came as a relevant reference in the play. Haq used the scope and space for musicals to full effect in the story. Though the set, light, props, costumes, and music were brilliant, as *Leto* is has reached its phase of extinction, some of the acting and gestures appeared to be too raw and out of place, for those who are

unfamiliar with the genre.

Sayedur Rahman Lypon directed *Arupron*, an earlier version of Tagore's famous play, *Raja*, on behalf of Porishor. Lypon retold the tale in his own way, by splitting the storyline and putting plenty of Tagore songs in between scenes, which went very well with the temperament of the play. However, many critiqued it as a transformation of a serious play into a musical.

Khoabnama, an acclaimed novel by Akhteruzzaman Elias, was adapted for the stage by Mohammad Showkat Hossain for Prachyanat. The director of the play, Kazi Toufiqul Islam Emon, gave visual shapes to the stream of consciousness narratives in the play, laden with surrealistic images and abstractions, which was challenging for him. The set and light, apart from the costumes, acting and dialects, were good, but the play did not achieve the full effect.

O Mon Pahiya, produced by Monipuri Theatre, constructed and directed by Subhasis Sinha, focused on the deepest desires of the human heart. The play built a bridge between myth and reality by means of the group's inimitable teamwork and a mix of Monipuri and progressive choreography. The set had its root in *moirang* motif, the costumes were exploratory, and use of light was engaging.

The last play of the festival, *Lottery*, written by Siddique Ahmed and Anup Aich and directed by Mostafiz Shaheen for Mongoldeep Foundation, featured visually-impaired actors, who did wonders on the stage. The dramatage Sara Zaker, light designer Nasirul Haq Khokon, set designer Junaied Yusuf, music composer Shimul Saiful, designer Joyita, props designer Monira, choreographer Farhad, and other members of the Mongoldeep team, deserve a sweeping applause for their effort.



Riva Ganguly Das, the High Commissioner of India in Dhaka, inaugurated the exclusive art exhibition, titled 'Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition' as the chief guest at Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall of Bengal Shilpalay in Dhanmondi on December 17. Renowned artist Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, attended the event as the special guest. The exhibition is showcasing selected artworks by 13 modern and pioneering Bangladeshi and Indian artists from the collection of Abul Khair, the Chairman of Bengal Foundation. The show, opening from 1pm to 8pm daily except Sundays, will conclude on February 15, 2020.

PHOTO: COURTESY

CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will be reserved on 19th December (Thursday), 2019 for Corporate Booking.

From 20th December (Friday), 2019 Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will remain open for all.

Contact: 01913531474, 01913531522



Return to Rakhine

FROM PAGE 16

the hearing at International Court of Justice held from December 10-12 in The Hague. The Gambia accused Myanmar of genocide against Rohingya people in the ICJ.

Chan Aye, director-general of the International Organisations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, led the delegation that arrived in Dhaka Tuesday night and then flew to Cox's Bazar yesterday morning.

The officials held talks with the Rohingya representatives at camp-4 in Ukhiya from 2:00pm-4:30pm and told them that the situation in Rakhine was good, said Bangladesh officials.

"The Rohingya representatives told the delegation clearly that they wanted a guarantee of citizenship in Myanmar and the presence of international security force in Rakhine. They said they won't accept the National Verification Card," an official told The Daily Star.

The demands are similar to the ones made by the Rohingyas when Myanmar delegations visited the camps on two occasions in the last two years, he said.

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled Rakhine since August 2017 and took shelter in the squalid camps in Cox's Bazar. The refugees joined 300,000 other Rohingyas who had fled earlier waves of violence in Rakhine since the 80s.

"The visit by the delegation after the ICJ is a positive development. The Rohingyas are their people and they should convince them to return," said a foreign ministry official.

Run-fest

FROM PAGE 1

The day's first match also produced a mountain of runs as Cumilla Warriors -- riding on 40s from Soumya Sarkar, Sabbir Rahman and Dawid Malan -- chased down a formidable 181 for eight posted by Rangpur Rangers. For Rangpur, Mohammad Shahzad was the top scorer with a 27-ball 61 but they suffered from a lack of contributions from the others as Tom Abell, Mohammad Nabi and Lewis Gregory all scored 20s but did not stick around for the final flourish.

But it was the night match that offered even more value for the spectators. After being asked to bat, Chattogram opener Lendl Simmons started things off on the right note with a 36-ball 57 and all the batsmen contributed thereafter.

Imrul Kayes chipped in with 40 off 24 balls, but it was Mahmudullah's fireworks at the end and an 18-ball 27 from Chadwick Walton that lifted Chattogram to a mammoth total.

During the chase, after Mashrafe's blitz got Dhaka to within 50 runs of the target with 25 balls left, it was the hard-hitting Thisara Perera who took Dhaka close with 47 off 27 balls. For Chattogram, pacers Mehedi Hasan Rana and Muktar Ali took three wickets each.

Mercury falls

FROM PAGE 16

Temperatures will again drop after December 26, and the country may face cold wave in January, he said.

The weather may remain dry amid cloudy skies over the country for 24 hours, beginning from 9:00am yesterday, according to BMD.

Moderate to thick fog may form over the northwestern part of the country and light to moderate fog might be seen elsewhere between late night and early morning, a met office release said.

THE CHILL IN THE NORTH

The biting cold which began yesterday affected day-to-day activities in the northern districts, with the chill intensifying as cold wind began descending from the Himalayas.

The sky remained overcast all the day across the region, while fog engulfed eight districts of Rangpur division.

The other low temperatures recorded yesterday were 13.7 in Dinajpur, 13.5 in Syedpur of Nilphamari, 13.2 in Dimla of Nilphamari and 13.3 degrees Celsius in Tetulia of Panchagarh district.

In Panchagarh, the sky remained overcast all day since yesterday morning as cold winds lashed the district.

Khalilur Rahman, a rickshaw-puller in Banglabandha, said his earning had dropped alarmingly as people opted to stay indoors to escape the cold.

Besides, vehicular movement in the district was disrupted by the dense fog.

"This was the first cold-wave like situation in Dinajpur", said Tofazzal Hossain, in-charge of Dinajpur Meteorological office.

In Rangpur, people thronged markets to purchase warm clothes since yesterday morning. "It [price of clothes] is still cheap, but price may go up anytime due to high demand," said Shahidul Islam of Lalbag area in Rangpur city.

Fazle Rabby, general secretary of Dinajpur Transport Workers Union, said drivers of buses on all the routes were using lights due to thick and moderate fog weather.

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 16

The incident took place at another resort around one-and-a-half-kilometres away from Mermada, the rejoinder said.

OUR REPLY

We stand corrected.

62pc wage hike proposed

FROM PAGE 16

new road transport act makes the issuance of appointment letters for workers mandatory.

Experts said the implementation of the new wage structure for staffers and workers of the "highly disorganised" transport sector, in which more than 70 lakh workers are involved, will be difficult.

Under the new structure, top grade drivers of public service transport like bus would get basic salaries of 12,800 each, instead of the previous Tk 8,000.

The total would rise to Tk 20,200 from Tk 12,700 in last wage board. Drivers living outside city corporations or divisional headquarters would get Tk 1,280 less than others.

The minimum wage of a helper would rise to Tk 6,500 from the previous Tk 4,000. They will get a total of Tk 10,750 (Tk 3,250, Tk 700 and 300 as house rent, and medical and transport allowance.)

Helpers living outside city corporations or divisional headquarters would get Tk 650 less than others.

A trainee would get a total Tk 7,500 and his training period would be three months, and may be extended to six months.

The wage board comprises its chairman Syed Aminul Islam (a senior district judge), three permanent members (one neutral, one owner and one workers' representative) and two temporary members (one owner and another workers' representative).

The Labour and Employment Ministry on August 7 asked the chairman of the Minimum Wage Board to announce the minimum wage for workers of the privately road transport sector and appointed two temporary members.

The board held several meetings and considered the proposals of the

COMPARISON NEW AND PREVIOUS WAGE BOARD

NAME	WAGE BOARD 2019 (BASIC-TK)	WAGE BOARD 2019 (TOTAL-TK)	WAGE BOARD 2010 (BASIC-TK)	WAGE BOARD 2010 (TOTAL-TK)
Driver (higher skill)	12,800	20,200	8,000	12,700
Driver (heavy licence)	11,200	17,800	7,000	11,200
Driver (light licence)	9,600	15,400	6,000	9,700
Supervisor	8,000	13,000	5,000	8,200
Helper	6,500	10,750	4,000	6,700
Other staff (grade one)	9,600	15,400	6,000	9,700

SOURCE: MINIMUM WAGE BOARD

owners and workers' representatives, the living cost of labourers, inflation, prices of essentials and other issues before giving recommendations.

Insur Ali, a member of the board and a transport workers' leader, said it is true that the recommendations of the previous board were not implemented because no representatives of transport owners and workers was included in that board.

"We hope the recommendations of this board would be implemented as both the representatives of transport owners and workers gave their approval," Insur, also the general secretary of the Bangladesh Road Transport Workers League, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said owners' associations will play the main role in implementing the recommendations.

He, however, said giving appointment letters and service books to all transport workers is a necessity to implement the recommendations and this is a big challenge for which both the government and transport leaders have to work unitedly.

Abul Kalam, a transport owners' leader and also a board member, said they have given the recommendation of the salary hike considering prices

of essential commodities and house rent.

He said the previous board's recommendations were not implemented as the wages of drivers and others were very low.

Kalam, also a vice president of the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners' Association, hoped transport workers would accept it.

About giving appointment letters to workers, he said, "We will give appointment [letters] because it is necessary to bring discipline to the road transport sector."

Osman Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation, an umbrella organisation of 235 transport worker unions across the country, said they will make their comment after going through all the recommendations.

However, giving appointment letters and monthly salaries to transport workers is necessary to implement the new wage structure, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Zafrul Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), said the government, owners and workers have to work jointly to implement the new recommendations.

Guards killed Chinese man

FROM PAGE 1

told reporters.

Gao's wife Leo Hui, his two children, his brother and first secretary of the Chinese Embassy Yang Zhiping were present at the briefing.

A Dhaka court placed the arrestees on a four-day remand each yesterday. Police also said another security guard was a witness to the crime.

On December 11, police recovered the body of Gao, 47, from the backyard of the building he lived in.

A caretaker of the building called the police in the morning after he noticed some hair and a man's feet sticking out from the ground there.

Gao used to supply stones and other construction materials to the Padma Bridge and Payra Port projects. He had been living on the sixth floor of the 11-storey building for a year.

Police said the duo didn't leave the place after the murder in order to avoid suspicion.

"They divided the looted money -- Tk 1.76 lakh and Tk 1.73 lakh -- and transferred it to their relatives and friends through mobile transactions," said Moshir Rahman, deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch (North).

Police managed to recover Tk 1.21 lakh. They also found the victim's phone and a piece of wood which

they suspect was used to dig the hole where Gao's body was dumped.

During primary interrogation, Rauf and Enamul told police that they were frustrated seeing the lifestyle of the rich and were looking for a chance to "change their fates".

They observed Gao for some days and plotted to kill and loot him. They targeted him as he used to bring home huge amounts of cash every day.

Police said they tried to kill Gao on December 6 but backed out at the last minute.

Four days later, they went again and pressed the calling bell of Gao's flat between 5:00pm to 6:00pm. When Gao opened the door, Enamul asked him for some water, police said.

At that moment, Enamul wrapped the towel around Gao's neck and Rauf grabbed him by the waist. A scuffle broke out and Gao bit Rauf's finger. Police said Rauf still sported the bite mark.

After the scuffle, they strangled him to death and took away Tk 3.49 lakhs and his mobile phone.

The two went back to their home on the rooftop and showered.

Around 11:00pm, Rauf dug a pit in the backyard of the building and buried Gao's body with the help of another guard, police said.

"The other guard would be a

witness to the incident," the police official added.

Police said Rauf joined as a security guard of the building one month ago, while Enamul had joined 15 days ago. Both of them lived together at the rooftop of the building.

Police said they could not recover any CCTV footage as its connection was cut off and nothing had been stored.

Gao's friend Zhang Shu Hong filed a murder case with Banani Police Station against unnamed accused on December 12.

UK's Blair blames 'revolutionary socialism' for Labour defeat

AFP, London

Former British prime minister Tony Blair yesterday urged his Labour party to abandon "quasi-revolutionary socialism" as it seeks a new leader after its worst election defeat since the 1930s.

Britain's shellshocked left entered a period of soul-searching and mourning in the wake of last Thursday's drubbing at the polls.

Musical chair at BTCL

FROM PAGE 1

In 2010. In 2014, the BTCL managing director changed three times.

There have been three MDs this year.

At least 18 MDs were either acting MDs or officials with the additional charge. Some even ran the company for about a week.

For instance, Absar Alam ran the company twice. His second stint started on November 28, 2010 and ended on December 6 the same year.

Absar had been acting MD for five months earlier that year.

Only in 2011 and 2017 the BTCL did not have a new MD.

Officials said the government

never picked an MD outside of the company, with some bureaucrats being exceptions.

Md Rafiqul Matin was appointed as managing director in November 3 this year.

BTCL Board Chairman Nur-Ur-Rahman said, "... Hopefully the government has chosen a new managing director who is dynamic and quite younger than any of the previous ones ..."

Managing Director Rafiqul and a few other deputy managing directors newly appointed were from the same batch. They all have a few years to go before they retire.

"As we will get more time than our predecessors, we would get more

chances to reshape the company and serve the country," Rafiqul told The Daily Star.

In terms of manpower and licenses it holds, the BTCL is the largest state-owned telecom company in the country. It has eight key licences and about 4,000 employees, even though it has posts for only 8,703.

It has licenses for its core business land phone, International Gateway (IGW), Interconnections exchange (ICX), International Internet Gateway (IIG), Internet Service Provider (ISP), International Terrestrial Cable (ITC), Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NITN), and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA).

House begins

FROM PAGE 1

vice president and leading Democratic contender in the 2020 election. Trump is also accused of obstructing the congressional investigation into the matter.

Republicans signalled as soon as the day began that they intend to do everything possible to stall the proceedings. Representative Andy Biggs, a Republican member of the Judiciary Committee, called for the House to adjourn immediately after the morning prayer and pledge of allegiance, leading to a vote on the House floor.

Trump has called the impeachment process "a total sham," and on Tuesday sent House Speaker Nancy Pelosi a lengthy letter in which he accused her of engaging in a "perversion of justice."

The president has denounced the probe as an "illegal coup" and has argued Democrats are trying to undo the results of the 2016 election in which he defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"Can you believe that I will be impeached today by the Radical Left, Do Nothing Democrats, AND I DID NOTHING WRONG! A terrible thing," Trump tweeted yesterday morning. "Say a prayer!"

With Trump seeking a second term next year, impeachment has cleaved the public, with most Democratic voters supporting it and most Republicans opposed.

What remains unclear is whether the months-long partisan drama will have any effect on the 2020 election beyond giving Trump reasons to boast of having beaten back Democratic efforts to remove him.

Republicans contend that a "yea" vote on impeachment could cost some moderate House Democrats their seats in next year's congressional elections. Still, several Democrats who represent districts that backed Trump in 2016 have said in recent days they will vote to impeach him.

PRESIDENT ABUSED HIS POWER

On the eve of the vote, Pelosi sent a letter on Tuesday to all 232 Democratic members of the House, urging them to abide by the Constitution's standards.

"Very sadly, the facts have made clear that the President abused his power for his own personal, political benefit and that he obstructed Congress as he demanded that he is above accountability, above the Constitution and above the American people," she wrote.

Fearful of the political blowback, Democrats were long resistant to an impeachment inquiry, even after Special Counsel Robert Mueller outlined potential episodes of Trump obstructing justice in his report on

Russian interference in the 2016 election.

But after a whistleblower brought to light a July phone call in which Trump pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate Biden, House Democrats moved swiftly to take testimony from current and former administration officials.

Democrats accuse Trump of freezing nearly \$400 million in US security aid to Ukraine and offering a possible White House meeting to Zelenskiy to get him to publicly announce investigations of Biden and his son Hunter, who was on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

The first article of impeachment details the Democrats' account of Trump's dealings with Ukraine. The second article accuses Trump of obstruction of Congress by directing administration officials and agencies not to comply with lawful House subpoenas for testimony and documents related to impeachment.

The Senate has yet to set its procedures for a trial on the charges, which would be overseen by US Chief Justice John Roberts.

The chamber's top Republican, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, has rejected Democratic proposals to call further administration officials to testify and has said there is "no chance" Trump will be removed from office.

On Tuesday, McConnell said on the Senate floor that it would be senators' role to act as a "judge and jury" in the trial, but he later told reporters that he would not be "an impartial juror."

"This is a political process. There is not anything judicial about it," he said. "Impeachment is a political decision."

Removing Trump from office would require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in the 100-member chamber, meaning Democrats would have to persuade at least 20 Republicans to join with them to end Trump's presidency.

Cop held

FROM PAGE 2

seeking a 10-day remand for his interrogation. The court will hear the remand prayer today, the OC said.

According to the case statement, Prasad handed over two pen drives with confidential information to Indian police in 2018.

On October 25 last, members of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence and Rapid Action Battalion held an army man and seized a pen drive containing valuable information from a hotel at Kamalapur in Dhaka.

Later, Prasad was found involved in leaking information.

No stay order

FROM PAGE 16

Meanwhile, anti-CAA protests continued outside the Jamia Millia Islamia University in Delhi for the third consecutive day yesterday.

The protesters raised slogans against Home Minister Amit Shah, the government and the Delhi police, demanding withdrawal of the CAA.

The Delhi Police yesterday clamped prohibitory orders in Seelampur area following violent and arson protests and arrested two more persons in connection with the incidents, taking the total number of arrests to eight.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a blistering attack on the BJP-led government in protest against the act.

Participating in a street march from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade in Kolkata for the third consecutive day yesterday, she reiterated: "We will never allow NRC and the amended Citizenship Act in Bengal."

"No one will be asked to leave the state. We believe in the coexistence of all religions, castes and creed. All of us are citizens of this country, no one can take that away from us."

No fresh incident of violence was reported in West Bengal and Assam yesterday.

However, a senior police officer of West Bengal and two other police personnel were injured when a group of anti-CAA agitators hurled crude bombs at them in Sankrail area of Howrah district on Tuesday night.

In northern Uttar Pradesh state, more than 110 people were arrested over the protests, or for posting on social media, police told AFP.

Hostels at the state's Aligarh Muslim University, where police brutality was alleged by students on Sunday, were emptied after residents were told by the administration to start winter vacations early.

Thousands of people took part in a protest march against the NRC and the amended Citizenship Act in Mumbai, a predominantly Muslim township near Mumbai yesterday.

Most shops in the area downed their shutters and auto-rickshaws remained off the roads.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram yesterday pushed back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his Pakistan citizenship jibe at the main opposition party, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Chidambaram was responding to the challenge posed by Modi to the opposition to publicly declare that they are prepared to accord Indian

citizenship to all Pakistanis.

"Why should we give citizenship to people who are already citizens of Pakistan? What is the meaning of such challenges to the opposition," he said.

A day after Sonia Gandhi led a delegation of opposition leaders to President Ram Nath Kovind seeking withdrawal of the CAA, the Bahujan Samaj Party yesterday submitted a memorandum to him demanding the same.

The party also urged an inquiry into "police excesses" on the students of Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University and Nawada University in Uttar Pradesh.

One of India's top Muslim cleric yesterday appealed for restraint while exercising the democratic right to protest against the CAA.

Syed Ahmed Bukhari, the Shahi Imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid, stressed that the CAA has nothing to do with Muslims living in India.

Hyderabad-based Urdu writer Muijtaba Hussain has decided to return his Padma Shri award, saying he was not happy with the current situation in the country.

The UN secretary-general's spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Tuesday the global body was "concerned about the violence and alleged use of excessive force by security forces that we've seen that have been taking place."

"We very much call for restraint and urge full respect for the rights of freedom of opinion and expression and peaceful assembly," he added.

On this day

FROM PAGE 16

on his way home from New York. He might be the next head of government.

Former Pakistan Air Force chief Air Marshal Asgar Khan in a Rawalpindi press conference calls Yahya foolish and demanded his appropriate punishment and associated generals.

Returning from Bangladesh, British MP John Stonehouse describes the atrocity of Pakistan army. He says that he saw bodies lying on the streets. Six Pakistan army officers along with a Major General made a list of almost 2,000 Bengali intellectuals for killing.

Bangladesh might put former governor Malik on tribunal as a war criminal. He is taken to the cantonment under heavy security - Clare Hollingsworth, a reporter of The Daily Telegraph tells her office via the reconnected international telephone service.



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TO WATCH VIDEO



Several people at Sakoya village in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat gather beside a fire to get warmth during the biting cold that sweeps the region yesterday. Below, vehicles move with caution at Sheikhpara village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila as dense fog engulfs the area.

PHOTO: STAR

Biting cold paralyses life in N dists

Poor people in dire need of warm clothes

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The biting cold during the last couple of days disrupted life in northern districts near the Himalayas.

The Met office at Rajarhat in Kurigram district recorded 10.8 degrees Celsius as the lowest temperature in eight districts of Rangpur division yesterday, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

The lowest temperature in Rangpur was 13 degrees Celsius, Dinajpur 13.7, Syedpur of Nilphamari 13.5, Dimla of Nilphamari 13.2 and Tentulia of Panchagarh district 13.3 degrees Celsius yesterday.

Dense fog kept the sun invisible throughout the day. "My earning has dropped as people are staying inside to save themselves from cold," said Khalilur Rahman, a rickshaw-van puller at Banglabandha in Panchagarh.

"This is the first cold wave-like situation in Dinajpur," said Tofazzal Hossain, in charge of Dinajpur Met office.

The district town saw light traffic due to the dense fog. In Rangpur, a large number of people, mostly from poorer group, thronged makeshift shops beside roads to buy warm clothes for cheaper prices.

Drivers of buses on all the routes are using lights during the daytime as foggy weather prevailed everywhere in the



region, said Fazle Rabby, general secretary of Dinajpur Transport Workers Union.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent reports: Life in the district is badly disturbed due to the biting cold accompanied by dense fog as the sun remained invisible for the last two days.

The poor people are badly suffering due to lack of warm clothes. The people living in the char (land emerging from riverbed) areas beside Teesta and Dharla rivers are more vulnerable.

Under the blanket of dense fog, vehicles move slowly with headlights on.

The low-income people, especially the farm labourers, are the worst sufferers as most of them cannot go out for work due to the adverse weather while many people, especially children and aged ones, are getting cold-related diseases like diarrhoea and pneumonia.

"I don't have the ability to purchase warm clothes. As I can't go out for work due to the fog and cold, I have to pass days half-starved," said Nur Jahan Bewa, 52, at Dharla River basin Bongram village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Nazmul Islam, 44, a day labourer at Sakoya village in Aditmari upazila said, "We can't go out the home for work due to cold wave. We burn straws to get warmth as we don't have sufficient warm clothes."

Saidul Islam, 46, a rickshaw puller at Shaheed Shajahan Colony, a slum area in Lalmonirhat town, echoed the same.

Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner Abu Jafor said, "A total of 28,700 blankets are being distributed among the cold-hit poor people. We have sent demand letter to Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry, seeking more 50 thousand blankets for the poor people in the district."

RAPE CASE

UP chairman, son still at large

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A union parishad (UP) chairman and his son accused in a rape case filed with Durgapur Police Station of Netrakona are still at large, five days into the incident.

The victim's father lodged a case accusing three people with Durgapur Police Station. Police arrested one of the accused so far.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Md Mizanur Rahman said the 14-year-old girl went to visit her maternal uncle's house at Banjail village on December 10.

When the girl was returning home alone on Friday noon, Mir Abdul Kaium, 21, an honours student, and son of local Kakoigara UP Chairman Mir Noor Mohammad, waylaid her.

He took the girl to the house of his cousin Mir Muktaadir and raped the girl alluring to marry her.

On information, police rushed to the spot and took the victim to the police station the following day.

The victim's father lodged a case accusing Kaium, his father Noor Mohammad and cousin Muktaadir on Sunday.

Police arrested Muktaadir from his village. The arrestee was later produced before a Netrakona court that sent him to jail, the OC said.

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

Meanwhile, the statement of the victim was recorded with a Netrakona court and her medical test was conducted at Netrakona General Hospital on Tuesday, said the police official.

CLASH OVER LAND DISPUTE

Man killed, three injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man was killed and three others sustained stab injuries in an attack by their rivals allegedly over a disputed land in Habiganj Sadar upazila on Tuesday night.

The deceased, Abdul Kuddus Mia, 55, was a resident of Sukhchar village in the upazila.

Quoting locals and witnesses, Officer in Charge (OC) of Habiganj Model Police Station Masuk Ali said there had been a longstanding rivalry between Kuddus and one Shahjahan Mia of the village over the ownership of a disputed land.

As a sequel to the conflict, the two locked in an altercation around 8:30pm on Tuesday night, the OC said, adding that, at one stage, Shahjahan and his men attacked Kuddus with sharp weapons and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured.

The gang also injured three other villagers when they tried to save Kuddus from their wrath, he said.

Local people rescued the injured four and took them to Habiganj Sadar Hospital, where the doctors declared Kuddus dead.

Being informed, they recovered the body and sent it to the hospital for autopsy, the OC said, adding that police were conducting drives to arrest the culprits.

Good days for Jhenidah gourd growers

UZ agri officer says soil of 4 villages in Kotchandpur is especially suitable for the vegetable farming

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Bumper yield and fair prices have delighted gourd growers in Kotchandpur upazila.

Upazila agriculture office sources said around 100 farmers are cultivating gourd on their plots at four villages.

Talina, Ekra, Jalalpur and Ghagha are the most gourd producing villages in the upazila.

While talking to the farmers at Talina village they said this farming is very profitable than traditional crops like paddy. If the weather is favourable, the growers can harvest up to March next year.

They can sell at Tk 80 to Tk 90 thousand from one bigha. Tk 15 to Tk 20 thousand is spent for cultivation of per bigha.

Motiar Rahman of Talina village said he has been farming this vegetable for over a decade.

He did not incur loss during this long period, said Motiar.

In the middle of September this year, he has cultivated gourd on 20 decimals of land spending Tk 15,000, said Motiar.

He expects that he will harvest up to March and sell at Tk 60,000.

Another farmer Rabiul Islam of the same village said he has been farming gourd for ten years. He got a profit of Tk one lakh from 45 decimals of land last year.

He has cultivated the vegetable on 66 decimals of land this year, said Rabiul, adding that if the weather is favourable, he will sell at Tk 1.50 lakh.

Upazila Sub-assistant Agriculture Officer Mahmudur Rahman said he often visits the plots of the farmers and advises them to use pheromone trap to avoid food fly.

He also forbids the gourd growers to use insecticide so that they can lead sound health, said Mahmudur.

Upazila Agriculture Officer Md Sheikh Sazzad Hossain said the soil of the villages is very suitable for gourd farming. Every year the farmers grow gourd and earn a lot.

"We always keep vigilance on the farmers so that the latter can get bumper production," he said.



A farmer tends his gourd plants at Talina village in Jhenidah's Kotchandpur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



Students of Chowdhury Para Government Primary School, in Rangamati's hilly upazila of Kawkhali, eagerly wait under a tree outside their school building for afternoon shift to start. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANVILCHAKMA

Hopes big, school small

ANVIL CHAKMA, Rangamati

When reconstruction of Chowdhury Para Government Primary School building was completed back in 1998, its three rooms -- two for classes and the other for administrative purposes -- were probably more than enough for a sparsely populated hill tract upazila such as Kawkhali.

Since the inception of the school in 1984, the population in the upazila nearly doubled and the inhabitants have been sending their children to school more than ever before.

But unfortunately, the infrastructure of the school could not catch up with the changed mindset of parents over the past two decades.

Against the present student enrolment of 174, the school authorities can arrange seating for only 60 students in the two classrooms at one time and around 10 to 12 more in the veranda outside the classrooms.

Currently, only four teachers offer three classes -- pre-primary, grade one and grade two -- in the morning shift and three other classes

up to fifth grade in the afternoon shift.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw children of higher classes eagerly waiting under a tree outside the school building for their afternoon classes to start.

Asked why they came to school early, they said they head out from their homes, miles away from the school, a bit early so they can get in the classroom on time.

Fourth grader Thuima Ching Marma, waiting with other classmates under a tree outside, said, "It's really difficult to study in the veranda, but the classrooms are so small that all of us can't sit together inside."

Ching Thoai Marma, a fifth grader, said paying attention to the class while sitting in the veranda is not easy because many students of other classes play in the schoolground right in front of them.

Teachers of the school said condition of the school building, constructed by Local Government Engineering Department, is no longer safe.

During rainy season, academic activities of the school, nationalised in 2013, are often interrupted with rainwater seeping through the roof of every single room, they also said.

Saching Uye Marma, the school's headteacher, told this newspaper that student enrolment at the school is growing day by day.

With the number of students rising, it is getting more and more difficult to continue spending on maintenance of the rundown building, especially during the wet season.

"We wrote to the higher authorities for a larger accommodation many times, but did not get any response yet," he added.

School managing committee President Thuisa Ching Marma said for the sake of the students, the authorities should soon replace the school building with a larger new one.

Hoping that the authorities concerned would take necessary steps in this regard soon, Manas Mukul Chakma, Kawkhali upazila education officer, said the higher authorities were already informed of the state of the school building.

Govt suspends Razakars' list

FROM PAGE 1
ministry said they received felicitations for the list from various quarters and also drew huge criticism for mistakes in the list.

It further said the list was suspended so that there was no misunderstanding among pro-liberation people in the country.

"The prime minister has given instructions to make corrections in the list after scrutiny. Discussions with different quarters are needed to decide on how to complete the review of the list within the shortest possible time," Mozammel said in the statement.

The ministry had withdrawn the list from its website before issuing the statement.

Earlier yesterday morning, Quader, also general secretary of the Awami League, told reporters, "There are some mistakes in the list, which have come to our notice. The prime minister has given instructions to the home and Liberation War affairs ministries to correct the list immediately."

The PM directed the authorities concerned to publish a fresh list of Razakars after scrutinising the

current one, he told reporters after a meeting at the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

CONTROVERSY

The government on Sunday published the names of 10,789 Razakars, Al-Badr, Al-Shams and anti-liberation elements who collaborated with the Pakistan occupation army in 1971.

At a press briefing that day, Mozammel said the list was based on records preserved at the home ministry, and that it was the first of the phases in which the government will make public the names of Razakars.

Astonishingly, the names of a number of freedom fighters and pro-liberation people were found in the list.

It even carried the names of freedom fighter Ghulam Arief Tipoo, chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, and freedom fighter Mirza Abdul Latif, who led a group of 500 freedom fighters in the country's northern region in 1971.

In the face of nationwide outrage and angry protests, Mozammel on several occasions said they just published the Razakars' list provided by the home ministry without any

modification.

On Tuesday, Mozammel and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan traded blame over preparation of the list.

Asaduzzaman said his ministry provided the Razakars' list following a request from the Liberation War affairs ministry.

He also said his ministry sent a "note" to that ministry to scrutinise the list but it didn't take the "note" into consideration.

HOME BOSS' STATEMENT

The home minister yesterday said his ministry did not forward the list of Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams to the Liberation War affairs ministry. Rather, his ministry handed it a list of the accused in cases filed under the Collaborators Act.

Talking to reporters at his office, Asaduzzaman also said at least 996 people were acquitted in the cases but their names were still on the list. The Liberation War affairs ministry published the list without dropping those names.

The Liberation War affairs ministry is responsible for publishing the flawed list of Razakars, the home

boss said, adding that action should be taken against those involved in publishing the list.

He also claimed his ministry was not even informed whether the list would be published.

In January 1972, the then Bangladesh government had enacted the Collaborators Act to try war criminals and those who collaborated with the Pakistan army. Later, 37,000 people were arrested and sent to jail. About 26,000 of them, however, were freed following the announcement of a general amnesty.

Around 11,000 were behind bars when the government of Justice Sayem and General Ziaur Rahman repealed the Collaborators Act on December 31, 1975. An appeal spree and release of war criminals en masse followed the scrapping of the law.

MINISTER BLAMES

BNP-JAMAAT
Mozammel yesterday blamed the BNP-Jamaat alliance for the mistakes in the Razakars' list.

"While in power, they [the BNP-Jamaat government] might have included freedom fighters' names in the Razakars' list kept at the

home ministry. It was beyond our imagination. The mistake occurred because of this," he said.

Addressing a freedom fighters' rally in Manikganj, he said the names of freedom fighters would be dropped from the list.

He also said they will be careful so that there is no mistake in the new list.

The minister mentioned that the mistakes were unintentional, and that there can be mistakes in any work.

PROTESTS ON

People from all walks of life, including freedom fighters, Awami League men and cultural activists, demonstrated in Sirajganj town and the district's Tarash upazila yesterday, demanding that the names of freedom fighters Abdul Latif Mirza and Khorshed Alam be removed from the list of Razakars.

At a protest rally and human chain in front of Sirajganj Press Club earlier in the morning, demonstrators gave the liberation war affairs ministry until December 24 to drop names of freedom fighters from the list.

A similar protest programme was organised by Barishal Reporters Unity in front of Barishal Ashwini Kumar

Hall yesterday.
DEMAND FOR MINISTER'S REMOVAL

Left Democratic Alliance and Communist Party of Bangladesh in separate statements yesterday demanded the resignation of the liberation war affairs minister and punishment of those involved in preparing the controversial list.

In another statement, Sector Commanders Forum said it was aggrieved as names of freedom fighters were included in the list of Razakars and other anti-liberation elements.

It also demanded formation of a probe commission to identify those who prepared the list with "false and inconsistent information".

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council said it was shocked to see names of members of the minority communities in the Razakars' list.

Contacted, Mozammel said the protesters have every right to demand his resignation.

"Ask them to wait and see whether I resign or not," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Disaster Management
Disaster Management Bhaban
92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka- 1212
WWW.ddm.gov.bd

Memo No. 51.01.0000.016.07.012.19-530 Date: 10/12/2019

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of below mentioned package which is available in tender notice under e-GP system portal. 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 portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP system Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches Detailed description of works Package No., Tender ID & Selling/Dropping Schedule are as follows :

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Packages No	Name and description of Food Item	Published Date	Last Selling Date/Time	Closing & Opening Date/Time
01.	397798	DDM/CISheet/Dhaka/2019-20/01	C. I. Sheet (Iron Sheet) :-	12/12/2019 10.00am	09/01/2020 16.00pm	12/01/2020 12.00 Noon
02.	397945	DDM/CISheet/Dhaka/2019-20/02	A. Package 01 & Package 02 :- i. Supply for CSD Relief Godown, Tejgaon, Dhaka.	12/12/2019 10.00am	09/01/2020 16.00pm	12/01/2020 12.00 Noon
03.	397946	DDM/CISheet/Chittaggon/2019-20/03	C. I. Sheet (Iron Sheet) :-	12/12/2019 09.00am	09/01/2020 16.00pm	12/01/2020 12.00 Noon
04.	397948	DDM/CISheet/Chittaggon/2019-20/04	B. Package 03 & Package 04 :- i. Supply for Chittaggon Regional Relief Godown, Chittaggon &	12/12/2019 10.00am	09/01/2020 16.00pm	12/01/2020 12.00 Noon
05.	397949	DDM/CISheet/Khulna/2019-20/05	C. I. Sheet (Iron Sheet) :- C. Package 05 :- i. Supply for Khulna Regional Relief Godown, Khulna.	12/12/2019 10.00am	09/01/2020 16.00pm	12/01/2020 12.00 Noon

(Md. Eftekarul Islam)
Director (Relief)
Phone : 9860386
E-mail : islameftekarul@yahoo.com

GD-2082

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Manager-I (EE), RHD
Improvement of Ashuganj River Port-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura
Land Port Road as 4-Lane National Highway Project
132/4, New Bailey Road, Dhaka.
e-mail: pml1ocrhd@gmail.com

Memo: 35.RHD.0000.PM-1.LoC.06.001.19-176 Date: 18 December 2019

Invitation for Tender (IFT)
Selection of Firm (National) for Staff Outsourcing

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges/ Road Transport and Highways Division
2	Executing Agency	Roads and Highways Department
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Manager-I (EE, RHD), Improvement of Ashuganj Riverport-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Landport Road as 4-Lane National Highway Project.
4	Invitation Ref No.	PM-01/LoC-2/RHD/IFT/SP-03/2019-2020
5	Invitation Date	18 December 2019.
6	Invitation for	Physical Service (Staff Outsourcing)
7	Procurement Method	ICT-Single Stage Two Envelop Tendering
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB
9	Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	Improvement of Ashuganj Riverport-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Landport Road as 4-Lane National Highway.
10	Package No.	PM-01/LoC-2/SP-03
11	Package Name	Staff Outsourcing for Improvement of Ashuganj Riverport-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Landport Road as 4-Lane National Highway.
12	Last Date & Time for Tender Selling	15 January 2020 at 5:00 PM
13	Deadline for Tender Submission	16 January 2020 at 2:00 PM
14	Date, Time and Place for Tender Opening	Date and Time: 16 January 2020 at 2:30 PM Office of the Project Director (ACE,RHD), Improvement of Ashuganj Riverport-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Landport Road as 4-Lane National Highway Project, Flat#102, House#132/4, New Bailey Road, Dhaka.
15	Date, Time and Place for Pre-Tender Meeting	N/A
16	Eligibility of the Applicant	Any reputed Bangladeshi Firm having at least 5 (five) years of experience in providing similar physical services to any Government-Government/Multinational Agency Office/ Project
17	Brief Description of the Service to be Provided	To provide Staff Input for the Position of Surveyor (03 persons), Office Assistant cum Computer Operator (04 persons), Cash Sarkar (01 person), Office Attendant (04 persons), Cleaner (02 persons), Security Guard (02 persons)
18	Tender Security	BDT 1.50 Lac (One Lac Fifty Thousand Tk only) in favour of Project Manager-I (EE, RHD), Improvement of Ashuganj Riverport-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Landport Road as 4-Lane National Highway Project, Flat#102, House#132/4, New Bailey Road, Dhaka.
19	Contract Period	18 Months
20	Address of Selling of Tender Document	Office of the Project Manager-I (EE, RHD), Improvement of Ashuganj Riverport-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Landport Road as 4-Lane National Highway, 132/4 New Bailey Road, Dhaka
21	Address of Receiving of Tender Document	Office of the Project Manager-I (EE,RHD), Improvement of Ashuganj Riverport-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Landport Road as 4-Lane National Highway Project, Flat#102, House#132/4, New Bailey Road, Dhaka.
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Reazur Rahman Rajon
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Manager-I (EE, RHD), Improvement of Ashuganj Riverport-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Landport Road as 4-Lane National Highway Project.
24	Price of the Tender Document	A non-refundable amount of BDT 2000 (Two thousand taka only)
25	Address of the Official inviting the Tender	Flat#102, House #132/4, New Bailey Road, Dhaka.
26	Contact Details	Phone No: +88 01712 214 584, E-mail: pml1ocrhd@gmail.com

The procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders and the whole process.

(Signature)
18-12-19
Reazur Rahman Rajon
ID No-602191
Project Manager-I (EE), RHD
Improvement of Ashuganj Riverport-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Landport Road as 4-Lane National Highway Project

GD-2073

EDCL **Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL)**
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh

Invitation for Tenders

Furniture and Fixture

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
2.	Agency	Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka, Bangladesh
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director
4.	Procuring Entity District	Gopalganj
5.	Invitation For	Supply, Fitting, Fixing of Furniture and Fixture
6.	Invitation Ref. No.	EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ Furniture and Fixture/2019/34
7.	Date	18 December, 2019

KEY INFORMATION

8.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9.	Budget & Source of Funds	GOB (Government of Bangladesh)
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10.	Project Code	1270101-224020000
11.	Project Name	Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3 rd Plant), Gopalganj
12.	Tender Package No.	GD - 11
13.	Tender Package Name	Furniture and Fixture
14.	Location of the Project	Gopalganj Sadar, Gopalganj.
15.	Tender Publication Date	19 December, 2019
16.	Tender Last Selling Date	Date : 09 January, 2020, Time : 05:00 PM
17.	Tender Submission Date and Time	Date : 12 January, 2020, Time : 03:00 PM
18.	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date : 12 January, 2020, Time : 03:30 PM
19.	Name & address of the Office (Selling, Receiving and Opening of Tender Document)	Office of the Project Manager, EDCL (3 rd Plant), Gopalganj C/O: Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL) 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh
20.	Pre-Tender Meeting (Place/Date/Time)	Conference Room of EDCL Essential Drugs Company Limited 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh. Date: 02 January 2020, Time: 03:00 PM

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

21.	Eligibility of Tenderer :	Minimum 10 (Ten) Years of General Experience in the Supply of Goods and Related Services
21.	General Experience	The satisfactory completion of supply, fitting and fixing of Furniture & Fixture with minimum value of Tk. 1.25 Crore (One Crore Twenty Five Lac Taka) only in Government/Semi-Government/ Autonomous Sector under a single contract in the last 05 (Five) years.
21.	Specific Experience	The Tenderer must have Membership Certificate of Bangladesh Furniture Industries Owners Association (BFIOA) and Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce. Tenderer must be ISO and FSC Certified Company.
21.	Liquid Asset	Availability of minimum liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh, net of other contractual commitments, of the amount minimum 1.55 Crore (One Crore Fifty Five Lac Taka) only.
22.	Brief Description of Goods	Supply, Fitting, and Fixing of Furniture & Fixture
23.	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tk. 5,000.00 (Five Thousand) Taka only in the form of Pay Order in favor of the "Project Director, Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3 rd Plant), Gopalganj."

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

24.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. (Dr) Ehsanul Kabir
25.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3 rd Plant), Gopalganj
26.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh.
27.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone : 8151080,8113463, 9130036 9130489-9130490 (PABX) Fax: 8119697 E-mail: 3rdplant@edcl.gov.bd Website: www.edcl.gov.bd
28.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.	

(Prof. (Dr.) Ehsanul Kabir)
Project Director
Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj

SPORT



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

CHATTOGRAM WIN HIGH-SCORING THRILLER

Chattoagram Challengers captain Mahmudullah Riyad is seen smashing one during a 28-ball 59 that contained five fours and four sixes. Lendl Simmons and Avishka Fernando set the tone, with a 51-run opening stand in 4.4 overs before Imrul Kayes (40 off 24) and Riyad took charge to guide Chattoagram across the 200-run mark for the first time in the ongoing BBPL. Opener Mominul Haque's 35-ball 52 was outdone by Thisara Perera's 27-ball 47 but it was not enough for Dhaka Platoon to overtake the huge total of 221 for 4. Platoon were bowled out for 205 in 20 overs.

Riyad to go for scan

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudullah Riyad's whirlwind half-century helped Chattoagram Challengers to the first 200-plus score in the Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) and took them to a 16-run win against Dhaka Platoon yesterday, but it may have come at a price as Mahmudullah admitted his recently-healed hamstring was causing him trouble yet again.

The Chattogram skipper had originally suffered the hamstring injury during Bangladesh's pink ball Test against India in Kolkata last month -- the second Test of the tour, which also included three T20Is in which Riyad had captained the Tigers.

Consequently, he missed the first two matches of the BBPL before returning in the third round.

He scored 15 runs and took one wicket in that game and only scored two in the next but yesterday's blitz seemed like a return to form for one of Bangladesh's premier batsmen.

Although there were indications of discomfort -- the 33-year-old was seen limping while running -- he blasted five boundaries and four sixes during his 28-ball 59 against Dhaka Platoon.

However, at the post-match press conference, Mahmudullah admitted that he was feeling some pain in the same hamstring that had been injured.

"Yes, I felt some pain and it's the same hamstring injury that I suffered earlier. I will need to undergo scans and only after that can I tell you the details," Mahmudullah said.

'Want the job if it's long-term'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram



As has happened before, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director and former captain Khaled Mahmud has expressed interest in taking up the national pace bowling coach's position if given the role for the long term. The post was vacated after the BCB yesterday released South African Charl Langeveldt on special consideration.

The move came after Cricket South Africa requested the BCB to release the 45-year-old so that he could take up a position with the South African national team. Langeveldt was less than four months into his two-year contract with the BCB.

The board is now looking for a new bowling coach for the Tigers, at the very least an interim one for Bangladesh's scheduled tour of Pakistan in January-February next year.



The 48-year-old Mahmud previously worked as the interim national head coach in the home tri-nation ODI series involving Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in 2018 and two ensuing Tests against Sri Lanka.

Mahmud also took charge as interim coach during Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka for a three-match ODI series in August this year, which

the Tigers lost 3-0.

"I will of course be interested if given the opportunity [as a bowling coach]. Coaching is my profession, so naturally there is interest. I had worked as Bangladesh head coach twice before but for a limited time. It hurts when the job ends and the results don't come.

"I had said this before... it is better if the job is given for a long term. It is tough to organise the team working on a short-term basis. Every coach has his technique and it requires time to implement. I have watched the Bangladesh team from close and know the players well. Then there is the matter of the players accepting local coaches. It's a fact that they are excited when a foreign coach takes charge," Mahmud told reporters at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Mahmud played 12 Tests and 77 ODIs for Bangladesh, picking up 13 and 67 scalps.

Sharma, Rahul and Yadav level series

AGENCIES, Visakhapatnam



Centuries from Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul was followed by a hat-trick from Kuldeep Yadav as India emphatically levelled the three-ODI series against West Indies with a thumping 107-run win over West Indies in the second ODI in Visakhapatnam yesterday.

An opening stand of 227 between Sharma and Rahul formed the basis for a massive total of 387 for five, a target that West Indies found too hot to handle, especially after left-arm Yadav dismissed Shai Hope, skipper Jason Holder and Alzarri Joseph in consecutive deliveries in the 33rd over.

West Indies had reached 192 for three in the 30th over with Hope scoring 78 off 85 balls and Nicholas Pooran blazing a 47-ball 75. But Pooran was caught off Mohammad Shami and then Yadav broke

West Indies by becoming the first Indian bowler to take two international hat-tricks. From 210 for eight, Keemo Paul reduced the margin of defeat with 45 before the tourists were bowled out for 280 in 43.3 overs. Earlier, Sharma led the onslaught with 159 off 138 balls with 17 fours and five sixes, while Rahul made 102.

Shreyas Iyer tore into the West Indies attack with a 32-ball 53 as he hit Roston Chase for 31 runs -- including four sixes and one four -- in the 47th over.

He shared in a 73-run fourth-wicket stand with wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, who hit 39 off 16 deliveries.

SCORES IN BRIEF
INDIA: 387 for 5 (Sharma 159, Rahul 102, Iyer 53; Cottrell 2-83, Pollard 1-20)
WEST INDIES: 280 all out in 43.3 overs (Hope 78, Pooran 75, Paul 45; Yadav 3-52, Shami 2-39)
Result: India won by 107 runs
Player-of-the-match: Rohit Sharma



Indian openers Rohit Sharma (L) and KL Rahul starred in a run-fest during the second ODI against West Indies in Visakhapatnam yesterday. The pair hammered quickfire tons to achieve India's first 200-plus opening stand against West Indies.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Malan aces a stiff chase

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chattogram



The special edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) was considered a platform for local cricketers to strut their wares and there have been quite a few instances that will have caught the selectors' eyes.

Cumilla Warriors returned to winning ways with a collective approach against a struggling Rangpur Rangers who, despite posting a substantial 181 for eight, eventually faced a six-wicket defeat in the days' first game at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

And it was a refreshing sight to see two locals in Soumya Sarkar and Sabbir Rahman score some valuable runs and gain confidence, with both batsmen scoring forties.

With two wins in three games, Cumilla will certainly be riding a wave of confidence while Rangpur were still searching for their first win of the tournament, having lost all three matches so far.

The left-handed Soumya, who had gotten starts in the first two games while batting at number three, was promoted

to open the innings against Rangpur and the cashed in with a compact display after a handy bowling performance with his medium pace.

Along with Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Soumya provided a flying start, adding 61 runs for the first wicket before the latter was out for 32 off just 15 balls.

Soumya was then joined by Sabbir who, after failing to prove his worth in the first two games, also fired.

Both batsmen would however be disappointed at not being able to finish the game, with Soumya being the first to be dismissed after scoring 41 off 34 balls with five fours and a six. Sabbir hung around to take the chase further before falling one short of his fifty, leaving Dawid Malan to finish it off with an unbeaten 24 ball 42.

For Rangpur, the foreign players started with Mohammad Shahzad providing a flying start and top-scoring with 61 off just 27 balls, while Mohammad Nabi and Tom Abell chipped in to post the big total. Mustafizur Rahman, however, remained below-par for Rangpur, picking up a wicket for 35 runs.

However, Rangpur's young right-arm pacer Mukidul Islam impressed on his T20 debut yesterday and picked up a wicket, conceding just 26 runs from four overs.



Cumilla Warriors batsman Dawid Malan pulls a ball during his 24-ball 42 as Rangpur Rangers wicketkeeper Mohammad Shahzad looks on. Malan cancelled out Shahzad's 61-run innings to register a six-wicket victory for his side in the day's first BBPL match in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি
চট্টগ্রাম
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পর নং-৩৩.০৭.০০০০.০০১.০০.০২০.৮৯-১৩০০

তারিখঃ ০৩ পৌষ ১৪২৬
১৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৯

৪১ তম ব্যাচে মেরিন ফিশারিজ বিভাগে ক্যাডেট ভর্তির লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল

মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমির ২০১৯-২০২০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ৪১তম ব্যাচে মেরিন ফিশারিজ বিভাগে ক্যাডেট ভর্তির লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল নিম্নে প্রকাশ করা হলো। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক, সাক্ষর, চক্ষু ও রং দর্শন এবং স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা নিয়ে প্রদত্ত তারিখ ও বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্যের জন্য অনুচ্ছেদে বর্ণিত স্থান ও সময় অনুযায়ী অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর (মেধার ভিত্তিতে নয়)							পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়			
							মৌখিক পরীক্ষা	সাক্ষর পরীক্ষা	স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা	চক্ষু ও রং দর্শন পরীক্ষা
১ম পর্ব							২২/১২/১৯	২২/১২/১৯	২৩/১২/১৯	২৩/১২/১৯
10001	10004	10006	10014	10018	10023	10024				
10030	10033	10040	10041	10042	10043	10046				
10049	10050	10052	10060	10066	10070	10079				
10081	10087	10089	10091	10100	10121	10130				
20001	20003	20024	20042	20060	20065	20072				
20087	20098					= ৩৭ জন				
২য় পর্ব										
20004	20005	20008	20015	20016	20020	20022	২৩/১২/১৯	২৩/১২/১৯	২২/১২/১৯	২২/১২/১৯
20023	20026	20027	20029	20031	20033	20034				
20035	20036	20037	20038	20050	20057	20058				
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বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্যঃ

- উপরে বর্ণিত সূচী অনুযায়ী লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদেরকে প্রদত্ত গ্রহণপূর্বক পরীক্ষার স্থানে সকাল ০৯.০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বলা হলো।
- চক্ষু ও রং দর্শন পরীক্ষার জন্য প্রার্থীদেরকে চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ডাক্তার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্র আনতে হবে।
- উল্লেখ্য প্রার্থী প্রতি স্বাস্থ্য এবং চক্ষু ও রং দর্শন পরীক্ষার ক্ষি যথাক্রমে আনুমানিক টাকা ৩,০০০/- এবং টাকা ৭০০/- যা প্রার্থীদেরকেই বহন করতে হবে।
- মহিলা প্রার্থীদের সাক্ষর পরীক্ষা হবে না।
- অত্র একাডেমিতে ভর্তির ব্যাপারে যে কোন প্রকারের সুপারিশ বা একাডেমি কর্তৃপক্ষকে প্রভাবিত করার যে কোন প্রচেষ্টাকে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীদের অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য করা হবে। উল্লেখিত পরীক্ষাসমূহে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদেরকে কোন প্রকার টি.এ.ডি.এ. প্রদান করা হবে না।
- পরীক্ষার স্থানসমূহ নিম্নরূপঃ

মৌখিক পরীক্ষা	সাক্ষর পরীক্ষা	চক্ষু ও রং দর্শন পরীক্ষা	স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা
অধ্যক্ষের কার্যালয়, মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি, মৎস্য বন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম। সময়ঃ ১০০০ ঘটিকা	সুইমিং পুল, অভিনেত্রীয়ায় এবং জিমসোসিয়াম কমপ্লেক্স, মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি, মৎস্য বন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম। সময়ঃ ১১০০ ঘটিকা	মার্কেটহিল মেরিন ডিপার্টমেন্ট, সিজিও ভবন-১, আত্মবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম। সময়ঃ ১০০০ ঘটিকা	সিভিল সার্জন অফিস, আপারকিটা, চট্টগ্রাম। সময়ঃ ১১০০ ঘটিকা

GD- 2084

অধ্যক্ষ

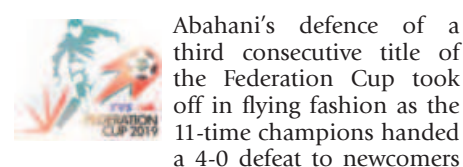
'SERIE A'S MONKEY CAMPAIGN TOO PROVOCATIVE'

An anti-racism campaign by Serie A featuring monkeys was "too provocative", Lazio president Claudio Lotito said Wednesday, stressing however that the league was not racist. Monday's launch of the campaign was aimed at promoting "integration, multiculturalism and fraternity" but immediately drew widespread criticism and ridicule. "The spirit was not to accentuate the racist side, but unfortunately, it was not seen in a positive light, judging from the reaction," Lotito told reporters in Rome. "The league is certainly not in favour of racism, the problem is that the campaign that was done was too provocative."



Abahani too strong for Police

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani's defence of a third consecutive title of the Federation Cup took off in flying fashion as the 11-time champions handed a 4-0 defeat to newcomers Bangladesh Police in the opening match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Haitian forward Kervens Belfort scored twice while Nigerian marksman Sunday Chizoba and local forward Nabib Newaz Jibon netted one goal each in the match which started 15 minutes later than schedule time due to opening ceremony formalities.

Promoted Bangladesh Police created a hype by forming a good squad, roping in four players from Montenegro, Bulgaria, United States and Kyrgyzstan. However, they could hardly impress in their debut match against the traditional giants, conceding three goals in the first half before letting in the fourth goal after the break.

The Sky Blues stepped up boldly as expected to create a lot of scoring chances with new-signing Kyrgyz midfielder Edgar Bernhardt playing key role behind the three forwards - Sunday, Belfort and Jibon - while new Brazilian centre-back Mailson Alves kept the defence unbroken throughout the match.

Belfort broke the deadlock in the 28th minute with a glancing header from inside the box after Bernhardt whipped in a curling free-kick from outside the right-hand side of the box while Jibon, playing

as captain, tapped in at far-post after a long throw-in from Raihan Hasan came his way following a deflection off a Police defender four minutes later.

Sunday killed off the contest after firing home from inside the box following Belfort's assist two minutes before the break while Belfort converted a spot-kick in the 71st minute to ensure Abahani's comprehensive victory.

Abahani coach Mario Lemos took off three foreign players - Edgar, Sunday and Belfort - by 70 minutes but Police could not make any dent on Abahani's defence despite playing better in the second half.

"We had really very good training in last two weeks even though you never know what might come in season's first match. Police is a new team and I saw some of their games. However, it is a good start for Abahani and we can improve more as it was our first game," Lemos said. "One thing which we want to improve this season is defending as we conceded too many goals last season. I know our attackers can score but we need a very compact defensive line."

Jibon said that he was happy with the overall performance of the team and his own goal, adding that he has a target of scoring 20 goals this season.

Bangladesh Police manager Sheikh Maruf Hasan said, "The defeat margin was big but our players played well. Abahani availed opportunities but we could not cash in on the opportunities we created in the match. I think we will play better in upcoming days."



ABAHANI 4 - 0 BANGLADESH POLICE
Belfort 28', 71'; Jibon 32', Sunday 43'

Kervens Belfort (L) scored twice while Nabib Newaz Jibon and Sunday Chizoba scored one apiece as defending champions Abahani beat Bangladesh Police 4-0 in the opening match of the TVS Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Tsitsipas aims for top three breakthrough

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Greek star Stefanos Tsitsipas is eyeing a top-three finish next season as he hopes to break the rankings stranglehold of Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer.

The 21-year-old concluded his 2019 season with a bang, lifting the ATP Finals crown in London on his debut in the tournament to end his year at No.6 in the world.

Tsitsipas struggled to sleep in the days after his victory. He says he kept getting flashbacks of the point that earned the biggest trophy of his career.

"I'm currently living in the best period of my life, with the best people around me. I really feel like this is very important for my balance and for my thinking," Tsitsipas said.

One of just two players to beat each member of the 'Big Three' in 2019, Tsitsipas has set himself lofty goals for next season, as he looks to challenge for a Grand Slam.

"I understand that our tennis era is changing in a way, the top-three are getting older obviously, we are the ones come from behind. So for me, I do have as a goal to win a Grand Slam title next year, that's for sure, but it's not a matter of life or death for me," explained Tsitsipas.

"One of my goals for next year would be a Grand Slam title, finishing in the top-three by the end of the year, making the Nitto Finals again and winning a Masters 1000."

Leipzig, Dortmund play 6-goal thriller

AFP, Berlin



Patrik Schick snatched a draw for RB Leipzig in a pulsating 3-3 draw at title rivals Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday that moved them three points clear at the top of the Bundesliga.

Timo Werner also struck twice as Leipzig twice came from behind twice in the second half in a fiery encounter played out in torrential rain at Signal Iduna Park.

The draw meant third-placed Dortmund missed the chance to move up to second.

"The game opened up after the break and we played with more courage and emotion," said Leipzig coach Julian Nagelsmann. "In the future, we need to make sure that we play like that from the beginning of big games like this."

"It was a lucky point for us. Dortmund could have defeated us, but they didn't."

While Dortmund at times showed a level of skill and quality to worry their

upcoming Champions League opponent PSG, at other times they showed clear signs of the defensive softness that has come to define their season.

In other games, Robin Quaison's first half hatrick saw Mainz increase Werder Bremen's relegation fears n 5-0 thumping on Tuesday evening.

Bremen, who were hammered 6-1 at Bayern Munich on Saturday, are just two points away from the drop zone after being blown away in the opening period by a Mainz team who started the match just one place above them.

"It's my first hatrick in top level football so I'm very proud of myself," said Quaison. "It was a perfect evening for us."

Elsewhere, Augsburg put three past a struggling Fortuna Dueseldorf at home, to leave the visitors entrenched in the relegation playoff spot.

Hoffenheim won 2-0 at Union Berlin through second half goals from Ihlas Bebou and Christoph Baumgartner.



PHOTO: AFP

Patrik Schick scored a dramatic equaliser for league leaders RB Leipzig in a pulsating 3-3 draw with Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga on Monday.

TELEGRAPH SCHOOL CHESS

Neer second in Kolkata

SPORTS REPORTER

Candidate Master Manon Reja Neer became runner-up in 28th Telegraph School Chess Championship in Kolkata yesterday. Neer beat India's Pratay Chowdhury in the ninth and final round to secure 7.5 points.

Kazi Zarin Tasnim and WFM Noshin Anjum became 17th and 21st respectively with seven points, said a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release.

Ruman fails, Ram Krishna shines

SPORTS REPORTER



SA Games triple gold medallist Ruman Sana failed to shine in Teer 11th National Archery Championship as he was eliminated from the semifinals

of men's recurve individual event at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi yesterday.

Sakib Mollah ousted Sana by 6-2 set points in semifinal to advance into the final before surrendering to unheralded Ram Krishna Saha in the final which Saha won by 7-1 set points.

Sana settled for a bronze medal after beating Rakib Mia by 7-1 set points in the

place-deciding match.

In women's recurve individual event, Beauty Roy grabbed gold after beating Mehnaz Akter Monira by 6-0 set points in the final while Afroza Akter Sathee beat holder Diya Siddique by 7-3 set points to win bronze medal.

In men's compound individual event, Siam Siddique beat Himu Bachar by 144-140 points to win gold while SA Games gold winner Suma Biswas justified her reputation by winning gold medal with a 143-140 points win over Shyamoli Roy in women's compound individual final.

The finals of all six team events will take place today.

SHORT CORNER

Wenger defends Ozil

Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has defended Mesut Ozil after comments made by the Gunners midfielder condemning treatment of Uighur Muslims led to a stinging backlash in China.

"Mesut Ozil has the freedom of speech like everybody else and he uses his notoriety to express his opinions which are not necessarily shared by everybody, but he has the right to do that," Wenger told journalists in Doha on Wednesday.

"You are a human being, you have an opinion, and then when you play football you play football. You do your job first and you have to respect that."

Ozil condemned China's crackdown on Muslim minorities in the western region of Xinjiang in a tweet last week.

In response, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV pulled its coverage of Arsenal's Premier League game against Manchester City last weekend.

-- AFP

I dream of playing with Zidane, says Pep

Pep Guardiola has admitted that he would love to have played alongside Zinedine Zidane during his career. Guardiola will lock horns with the Real Madrid manager when his Manchester City side face the La Liga giants in the Champions League round of 16.

It is the first time the two men will come up against one another on the touchline, although they have been on opposite sides during their playing careers.

"It's a special moment because Zidane is one of the best," he said. "I dreamed when I was a player with playing with him, but it never happened."

"I didn't talk much with him, but my impression is that he is an amazing perso."

"I admire him, it's really good to have these kind of people. It will be a pleasure to see you again."

--AGENCIES

Ireland tour of SL postponed

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has announced that the proposed Ireland Tour of Sri Lanka, which was expected to take place in February 2020, has been postponed due to the lack of a broadcast partner.

Under the original schedule, Ireland was scheduled play a single Test match vs Sri Lanka from 8-12 February 2020. ICC regulations require that all Tests are broadcast and the tour was not part of SLC's original broadcast agreement, which was concluded in 2013.

Cricket Ireland have agreed to SLC's request to reschedule the tour to a later date to ensure that the one-off Test will come under the next broadcast agreement, which SLC is planning to sign during 2020. The date for that rescheduled match will be announced in due course.

--AGENCIES

Villa teach Liverpool's kids a lesson

AFP, Birmingham



Liverpool's youngest ever team suffered a harsh lesson on Tuesday as Aston Villa ran out 5-0 winners to reach the League Cup semifinals, with Jonathan Kodjia scoring twice.

The Liverpool line-up contained five debutants and an average age of 19 years, six months and three days with the European champions' first team and coaching staff, including manager Jurgen Klopp, in Qatar for their Club World Cup semifinal against Monterrey on Wednesday.

That inexperience showed defensively despite a much better performance from the visitors than the scoreline suggests.

"I thought we were magnificent," said Liverpool's stand-in manager Neil Critchley. "We were really unfortunate to concede from a free-kick and a cruel deflection and find ourselves 2-0 down. It was an incredible night and no-one wanted it to end."

Villa made 10 changes themselves with Premier League survival a priority.

"It was a bit of a weird game, probably the weirdest one I've been involved in for a quarterfinal of a major competition," said Villa boss Dean Smith.

"I came through coaching those sorts of age groups. It was great to see them on that stage, so we had to be very professional."

"It was a lose-lose for us," Villa midfielder Conor Hourihane said. "Everyone expected us to win and we just had to do our jobs."

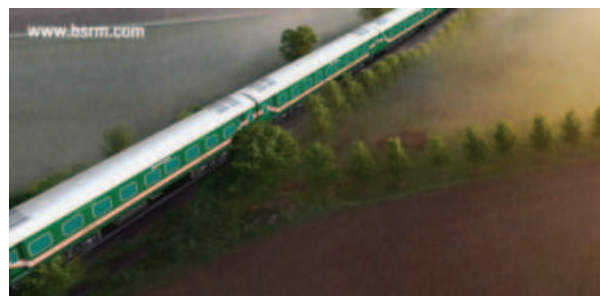
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CITIZENSHIP ACT

No stay order by Indian SC

Indian top court to examine its validity, hearing on Jan 22; demos in Delhi, West Bengal

STAR REPORT

India's Supreme Court yesterday declined to stay the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) but agreed to examine its constitutional validity.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant fixed the next hearing on January 22.

It issued a notice to the Indian government seeking a reply to all the 59 petitions challenging the amended law that makes it easier for Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who entered India before 2015 to acquire citizenship.

The Citizenship Amendment Bill was passed by parliament and assented to by President Ram Nath Kovind last week turning it into an Act.

The apex court took note of the submission by a local Bharatiya Janata Party leader Ashwini Upadhyay that there is confusion among citizens about the Citizenship Amendment Act and asked the Attorney General, representing the Indian government, to consider using audio-visual medium to make citizens aware about amended law.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Homeless people trying to keep warm by setting rubbish on fire by the rail lines at the capital's Karwanbazar yesterday evening. The sudden drop in temperature caught many people by surprise.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Mercury falls across the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Winter is here. The whole country began to feel the chill as temperatures began falling since yesterday.

Dhaka recorded a temperature of 16.2 degrees Celsius at its lowest, while the lowest of 10.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Rajarhat in Rangpur division, according to the Met office.

A mild to moderate cold wave is likely to sweep over the northwestern part of the country in the next few days, said meteorologist of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) Mohammad Aftab Uddin.

"The temperature may fall [by] 1 to 2 degree Celsius more across the country in the next 24 hours," he said yesterday evening.

He added that the fall in temperature would continue till December 21, after which it would begin to rise.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 19 Radio Pakistan broadcasts the resignation announcement of Pakistan President Yahya Khan. He will resign handing over the power. Pakistan People's Party leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS 62pc wage hike proposed

Board submits draft report; implementation will be difficult, say experts

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Minimum Wage Board has submitted a draft report to the government, proposing a 62 percent hike in the minimum wages of staffers and workers of the private road transport sector.

It also recommended a five percent annual increase in the minimum wage for the workers. The draft would be finalised within two weeks of the gazette publication on December 12, if no objections are raised.

The new wage structure comes against a backdrop where the recommendations

of the previous board, declared in 2010, remain unimplemented, and almost all drivers, conductors and helpers do not get their monthly wages. Their earnings depend on the number of the trips they make in a day.

The trip-based payment system is one of the reasons behind road crashes as drivers often resort to rash driving to make as many trips as possible to earn more money.

Besides, most road transport workers have not gotten any appointment letters over the years and remained out of legal coverage in case of job-related issues. The

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Return to Rakhine

Myanmar-Asean team urges refugees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A joint delegation of Myanmar and the Asean yesterday met a group of some 40 Rohingya representatives to convince them to return to Rakhine, from where they fled a brutal military crackdown in 2017.

The 15-member delegation includes nine officials from Myanmar and six officials from the Emergency Response and Assessment team of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

This was the first visit by a Myanmar delegation after

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Ancient 'chewing gum' yields human DNA

CNN ONLINE

Lola, a young girl who lived in Denmark 5,700 years ago, had blue eyes, dark skin and dark hair. Her last meal included hazelnuts and mallard duck but no milk -- she couldn't stomach dairy.

And the reason we know any of this is because she chewed on birch pitch, a material that functioned a bit like an ancient chewing gum.

A study of that birch pitch has uncovered the girl's entire genome and oral microbiome, marking

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Rejoinder

In a rejoinder to a report published on Wednesday in The Daily Star headlined "2 jailed over rape attempt on Aussie tourist", Mermaid Beach Resort yesterday said it was wrongly mentioned as the scene of the crime.

The Mermaid resort was not involved in the incident in any way, the rejoinder added.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 19

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
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JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION




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